



Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

Sunday,

May 29,

2022

10:00 AM

**Seventh Sunday
of Easter**



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/?x=1&url=https://www.paypal.com/paytogether/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, May 29, 2022 at 10:00am
Seventh Sunday after Easter
Memorial Day Sunday**

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

PRELUDE “Variations on America”

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS Jenn Schneider

Those who are able please stand.

CALL TO WORSHIP *from Psalm 103*

P: “Bless the Lord, O my soul,

C: and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

P: Bless the Lord, O my soul,

C: And forget not all of His benefits --

P: Who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

Who redeems your life from the Pit,

**C: Who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
Who satisfies you with good as long as you live,**

P: So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

**C: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me,
bless God's holy name!”**

CALL TO CONFESSION

P: Psalm 90 admits to the Lord, “You have set our iniquities before You, our secret sins in the light of Your countenance,” and later it asks,

C: “So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.”

P: Let us come clean with God and admit to what God already knows.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

P: On this day when we remember and honor our nation’s war dead, O God, whose sacrifices helped ensure if not expand our liberties, we confess we are often far less willing to go so far for what is right. We look for an easier, softer way to promote justice, maintain peace, and not lose friends or employment.

C: We confess to You our woeful inaction before the guns of Buffalo, Uvalde, Chicago, Milwaukee, Parkland, El Paso, Orlando, Virginia Tech and elsewhere. Anger, prayers, words of consolation and hopes for changes still leave us as a country, a people, needing correction.

P: As a people we shrug and weep, even as the gospel of agape-love-writ-large-into-how-we-want-things-done falls on deaf ears well-paid. We confess our role in silence equaling death and pray not only for Your mercy but also Your judgment and wisdom to guide and cleanse this nation.

C: Heal us and deliver us, O God! In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

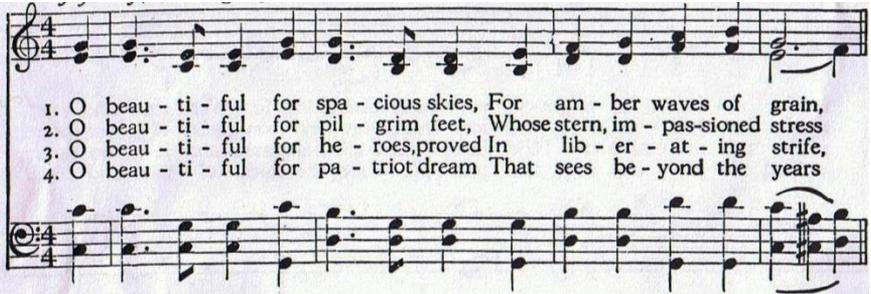
P: The invitation merged with God's promise is here: "The Spirit and the bride say 'Come.' And let everyone who hears say, 'Come.' And let everyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift." This is the grace of God, and in God's grace is our pardon and a second chance. In gratitude and our own promise, let the congregation join me in saying aloud,

A: Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

HYMN

"America the Beautiful"

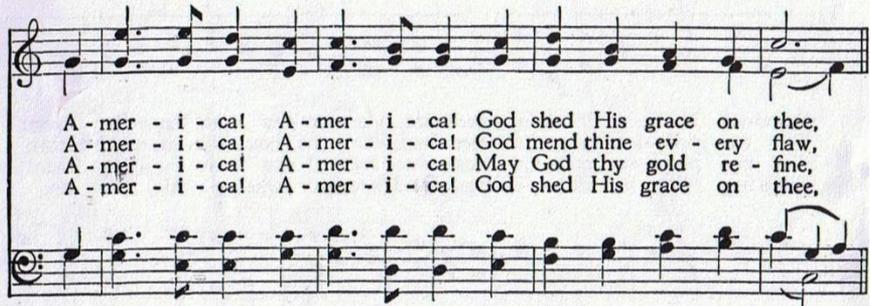
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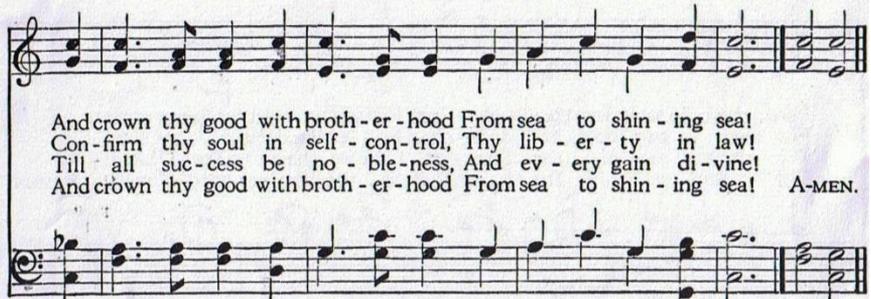
1. O beau - ti - ful for spa - cious skies, For am - ber waves of grain,
 2. O beau - ti - ful for pil - grim feet, Whose stern, im - pas - sioned stress
 3. O beau - ti - ful for he - roes, proved In lib - er - at - ing strife,
 4. O beau - ti - ful for pa - triot dream That sees be - yond the years



For pur - ple moun - tain maj - es - ties A - bove the fruit - ed plain!
 A thor - ough - fare for free - dom beat A - cross the wil - der - ness!
 Who more than self their coun - try loved, And mer - cy more than life!
 Thine al - a - bas - ter cit - ies gleam Un - dimmed by hu - mar: tears!



