

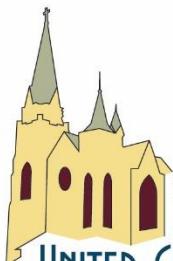


Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,
May 8,
2022
10:00 AM**

**Fourth Sunday of
Easter
Mother's Day**



ST. PETER'S
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

AN OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION IN SKOKIE, IL



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 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

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, May 8, 2022 at 10:00am
Fourth Sunday after Easter
Mother's Day**

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

THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jenn Schneider

Those who are able please stand.

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: We gather to worship as God brings the earth to life again.

C: We worship with a sense of expectation.

P: Let us offer up to God the dead, dry places in our lives.

C: Let us receive God's gift of renewal and rebirth through Christ!

P = Pastor

C = Congregation

A = All

OPENING RESPONSE: "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" #21 (v. 1)



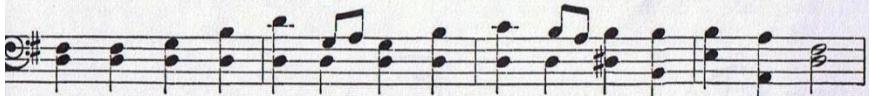
1. Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
2. All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, Earth and heaven re - flect Thy rays,
3. Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,
4. Mor - tals, join the hap - py cho - rus Which the morn - ing stars be-gan;



Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore Thee, Open-ing to the sun a - bove.
Stars and an - gels sing a - round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
Well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean depth of hap - py rest!
Fa - ther love is reign - ing o'er us, Broth-er love binds man to man.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the dark of doubt a - way;
Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, Flow - ery mead-ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Broth - er, All who live in love are Thine;
Ev - er sing - ing, march we on - ward, Vic - tors in the midst of strife,



Giv - er of im-mor-tal glad-ness, Fill us with the light of day.
Chant-ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, Call us to re - joice in Thee.
Teach us how to love each oth - er, Lift us to the Joy di-vine.
Joy - ful mu - sic leads us Sun-ward In the tri-umph song of life. A-MEN.



CALL TO CONFESSION

P: In song we asked God to fill us with the light of day, for we know what lives within us includes words, feelings, thoughts and plans which are not what we want others to see, especially those who share the faith with us. Jesus came because we needed, and need, saving, forgiving, and a loving community where we can be honest. In honesty together, then, let us confess our falling short of God's desires for us, and know the wideness in God's grace.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Today we return to a mode of prayer we've used before, a breath-prayer which centers us. Our confession will be silent, but as we inhale we pray within, "Jesus Christ, Son of God," and exhale, praying silently, "have mercy on me, a sinner." We will do this three times, without rushing it, aware of what we need mercy for and calling on Christ for it. A brief time of silence follows.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

P: Paul wrote, "I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who . . . even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence . . . received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost" (I Timothy 1:12-15). Let us affirm what Paul has said: Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners, including you and me, out of such great love which and whom we now serve. Amen?

A: Alleluia! Amen!

P = Pastor

C = Congregation

A = All

HYMN

"Joyful, Joyful"

#21 (vv. 2, 3)

1. Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
2. All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, Earth and heaven re - flect Thy rays,
3. Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,
4. Mor - tals, join the hap - py cho - rus Which the morn-ing stars be-gan;

Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore Thee, Open - ing to the sun a - bove.
Stars and an - gels sing a - round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
Well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean depth of hap - py rest!
Fa - ther love is reign - ing o'er us, Broth - er love binds man to man.

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the dark of doubt a - way;
Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, Flow - ery mead-ow, flash - ing sea,
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P = Pastor

C = Congregation

A = All

The congregation may be seated.

WORDS ABOUT OFFERINGS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Old Testament:

Epistle:

Katy S. Aguayo

Exodus 2:1-13, 16-19

2nd Timothy 1:1-7

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Selected

Those who are able please stand.

GOSPEL

John 10: 22-30

RESPONSE

"Thy Word"

SSB #33 (*both verses*)

Refrain

Thy word is a lamp un-to my feet and a light un-to my path.

1 When I feel a-fraid, think I've lost my way, still you're there right be-

side me, and noth-ing will I fear as long as you are near.

