

Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,
January 1, 2023
10:00 AM**

**Communion
Sunday
New Year's Day**



AN OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

8013 LARAMIE AVE - SKOKIE, IL - 60077





Welcome to Worship!

SUNDAYS @ 10:00AM

In-person Worship. Following COVID safety protocols

Livestream on YouTube. Live at 10am then available on our channel



"The Redheaded Preacher" Podcast. On Soundcloud, includes sermon and scriptures only, posted weekly by Tuesday



Ways to Give

Text Your Gift. 844-997-2346 Super easy after a first-time setup

PayPal. [PayPal.me/stpeteruccskokie](https://www.paypal.com/merchot/?x=1&url=https://www.paypal.com/stpeteruccskokie) Uncheck the "Paying for Goods or Services" box to not pass on the fees to St Peter's

Check or Cash. Mail to the address below ... this way still works fine

Vanco GivePlus App. Contact the church office to set up regular giving



Open Communion

All Christians and seekers after God are invited to partake of the Lord's Supper with us the **first Sunday of every month** and special Holy Days (Christmas, Maundy Thursday, and Easter). **At-home Communion** participants are invited to provide their own elements and join when Pastor bids you, "take, eat, and drink."



About St. Peter's UCC

We've been in the heart of downtown Skokie since 1867. We are a part of the United Church of Christ, which means we are passionate about our faith and open in our thinking. We believe in a Triune God who **loves everyone**, regardless of gender identity, orientation, race, status, or physical or mental ability, and we invite all people to share worship, membership, marriage, baptism, funeral, and fellowship with us.



Contact, Follow, or Talk to Us

Rev. Richard Lanford (Pastor): revlanford@gmail.com

In the office Wed-Sat (times vary) and Sundays

Laura Olson (Office Manager): office@stpeteruccskokie.org

Office hours Mon-Fri 9am to 2pm

Ben Westphal (Music Director): bcwestphal@gmail.com

Facebook/Instagram/YouTube: [stpeteruccskokie](https://www.facebook.com/stpeteruccskokie)

Website: www.stpeteruccskokie.org

Like, follow, or join our email list for up-to-date info about events and activities!



8013 Laramie Avenue, Skokie, IL 60077 | 847-673-8166

St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Skokie
Order of Worship for
Sunday, January 1, 2023 at 10:00am

Welcome to worship. The music before the service is intended as a time of silent prayer and preparation.

PRELUDE

Selected

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

Those who are able please stand

P: Rejoice in the light of life!

C: **We rejoice that God loves us so much**

P: That God sent us a child

C: **To teach us the nature of God's call for us,**

P: To show us how God would have us be.

C: **Rejoice in the light of life!**

P: Sing praises, people of God!

A: **We lift our voices, ringing in the new year with
thanksgiving and praise!**

RESPONSE

"Away in a Manger"

#109 (v.1)

1. A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed, The lit - tle Lord
 2. The cat - tle are low - ing, the Ba - by a - wakes, But lit - tle Lord
 3. Be near me, Lord Je - sus, I ask Thee to stay Close by me for

Je - sus laid down His sweet head. The stars in the sky looked
 Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes. I love Thee, Lord Je - sus, look
 ev - er, and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in

down where He lay, The lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay.
 down from the sky, And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
 Thy ten - der care, And fit us for heav - en to live with Thee there.

CALL TO CONFESSION

P: Surely God longs to draw us close, to enter our thoughts and clarify our vision. It is God's will and purpose to free us from our fears and our frantic, self-protective ways. We cannot be whole apart from God, so we come to confess how lost we are.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

P: O Lord, we have been so busy with things that do not satisfy! We have tried to fill our emptiness with activities and passions that drain our energies rather than give life meaning.

WOMEN: We do not know how to live, and we are afraid to die.

MEN: We excuse our own sin at the same time that we deplore the abuse and violence we see in others.

P: We deny the witness of the One who shared our common lot, for we are not willing to take the risks of genuine love very far, if at all.

A: O God, save us from ourselves! Restore already our faith, peace and power which comes from the good news of the birth of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *From Galatians 4:4-7*

P: "But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So, you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God."

Jesus has come to redeem us from, or pay to set us free from slavery under, the Law of Moses, so that we might be saved by grace through faith. By faith we Gentiles are children to Abraham, who was also deemed righteous by God through his faith. But it is God's grace in Jesus that redeems us, that liberates us, and re-creates us to grow as servants of God and others. In the name of Christ, we are forgiven and set free! Let's begin the new year by reclaiming our core identity as followers of Christ, and say aloud together in thanksgiving . . .

A: Alleluia! Amen.

