



Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,
December 11,
2022
10:00 AM**

**Third Sunday of
Advent**





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, December 11, 2022 at 10:00am
Third Sunday of Advent**

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

PRELUDE

“Besançon”

THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jenn Schneider

Those who are able please stand

CALL TO WORSHIP IN SONG "People Look East" SSB #36 (v. 3)

1. Peo - ple, look east, the time is near of the
 2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more
 3. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more
 4. An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who

crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are
 seed is plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to
 light the bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y
 brings new life to earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley

a - ble, trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.
 nour - ish, that in course the flower may flour - ish.
 weath - er, bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.
 hum - ming with the word, the Lord is com - ing.

Peo - ple, look east and sing to - day:
 Peo - ple, look east: Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 Peo - ple, look east: Love, the Star, is on the way.
 Love, the Lord, is on the way.

CALL TO CONFESSION

P: Love, the Star, is on the way. Are we ready? Are the homes of our spirits ready for the Christ child to arrive and take up residence, or is there some cleaning up inside us that remains to be done? If you are like me, the answer to that is yes, and in that case I invite you to join me in the prayer of confession, part of the on-going clean-up process.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

P: We are mindful of the ways we walk in darkness, avoiding the light, Light of the World.

C: We choose to live with harmful habits rather than count on You to bring us to health.

P: We choose to stay the same rather than accept the new life to which You draw us.

C: Forgive us for our unwillingness to change in alignment with Your will.

A: Create in us a desire for the adventure of life lived in the light. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *Galatians 1:3-5*

P: "Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to set us free from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen."

Jesus was given for our liberation -- from our sins and their guilt, and from the control of the present evil age which in so many ways would imprison us in its ways of apathy, hopelessness, fear and greed. In Him our sins are forgiven, our souls are cleansed, and we are born anew unto a living hope through the gift of Jesus, which includes the gift of the power of His resurrection. This is incredible news! Please join me in acclamation, saying . . .

A: Thanks be to God and Jesus! Amen.

HYMN

"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

#99



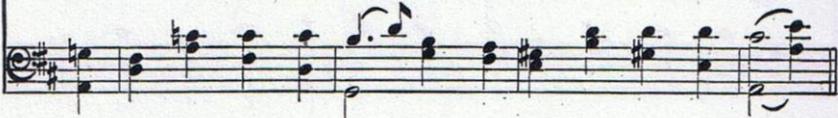
1. Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, And let your lights ap - pear;
 2. See that your lamps are burn - ing; Re - plen - ish them with oil,
 3. Our Hope and Ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear!



The eve - ning is ad - van - cing, And dark - er night is near:
 And wait for your sal - va - tion, The end of earth - ly toil.
 A - rise, Thou Sun so longed for, O'er this be - night - ed sphere!



The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing, And soon He draw - eth nigh;
 The watch - ers on the moun - tain Pro - claim the Bride - groom near,
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, We plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray, and watch, and wres - tle: At mid - night comes the cry.
 Go meet Him as He com - eth, With al - le - lu - ias clear.
 The day of earth's re - demp - tion That brings us un - to Thee. A - MEN.



The congregation may be seated

LIGHTING THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

Lighting the Candle of Love this morning and sharing some thoughts on Love is Diane Meggs.

RESPONSE “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah” (v. 3)

Am Em/G F Dm

1. Light one can - dle to watch for Mes - si - ah:
 2. Light two can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah:
 3. Light three can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah:
 4. Light four can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah:

3 E Am/E E Am E/B

let the light ban - ish dark - ness. He ___ shall bring sal -
 let the light ban - ish dark - ness. He ___ shall feed the
 let the light ban - ish dark - ness. Lift your heads and
 let the light ban - ish dark - ness. He ___ is com - ing,

6 Am/C Dm Dm/F Dm

va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the
 flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them
 lift high the gate - way for the King of
 tell the glad tid - ings, Let your lights be

8 E(sus4) E E(sus4) E Am

prom - ise.
 home - ward.
 glo - ry.
 shin - ing!