Please be near me to the end.

2 I will not for-get your love for me, and yet my heart for-ev-er is wan-der-ing. Je-sus, be my guide and hold me to your side, and

I will love you to the end.

Refrain

Text: Psalm 119:105, Amy Grant, b. 1960
Music: THY WORD, Michael W. Smith, b. 1957

Text and music © 1984 Word Music, Inc. (ASCAP) and Meadowgreen Music Co./Bug and Bear Music (ASCAP), admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing

The congregation may be seated.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND SILENT PRAYERS

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

HOMILY

“Some Scriptural Moms”

Those who are able please stand.

HYMN "A Grandmother, Lois"

Sing to the tune "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

**A grandmother, Lois, had faith in you, Lord,
then Eunice, her daughter, believed in your Word.
Then her son, named Timothy, grew up to be
a young man who cherished the faith he'd received.**

**While some with great drama discover your truth,
for many, we learned it as children and youth.
We learned it from grandparents, parents and more —
from mentors and teachers who trusted you, Lord.**

**Forgive us, O Christ, when we've broken this chain
of long generations who teach of your reign;
Forgive our assuming that children and youth
should be left alone to discover your truth.**

**May each generation share these things anew:
the gift of salvation that we have in you,
your call to seek justice and care for the poor.
May we teach our children the things that endure.**

**We thank you, Christ Jesus, for nurturing ones
who pass on the faith to these daughters and sons —
so youth see your church as a place they belong,
and find here a faith that is loving and strong.**

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CHARGE AND BENEDICTION *Proverbs 1:8, 9*

P: "Listen, my child, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching.

C: **They are a fair garland to grace your head and pendants to adorn your neck."**

A: Amen!

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

Ronald Weber

DEACON

Beth Sterba

LIVESTREAM

Peter Svenson

NURSERY ATTENDANTMike Ryan

News in the Pews

Good Morning! Welcome to worship this fourth Sunday of Easter. And a happy Mother's Day to all mother-figures!

We are always grateful for any and all offerings to the church! They too are a very big part of our ability to remain here for you and our community.

BUNCO is happening and we need good raffle prizes! Please talk to Carol Iannotti if you think you might have some good things to contribute. Plan to come for some fun card games (BYO if you don't want actual bunco, that's OK) and the big raffles! The gaiety begins at 7 PM in the church Gym and we expect to close at 10 o'clock. This is a big fundraiser so let's all help out if we can!

The Women's Guild meets this Wednesday, May 11th at 11:30 AM.

The Board of Elders meets over Zoom / phone-in, also on Wednesday the 11th, at 4:00 PM.

The Church Council meets next Sunday! So, if you are responsible for a report or two for the meeting, please prepare and submit as early as you are able this week, giving other members of the Council more time to read it ahead of the meeting.

We also plan on celebrating a baptism in worship next Sunday: Willow June McDonald, Mike and Mandy McDonald's second daughter! They will host a small coffee hour afterwards downstairs. Hope you can make it!

ALSO HAPPENING ON THE 15th, Neighbors United Against Hate:

Come to Jonquil Terrace Park in Niles by 3 PM. We'll be talking about recent antisemitic propaganda tossed in community members' yards, racist verbal attacks at Niles West, and more. We're also inviting community members with a variety of lived experiences to help us broaden our understanding of the harmful impacts of bigotry and hate. Come share your thoughts, learn about how to support your neighbors, and show your support for creating communities that are safe and welcoming for all. This is an invitation to be there! After some short addresses, we will embark on a group walk, at which signs against hate and bigotry, flags, and especially YOU will be welcome to participate! This is an event for establishing solidarity and bear witness to being neighbors united against hate, and hate speech.

Tomorrow night a movie! "We Cried Power," a compelling documentary by filmmaker Dara Kell, tells the story of a bold new social movement to end poverty in the United States. Inspired by Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1968. Today, a revived Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival is carrying forward this work demanding an end to poverty, racism, militarization and ecological devastation. The film bears witness to the profound process by which those without power decide not to accept their powerlessness. Instead, they claim – through protest, dance, song, and poems, through testimony and tears – their birthright: to live decent lives in the United States of America. The showing is at Reba Place Church meetinghouse at 620 Madison St., Evanston, IL, Monday May 9th, from 7:00-8:30 PM.