RESPONSE

"O Thou Joyful"

#117

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are as follows:

1. O thou joy - ful, O thou won - der - ful Grace re - veal - ing
 2. O thou joy - ful, O thou won - der - ful Love re - veal - ing
 3. O thou joy - ful, O thou won - der - ful Peace re - veal - ing

Christ - mas - tide! Je - sus came to win us From all sin with - in us:
 Christ - mas - tide! Loud ho - san - nas sing - ing And all prais - es bring - ing,
 Christ - mas - tide! Dark - ness dis - ap - pear - eth, God's own light now near - eth,

Glo - ri - fy, glo - ri - fy the Ho - ly Child!
 May Thy love, may Thy love with us a - bide.
 Peace and joy, peace and joy to all be - tide. A - MEN.

The congregation may be seated

WORDS ABOUT OFFERINGS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

The Prophets

Andre Gloeckner

The Gospel

Isaiah 63:7-9

Matthew 2:13-23

MUSICAL MEDITATION Selected

Will the congregation please rise

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: The Apostles' Creed

(The Apostles' Creed is found on page 38 of your hymnal)

RESPONSE:

Gloria Creator

tune # 493

Glory to the Creator

And to the Christ

And to the Holy Ghost!

As it was in the beginning, is now,

And ever shall be,

World without end! Amen, Amen.

The congregation may now take their seats

PASTORAL AND SILENT PRAYERS

HOMILY

“Herod, Refugees, and Rachel”

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Exhortation and Invitation

Sursum Corda:

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts!

C: **We lift them up to the Lord!**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Sanctus (Singing) # 521

Prayer of Consecration

The Words of Institution

Participation

CLOSING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

A: **Our Father, who art in heaven,**

Hallowed be Thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil;

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power,

and the glory forever. Amen

HYMN**“A Voice Was Heard in Ramah”**

Sing to the tune of “Lead On, O King Eternal”

**A voice was heard in Ramah that could not be
consoled,**

**As Rachel wept for children she could no longer hold.
For Herod ruled the nation, yet feared the Infant King.
How great the devastation that fear and anger bring!**

**O God, we hear the crying for little ones of yours;
For many still are dying in conflicts and in wars —
In every troubled nation, on every violent street,
How great the lamentation when fear and anger meet!**

**Whenever one is weeping, the whole world suffers,
too.**

**Yet, Jesus, as we serve them, we're also serving you.
So may we not ignore them, nor turn our eyes away,
But help us labor for them to bring a better day.**

**O Prince of Peace, you lead us in ways of truth and
grace.**

**May we be brave to practice your peace in every place
To love each fear-filled nation, to serve each troubled
street.**

**How great the celebration when peace and justice
meet!**

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Included in Songs of Grace: New Hymns for God and Neighbor (Upper
Room Books, 2009), and God's World is Changing: New Hymns for*

Advent and Christmas (2022). Hymn Use Permission: Songs of Grace: New Hymns for God and Neighbor by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette (Upper Room Books, 2009) includes a permission note for those who own this book to use this hymn (along with the 76 other new hymns in the book) in their local church's worship services.

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Selected

The music after the service is intended as a time of reflection. Pastor will be pleased to greet you at the Sanctuary doors as soon as the postlude has concluded, and our livestream has stopped.

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

MINISTER	Rev. Richard Lanford
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Maria Altmayer
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Beth Lanford
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Heidi Tarzian

News in the Pews

Hallelujah! In Christmastide, we still emphasize the joyful news that Christ is born! Welcome! We begin worship and this new year as we always live: in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Welcome back and thank you to our guest organist Ronald Weber.

About Communion: If you picked up a pre-filled Communion cup and wafer, you're ready to partake at the Pastor's prompting. We suggest you start to peel back the lid to get to the wafer before his prompting! If you did not pick one up, and you are with us on-line, we ask you to please have some bread, roll or some food meaningful you (for the bread / body to be consecrated during the service) and likewise juice, water or other beverage (for the wine / blood of Christ) and likewise, partake when the minister prompts us. Thank you!

The offering envelopes are finally here but will not be ready until next week. We are so sorry for the unavoidable delays!

Sunday School chapel and classes resume at 9 AM next Sunday, January 8th.

Thank you to all who donated towards the Sunday School mission, Items for Baby Jesus, including families in District 69! We have so much to donate this year!

Thank you to Maria Altmayer for stepping up to help pick up collected food donations from the schools in District 69 for our

mini-pantry. We can keep it fully stocked again, and also much thanks to our President for her efforts on coordinating this partnership.

Completing our Night Ministry collection for cookies, cocoa mix in cans, winter hats, gloves, and scarves is going on in the Gym, and our “assembly line” and filling boxes at tables is on Sunday, January 8th!