WORDS ABOUT OFFERING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Prophecy:

Epistle:

Annie Noorts

Isaiah 35:1-10

James 5:7-10

CHOIR ANTHEM**“Wait for the Lord”**

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!

Those who are able please stand

GOSPEL:

Matthew 11:2-11

RESPONSE:

“Alleluia”

#495

The congregation may retake their seats

PASTORAL & 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 Source for Patient Waiting”

Will those who are able please rise to sing

HYMN: "Are You the One who is to Come?"

Sing to the tune "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

"Are you the one who is to come?" John bravely asked the Lord.

John knew the hope he'd counted on and sought a guiding word.

So Jesus gave this answer: Tell what you hear and see!

Tell John about the sick and poor — How God has set them free!

"Are you the one we're longing for" — The name above all names?

We hear each day a thousand words That make competing claims:

"Buy this and you'll be happy!" "Find meaning here or there!"

But Lord, these other things we seek Lead only to despair.

"Are you the only one we need?" Remind your church anew

That in the midst of sin and greed Our joy is serving you.

In you we still see wonders as peace replaces fear;

You heal the sick, lift up the poor and bring your kingdom here.

Text: Copyright © 2010 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.

Included in God's World is Changing: New Hymns for Advent and Christmas

(2022) and those who have the book like our Pastor can reprint such a text with permission.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

P: Follow the light of hope's guiding star. Seek the child.

C: Listen to the words of a heavenly host. Find the child.

P: Offer as gifts the best that you have. Serve the child.

A: Peace be among us. God be with us. Amen.

POSTLUDE

“Wachet Auf”

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	Beth Sterba
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Jen Schneider
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Laurie Mitchell

News in the Pews

Good Morning! The third Sunday of Advent focuses on joy. “Rejoice in the Lord always,” says the apostle Paul (Philippians 4:4). With gladness, we welcome you to worship.

Thank you to our Women’s Guild and Rich Schneider for organizing, the Harmonaires for singing, and to all of you who helped, or were able to come to enjoy the holiday music concert and Jingle Mingle afterwards! It was last Sunday. A lot of work went into preparing the Gym for the reception, and the food we served, let alone hosting in the sanctuary. Thank you everyone!

Village Inn Food Fundraiser is today from 11 AM to 11 PM - Please participate if you are able - all you have to do is when ordering, mention St. Peter’s UCC to your server and we get 20% of whatever you spend!! Good for carryout and delivery too. This is a great way to relax, enjoy the game or your Sunday activities and not have to cook!

The Sunday School Program is collecting “Baby Items for Jesus” as their yearly mission project. Please donate diapers, wipes, lotions, baby food, baby snacks and formula to the tree under the sanctuary on Sundays or leave by the office and we’ll bring it upstairs.

Holiday Meal collecting at the Jewel in the Village Crossing shopping center is still on! If you are able, PLEASE go there and donate to their holiday meal collection at checkout ASAP.

Christmas Eve this year is Saturday the 24th at 7:00 PM with a Choral Anthem, the Lord's Supper, lessons, carols, a homily and closing candle-light. Christmas Day worship continues at 10 AM with Communion.

Now collecting cookies, cocoa, hats and gloves for the Night

Ministry: We're collecting now and bagging and tagging January 8th. An email from the Ministry told us they receive gifts of winter hats, gloves and scarves through March (cookies were not mentioned although Pastor mentioned them).

A Just Harvest Service IS BACK!! Yes, this month has 5 Saturdays. And YES, we can say it is our turn to SERVE at A Just Harvest. They are only serving lunch right now, we still need \$500 for the cost of the meal and ALSO we are to provide 5 volunteers to serve (half indoors in-person, half are curbside) who will be at the Kitchen on Saturday, December 31st from 11:00 AM to 2:30 PM (service is from 12 to 2). We used to meet at the church to carpool over there; if you are new to helping, you may benefit if we do this again, so let us know! Please let Pastor or Beth Lanford or Maria Altmyer know if you can volunteer, and please contribute to the cost of the meal so it will add up to the \$500! Thank you in advance.

FunDrive Soft Goods Collection in January! Start cleaning out those closets, garages, basements and storage units (and those piles of stuffed animals, make room for new ones from Santa) now and get them ready 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!