HOSPITALIZED: Dorothy Panzke is hospitalized, now at Humboldt Park Hospital, 1044 N. Francisco, Chicago, IL 60622.

Our People

Thanks to everyone who helped make today's hybrid worship on YouTube possible, and thanks to everyone who watches and encourages others to watch!

Thanks to Sharon Johnson for being in the office part of last week while Office Manager Laura Olson was away!

Thank You to Wendy Svenson, Beth Lanford, all their helpers ahead of the event, during it and afterwards for yesterday's Spring Craft Fair!

The deadline for articles for the June Announcer is Monday, May 23rd.

According to the schedule next Sunday's Nursery Attendant is Annie Noorts and the Lector will be Dan Guenther.

Pastor Richard would like to hold a New Members / Seekers class soon. Will those interested in this please let him know, so we can begin creating a schedule that will fit everyone? Thank you!

Having birthdays this week are Maya Lundein, Jake Ryan and Gianna Iannotti. Michael and Mandy McDonald have an anniversary, too! We wish God's blessings on them all.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

PRESIDENT

Jenn Schneider

VICE-PRESIDENT

Judy Paige

TREASURER

Chad McCoy

SECRETARY

Carolyn Kuechler

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Maria Altmayer

Regular Reminders!

Please remember that we can always use food contributions for the Mini-Pantry! There are now copies of a list of suggestions and items by the narthex and on the shelves where the food is kept by the offices. Take one home! Demand has increased considerably since it was first installed last September. We always appreciate what is brought in, and the need does not go away. Perhaps if you are employed you could ask about doing a collection at your job. Thank you!

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

May 8, 2022

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:36-43

Life-giving Acts

Mother's Day

In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was always doing good and helping the poor. About that time, she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room. Lydda was near Joppa; so, when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, "Please come at once!" Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them. Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, "Tabitha, get up." She opened her eyes and seeing Peter she sat up. He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called for the believers, especially the widows, and presented her to them alive. This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the LORD. Peter stayed in Joppa for some time with a tanner named Simon. (NRSV)

This story of the healing of Tabitha/Dorcas is populated with lively and fascinating characters. Take a moment to step into the shoes of each of these people, imagining what they must have seen, heard, smelled, tasted, and touched, not only as part of this story but before and especially afterwards.

Imagine yourself first as Peter. How do you feel when you are summoned to help this woman who you have never met? What gives you the courage and the authority to know what to do in this seemingly hopeless situation? What leads to your decision to stay in the area of Joppa after this initial healing?

Imagine yourself as Tabitha. Imagine being willing to give all that you have and are in service to others. What would be your reaction to learning you are ill? What changes might you feel in your body and mind when you are called from the precipice of death back into health and wellness?

Imagine yourself as one of the widows or disciples. How do you react to this rollercoaster of events from serious illness back to life? How will being witness to this situation change you going forward?

Imagine yourself as Simon the Tanner. Tanning is difficult, dangerous, and smelly work. How does it feel to welcome one of Jesus' followers into your home? How might it change you?

The background is that out of fear, the Egyptian Pharaoh has ordered that all male Hebrew babies be killed after they are born. The Hebrew midwives were already disobeying that order with a ready excuse. Our story picks up after that.

Exodus 2:1-13, 16-19

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother.

Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it.

When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to his people and saw their forced labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his kinsfolk. He looked this way and that, and seeing no one he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. When he went out the next day, he saw two Hebrews fighting; and he said to the one who was in the wrong, "Why do you strike your fellow Hebrew?"

Now, verses 16 through 19; Moses has fled to the land of Midian.

The priest of Midian had seven daughters. They came to draw water, and filled the troughs to water their father's flock. But some shepherds came and drove them away. Moses got up and came to their defense and watered their flock. When they returned to their father Reuel, he said, "How is it that you have come back so soon today?" They said, "An Egyptian helped us against the shepherds; he even drew water for us and watered the flock."

2 Timothy 1:1-7

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, to Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

John 10:22-30

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly."

Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."