

Welcome

BE THE CHURCH

Protect the environment.

Care for the poor.

Forgive often.

Reject racism.

Fight for the powerless.

Share earthly and spiritual resources.

Embrace diversity.

Love God.

Enjoy this life.



ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,
October 16,
2022**

10:00 AM

**Nineteenth Sunday
after Pentecost**



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](https://www.paypal.com/merchot/display?hosted_payment_id=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, October 16, 2022 at 10:00am
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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 *From Psalm 92*

P: "It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to
Your name, O Most High; to declare Your steadfast
love in the morning, and Your faithfulness by night . .
For You, O Lord, have made me glad by Your work; at
the works of Your hands we sing for joy."

OPENING RESPONSE

"Sing Hallelujah to the Lord" SSB #1 (2x)

Descant

Sing hal-le-lu-jah to the Lord.

Unison

Sing hal-le-lu-jah to the Lord. Sing hal-le-

This system contains three staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 2/2 time. The top staff features a descant. The middle and bottom staves are in unison. The lyrics are: 'Sing hal-le-lu-jah to the Lord. Sing hal-le-'.

Sing hal-le-lu-jah, hal-le-lu-

lu-jah to the Lord. Sing hal-le-lu-jah, sing hal-le-

This system contains three staves of music. The lyrics are: 'Sing hal-le-lu-jah, hal-le-lu-lu-jah to the Lord. Sing hal-le-lu-jah, sing hal-le-'.

jah; sing hal-le-lu-jah to the Lord.

lu-jah. Sing hal-le-lu-jah to the Lord.

This system contains three staves of music. The lyrics are: 'jah; sing hal-le-lu-jah to the Lord. lu-jah. Sing hal-le-lu-jah to the Lord.' The system concludes with first and second endings marked with '1' and '2'.

CALL TO CONFESSION *From First John 1:8, 9*

P: "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

C: But if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

P: Who does not long to be forgiven and cleansed spiritually? Let us offer up a prayer of confession together.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

P: When we hear today's words from Jeremiah, we are reminded of being like Israel and breaking our covenants with God though God loves us with an everlasting love.

C: The epistle lesson reminds us that, as Paul urged Timothy to proclaim the message and to not turn away from the truth, we confess we shrink back from proclaiming the message in most circumstances, yet we have given in to temptations to turn away from the truth. We can be a fearful and fickle lot, O God!

P: Jesus tells a parable we'll hear today which is to remind us to pray and not to lose heart. We confess we do at times pray and still lose heart. We are not as patient as You, God. We do not see the long view which is in Your plans. Our faith wavers. Of all these things we stand in need of Your mercy.

A: Forgive us and change us, Holy One, in the name of Jesus Christ! Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *from Jeremiah 31:34*

Through the prophet, the Lord said “No longer shall they teach one another, or say to one another, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.”

Believe the good news! In Jesus Christ crucified and risen, God’s love forgives our sins and sends the Spirit to write the commandments of love on our hearts, weaving us into the new covenant of grace and discipleship. In claiming the good news, let the congregation join me in saying . . .

A: Thanks be to God! Amen.

HYMN "Long Ago, God Reached Love"

Sing to the tune of "Jesus Loves Me"

**Long ago, God reached in love, sending Noah back a dove,
Promising a world made dry, with a rainbow in the sky.**

Refrain:

**God, you are faithful,
God, you are faithful,
God, you are faithful:
Your covenant is love!**

**Abraham and Sarah heard God's surprising, joyful word:
God would give them land and more: children they had long
hoped for.**

Refrain

**Ten Commandments were the way God called people to obey,
For God wanted us to see: In obeying, we are free.**

Refrain

**Jeremiah came to know: God would help us change and grow;
So God's law would fill each heart, giving us a fresh, new start.**

Refrain

**Jesus came to show the way we can have new life today;
God fulfilled that loving plan, made for us when life began.**

Refrain

(Copied from Gifts of Love: New Hymns for Today's Worship. Geneva Press, 2000. Text: Copyright © 1999 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. This book includes a permission note for those who own this book to use this hymn in their local church's worship services. Our Pastor owns the book.)