Our People

Pastor Richard will be looking for persons to read Scriptures on Christmas Eve, so don't wait long to let him know if you are interested and available to read at our 7:00 PM service!

Next Sunday the 18th is the next Church Council meeting. If you are responsible for a report, please prepare and submit it to the Council December drop-box as soon as you can. Thank you!

The Nominating Committee is at work asking members to consider staying on a Board, or coming onto a Board, or becoming an Officer of the Church. Please do pray about the request; there is a reason you were thought of to approach. It is always an honor to serve God in these ways, and we do need folks to help carry on the labors the Church!

Birthdays and Anniversaries: First, our apologies for forgetting to include those who had birthdays and anniversaries earlier than today: Nancy and Phil Lindroth, Jim and Judy Williford, and Dianna and Larry Pappadakis-Haun before December 8th. We missed birthdays for Peggy Reins, Mary Ann Kuehn, Drew Ryan, Erik Christianson, and this week Jon Mau Gemignani and Judy Paige will celebrate. *Annemarie Gloeckner (Andre's mom) is turning 100 this coming Saturday, December 17th! Happy centennial birthday to her!*

Next Sunday for the Fourth Sunday of Advent Beth Sterba will light the Candle of Joy.

Today's Charge and Benediction were written by Glen E. Rainsley, as published in *Flames of the Spirit*, ed. by Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi (New York: The Pilgrim Press, 1985).

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

December 11, 2022

Third Sunday of Advent

Luke 1:46b-55

Heartbeat of Justice

On this third Sunday of Advent, we hear the stirring words known as the Magnificat spoken by the mother of Jesus, Mary. Through her words, Mary paves the way for the ministry of Jesus. His life is a reflection of her teaching and vision as found in the song she sings today. Although Mary is such an important person in our faith story, there is but one United Church of Christ community that carries the name of Mary, St. Mary's United Church of Christ in Westminster, Maryland. The origins of the name are lost to time, but the legacy of the name is a long one.

The area around Silver Run was settled predominantly by Germans who made their way across the Atlantic Ocean to Philadelphia and then south to the rich fertile land of this vicinity....There are still families in this congregation whose roots go back to these early residents of the Silver Run area in the mid 1700's.

A union agreement between a Reformed and Lutheran congregation dated 31 May 1762 is the earliest contemporary record of the congregation. That document states clearly that a church was already standing, and that it was named Saint Mary's. Even the German documents from the eighteenth century are unanimous in calling the church Saint Mary's, and not St. Maria or die Marienkirche, German forms by which both Protestant and Catholic churches dedicated to the mother of Jesus are known.

The first church building in place by May of 1762 was most likely a log structure covered with clapboard siding and hardly to be distinguished on the outside from the modest first-generation residences of the area. Nearly sixty years later the cornerstone was placed on a new structure. Among Pennsylvania Germans a church was usually not consecrated until it was both finished and paid for. It was on this occasion that a name was given to the building. One pastor usually was given the honor of selecting the name and of announcing it as a surprise during the consecration ceremonies. Names thus selected did not always "take", however, and local nicknames could prevail instead. In the case of St. Mary's church, the name of the circa 1762 building was automatically applied to the new one.

Three hundred years later, the name still sticks.

Information adapted from:

<https://www.germanmarylanders.org/churches/st-marys-united-church-of-christ-silver-run>

Isaiah 35:1 – 10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our
God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God’s people;

no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

James 5:7 - 11

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Indeed we call blessed those who showed endurance. You have heard of the endurance of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

Matthew 11:2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to Him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed,

the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.'

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Silent Night, Holy Night

St. Peter's United Church of Christ
invites you to be with us on

Christmas Eve

at 7:00 pm

In-person and
Live-streamed on YouTube

FEATURING:

- Special Music
- Candlelight and Carols
- Holy Communion for All
(Children receive Candy Canes)

St Peter's UCC • 8013 Laramie Ave. Skokie
www.stpeteruccskokie.org • 847-673-8166
facebook.com/stpeteruccskokie

All are welcome!