FunDrive Soft Goods Collection in January! Start cleaning for our Winter FUNDrive Soft Goods collection. We'll take clothing, bedding, accessories like shoes, hats, bets, purses, gloves, scarves etc. stuffed toys and anything soft and fabric like. They pay by the pound, and this is a great way for folks to help us and themselves!! Annie Noorts is our point-person for this project so if you have questions let her know!

The Church Office will be closed Monday, January 2nd 2023 for New Years' Day observance.

Next Sunday the Choir returns to sing!

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Thank you to all who helped serve yesterday at the Community Kitchen of A Just Harvest, when it was our turn! Our next Saturday is April 29th.

Our People

HOSPITALIZED: Following surgery on his left femur, Ron Schuhrke is now at Balmoral Care Center, 1101 Pembridge Drive, Lake Forest, IL 60045. Ursula Dworak is home after suffering a fractured pelvis last weekend. Please remember them in your prayers. Our Guest Preacher for 2021, the Rev. Blair Hull, is fighting pancreatic cancer (stage 1). Please remember them in your prayers.

Birthdays this week belong to Jim Todd, Alec Ryan, and Bruce Mau's daughter Jennifer (Mau) Gemignani. We apologize for forgetting to include Erik and Liesl Christianson's wedding anniversary on December 21st, and last week's birthdays of Laura Olson, Ben Westphal, Carol Iannotti, Bruce Mau's daughter Beverly and Anna Riley's mother Carol Hook. We hope they were good days!

Next Sunday we are celebrating an infant baptism! Finch Declan Bernat; his parents are Heather Kipper and Ken Bernat.

2023 wall calendars courtesy of Haben Funeral Home, with St. Peter's contact information, are available for pick-up in the Narthex, on a desk by the office, and in the Memorial Room.

The Nominating Committee will meet after worship next Sunday the 8th."

Annual Reports are due a week from tomorrow! Monday, January 9th is the deadline.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

PRESIDENT	Jenn Schneider
VICE-PRESIDENT	Judy Paige
TREASURER	Chad McCoy
SECRETARY	Carolyn Kuechler
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Maria Altmayer

Regular Reminders!

We are always grateful for any and all offerings to the church. No amount is too small! So many thanks to everyone who's been keeping us going with your donations! See inside the bulletin's front cover for details on how to donate.

Donations always needed for our food pantry. There's a list of items on the shelves outside the offices if you aren't sure what to buy. Items can be left on those same shelves under the stairs by the offices.

Pastor's Podcast is now on all the Podcast platforms- iTunes, Stitcher, Overcast, Spotify, Podcast Addict, Amazon Music and more. Just look up "The Redheaded Preacher" on your podcast catcher or music streaming service then hit subscribe and you'll get the newest editions weekly! You can also get it via the church's webpage link. Give us a 5-star rating and review if you can, it helps us grow so much.



MISSION MOMENTS

January 1, 2023

First Sunday after Christmas Day

Psalm 148

Cosmic Praise

Some people make resolutions at this time of year. Others prayerfully select a word or phrase to guide them into the days ahead. Still others prefer to find renewal every day, not setting aside only the first of the year as a day to intentionally promise a fresh start to God or self. Whichever camp you fall into, take your cue from Psalm 148, and begin with PRAISE.

In difficult times (and for many of us these mid- and post-pandemic days are definitely difficult times) praise can feel unnecessary or even inappropriate. Praise - the outward expression of gratitude - can seem like an extra we can't afford. But scientists today affirm what people of faith have known for centuries. Praise is not just good for God, it's good for you, as studies continue to show that gratitude felt and expressed lowers stress and increases overall happiness. Here are some ways to make your New Year praise-full

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- ❖ Find and maintain a regular prayer practice.
 - ❖ Notice God in the glory of creation, whether your vista of nature is a vast desert landscape, a stand of towering trees, a small city park, or simply the sun rising and setting.
 - ❖ Make praise a part of your giving to your United Church of Christ congregation. (Haven't pledged what you plan to give this year to your church? It's never too late!)
 - ❖ Bring your praise to social media, which too often trades in snark and unhealthy competition. How can you notice what is praise-worthy and uplift that instead?
 - ❖ Look for ways that family members or friends shine God's light in the world through their own acts of praise. Make sure to notice and thank them.
 - ❖ Keep a gratitude journal, writing down what you are grateful for each evening or morning.
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Isaiah 63:7-9

I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD,
the praiseworthy acts of the LORD,
because of all that the LORD has done for us,
and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them
according to his mercy,
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

For God said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely";
and became their savior in all their distress.

It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them;
in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Matthew 2:13-23

Now after the magi had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him."

Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

"A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation,

Rachel weeping for her children;

she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee.

There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "*He will be called a Nazorean.*"