The congregation may be seated

WORDS ABOUT OFFERING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Peter Svenson

Prophet:

Jeremiah 31:27-34

Epistle:

2nd Timothy 3:14-4:5

MUSICAL MEDITATION Selected

Those who are able please stand

GOSPEL:

Luke 18:1-8

RESPONSE:

“Alleluia”

#495

The congregation may sit down

PASTORAL PRAYERS & SILENT PRAYERS

THE LORD’S PRAYER

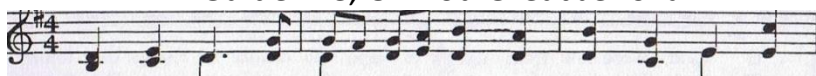
**A: Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil;
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever. Amen**

SERMON “The Widow’s Antidote”

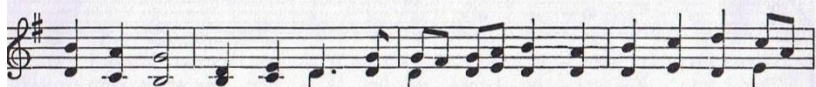
Will those who are able please rise to sing

HYMN: "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"

#80



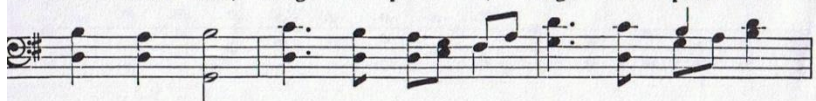
1. Guide me, O Thou great Je - ho - vah, Pil - grim through this
2. O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, Whence the heal - ing
3. When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, Bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land; I am weak, but Thou art might - y; Hold me with Thy
stream doth flow; Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar Lead me all my
fears sub - side; Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion, Land me safe on



power - ful hand; Bread of heav - en, Bread of heav - en,
jour - ney through; Strong De - liv - erer, strong De - liv - erer,
Ca - naan's side; Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es



Feed me till I want no more, Feed me till I want no more.
Be Thou still my Strength and Shield, Be Thou still my Strength and Shield.
I will ev - er give to Thee, I will ev - er give to Thee. A-MEN.



CHARGE *from 2nd Timothy 3:14-4:5*

P: “As for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed.”

WOMEN: “Proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable;

MEN: Convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching.

P: As for you, always be sober, endure suffering,

C: Do the work of an evangelist,

A: Carry out your ministry fully.”

BENEDICTION *First Peter 5:10, 11*

P: “And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To God be the power forever and ever.”

C: 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	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Barb Bailey
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Jen Schneider
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Annie Noorts

News in the Pews

Good Morning! Jesus urges us to pray always and not lose heart (Luke 18:1). So we gather today for prayer, and also to give God praise and thanksgiving. Welcome.

Thank you to everyone who helped finish the dropping-off of rummage items after the Rummage Sale! Work remains on the books! They are just inside the doors of the Gym if you'd be willing to grab a box and bring them to Half Price Books in Village Crossing for some extra profit for St. Peter's.

Your Church Council meets after worship this morning.

Our best wishes go out to Ben Westphal and his fiancé Charlie who are getting married this coming Saturday the 22nd! Congratulations and God bless!

Today is our Village Inn Fundraiser Sunday! If you are able, please make your plans to have lunch or dinner from the Village Inn, by in-person dining, take-out or delivery, and be sure to mention you're with the St. Peter's U.C.C. fundraiser so we get the 20% for your church. Now that football season is back, the hours return to 11 AM to 11 PM.

NEXT SUNDAY at 3:00 PM is our Pet Blessing! Bring your furry friend for a blessing from Pastor and Pet Party! C.A.R.E. of Skokie will be on hand with short leashes and adoptable animals. We'll also have our Pet Raffle! All proceeds are split with C.A.R.E. \$5 suggested donation and open to the public!

Pastor Lanford, in consultation with some of the church lay leaders and Pet Blessing leader Marcia, has agreed for the use of our Gym on an emergency basis to be a drop-off storage site for (only) new clothing and/or hygiene items for the Venezuelan asylum-seekers living in temporary housing in Skokie. The short-notice request for this help came to and through the Clergy Forum. Items dropped off this week will go onto long tables on one side of the Gym and covered for the Pet Blessing. Tables not used in the Memorial Room may also be used. No drop-offs will arrive after this coming Friday, and it is entirely possible that the items dropped off here will be removed by truck on the 21st. If you want to purchase and donate some of the clothing or hygiene items (detailed in a letter from Mr. Lorge), see the Pastor.

Thank you to those who have contributed to the meal expense for our 5th Saturday to serve this month! We have reached the amount requested as of this week.

Vendors needed for our November 19th Holiday Craft Bazaar!!

We have a few spots left. Please email Wendy at st.peteruccbazaar@gmail.com or text her at (847) 528-4545 to get started!

We still NEED Nursery Attendants!! Your service requires 1 hour of your time bi-monthly, if we can get enough helpers. Your service helps the parents get a much-needed break and the kids get to interact with others in the church they might not. Please consider helping, let the office know if you will!

In response to a survey from the Community Kitchen of A Just Harvest, those who were able to be part of a Zoom meeting last Sunday decided to return to serving in the indoor dining space when that officially resumes. It may possibly be a lunch or dinner, more to come as we find out.

Our People

We have been praying for mom and brain cancer patient Hope McGowan in the pastoral prayers; she left this life last weekend. Prayers for her young family left behind, and those not so young.

Having birthdays this week are former Sunday School student and friend of the Lundeens Sincere Williams, and Shawna Taheny Frenzel. **Anna and Hugh Riley have their wedding anniversary** this Friday. Blessings to them all!

Beth Lanford will be having hernia surgery tomorrow at Glenbrook Hospital; she got her required pre-op COVID shot 2 days ago and so is not to be with us in person this morning.

During worship on Sunday, October 30th we will celebrate the baptism of Russell N. Paluck, son of Andy and Melissa Paluck. Melissa is one of our Confirmation veterans, whose classmate Jeff Loach also has recently become a 2nd-time father!

According to the Lector schedule, next Sunday's lector is Jen Schneider, and the Nursery Attendant is Mike Ryan.

Standby Jury Duty? Pastor Richard has to call after 4:30 PM tomorrow to see if he has to show up for Jury Duty on Tuesday, the 18th. If he's cleared of that, he will attending Boundary Awareness Training the 20th from 9-3PM on Zoom. The IL Conference Annual Celebration ("meeting") is also gathering for worship and learning this week over 3 days of Zoom!

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

October 16, 2022

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Luke 18:1-8

Ask Boldly; Live Justly

Children's Sabbath/Laity Sunday

Holy One,

Today we open our mouths and these words travel from our hearts all the way to Your ear. As we pledge to be a voice for all who are voiceless, we pray also that our words may impel us to action. Like the widow, who knocked and pounded and BANGED on the doors of oppression until they were opened, make us tireless, as we seek and find You and Your way of justice.

We pray today for those children who lack safe water to drink. We know that water is life, but for too many, water is poison. We know that water is abundant, but for too many, water must be carried or painfully rationed. Like the widow, who knocked and pounded and BANGED on the doors of oppression until they were opened, make us tireless, as we seek and find You and Your way of justice.

We pray today for those children in need of access to medical care. As you healed all whom you touched, make us healers in your name - not only of individuals but of sick health care systems. Use us to ensure that medicines and healthcare are available to all. Like the widow, who knocked and pounded and BANGED on the doors of oppression until they were opened, make us tireless, as we seek and find You and Your way of justice.

Today we pray for children in captivity. For those caught up in the swirling storm that is modern-day slavery, for those separated at the border from the parents who only sought a better life for them, for those incarcerated unjustly, we vow to break down walls and fling open doors. Like the widow, who knocked and pounded and BANGED on the doors of oppression until they were opened, make us tireless, as we seek and find You and Your way of justice.

We pray for those children who have no home, or whose home is a place of violence. We especially today remember your beloved LGBTQ children, made in Your beautiful image and yet too often cast out of their families and faith traditions in Your name. Open our arms wide, that we might embrace all of your children as we welcome all of them home. Like the widow, who knocked and pounded and BANGED on the doors of oppression until they were opened, make us tireless, as we seek and find You and Your way of justice.

JEREMIAH 31:27-34

“²⁷The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of humans and the seed of animals. ²⁸And just as I have watched over them to pluck up and break down, to overthrow, destroy, and bring evil, so I will watch over them to build and to plant, says the LORD. ²⁹In those days they shall no longer say:

“The parents have eaten sour grapes,
and the children’s teeth are set on edge.”

³⁰But all shall die for their own sins;

the teeth of everyone who eats sour grapes shall be set on edge.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.”

SECOND TIMOTHY 3:14-4:5

“¹⁴But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, ¹⁵and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

¹In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: ²proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. ³For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, ⁴and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. ⁵As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.”

LUKE 18:1-8

“¹Then Jesus told the disciples a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ²He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Grant me justice against my opponent.’ ⁴For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, ‘Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵yet because this widow

keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.’” ⁶And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? ⁸I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”