A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed His grace on thee,
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God mend thine ev - ery flaw,
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! May God thy gold re - fine,
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed His grace on thee,



And crown thy good with broth - er - hood From sea to shin - ing sea!
 Con - firm thy soul in self - con - trol, Thy lib - er - ty in law!
 Till all suc - cess be no - ble - ness, And ev - ery gain di - vine!
 And crown thy good with broth - er - hood From sea to shin - ing sea! A - MEN.

The congregation may be seated.

CALL TO OFFERING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rich Schneider

New Testament

The Revelation 22: 12-17, 20-21

Gospel the First

John 15: 12-17

CHORAL ANTHEM “Let There Be Peace on Earth”

Those who are able please stand.

GOSPEL THE SECOND

John 17: 20-26

RESPONSE

“Alleluia!”

#495

Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah!

The musical notation consists of two staves. The top staff is a vocal line in G major (one sharp) and 3/2 time, with lyrics 'Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah!'. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment line with a similar rhythmic pattern of chords and eighth notes.

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**

SERMON

“Alpha Omega Love”

Those who are able please stand.

HYMN “God, Our Nation Feels the Loss”

Sing to the tune of “Rock of Ages,” # 217

**God, our nation feels the loss
as our children pay the cost
for the violence we accept,
for the silence we have kept.
Rachel weeps for children gone;
God of love, this can't go on!**

**Jesus, Lord, we hear you say,
"Don't turn little ones away!"
May we build a kinder land
where our children understand:
Every child here matters more
that the guns we clamor for.**

**Holy Spirit, wind and flame,
send us out in Jesus' name.
May we shout and say, "Enough!"
May we build a world of love —
till the sounds of weapons cease,
till our young can grow in peace.**

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ecumenical services.*

CHARGE & BENEDICTION**POSTLUDE** “Fantasy on God of the Nations”

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	Beth Lanford
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Carolyn Van Til

News in the Pews

Good Morning! The Spirit invites all: “Let anyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who desires drink freely from the water of life” (Revelation 22:17, NLT). Welcome.

Our Outreach Open House is NEXT SATURDAY, June 4th from 9-12.

This special event has been organized to highlight the great work over a dozen of our ministry partners has been doing. The event is free and will be an opportunity to browse multiple organizations – find out where you can plug in, or get help yourself. St Peter’s is doing this in support of our OWN initiative to highlight others that are also doing good in our community, and partner with organizations to reach and help the most people. President Jenn’s most urgent request in this matter is to spread the word – invite people, share on Facebook, hang up flyers, anything you can think of. Ask her if you have any questions or ideas.

HELP NEEDED:

- **We will need help the day of the event which is 9-12.** If you can stay all morning, that would be best. If you can’t, let us know what time.
 - **2 people** – making and handing out popcorn and drinks
 - **2-3 strong guys** to help load in at 8am and load out at noon
 - **2 people** – host the St Peter’s table – friendly, outgoing, chatty, love to talk about St. Peter’s is a must!
 - Jen and Pastor will be “floating” all day, and won’t probably be at the table
 - **2 people** – our community partners table will have brochures on it from orgs that couldn’t make it. We’d like a couple people to sit there as well
 - **4-5 other people** – to possibly “staff” booths who need help, or give volunteers a break
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- **We need 3 raffle baskets/prizes** – we are giving away one door prize an hour for anyone who attends.
 - **Please, please, please spread the word**, and come to the event yourself. Personally invite people to come – call or text or direct message them, and say it would mean a lot to you personally if they'd attend this event.

In observance of Memorial Day, the church office will be closed tomorrow, May 30th.

Harrison and Angela Kuras were falsely accused of harming their son Harry II over a year ago, and they begin a trial this week for a judge to determine if Harry had been abused or whether he can return home to them (since he was taken away over a year ago). This trial is a bench trial and only to determine if he was abused or not. There may or may not be a criminal trial later depending on the results of this one. Special prayers are asked for this week! At this point in their accumulated weariness over struggles and stress, Angela put out a request to us email her with easy-to-make meals, beyond frozen dinners and mac and cheese! You can email her at angela.washek@gmail.com or kuras7278@gmail.com.

This coming week Pastor will be in morning meetings of the Niles Township Clergy Forum (Wednesday) and our CMA Cluster 1 (Thursday).

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.

Our People

Hospitalized: As of this midweek writing, Dorothy Panzke is at Amita Saints Mary and Elizabeth Medical Center in Chicago. Clara Melone is at Alden North, and Ralph Burmeister at Celebrate Senior Living, 7000 N. Newark, Niles.

About the new hymn from its writer:

See the reference to the Slaughter of the Innocents:

"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" (Matthew 2:18). This hymn was written in remembrance of the beloved children of God who died in the school shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas. Many of us, as individuals, do not accept violence, keep silence, or clamor for guns. Yet, as a nation, we do these things, and as a nation, we need to repent; we need to turn around and live a different way. All of us are called to do more than sing and pray; please work for gun safety laws in your community and state.

Happy birthday! Having birthdays this week are Melissa (Erickson) Paluck, Heather (Schuhrke) O'Hara, Jack Hoellerich, Barb Bailey, Barb Todd, and Ben Rees. Don and Lana Kahn celebrate their wedding anniversary this week as well! May God bless them all.

According to the schedule, next Sunday's (Pentecost!) Nursery Attendant will be Kathy Z.; the Lector is to be David Iannotti. The white/purple cross-cloth must come down and be folded and put away between today and next Sunday.

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 29, 2022

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 16:16-34

Breaking Chains

When Paul and Silas broke the walls that bound them, they created a new life not just for themselves but for the other prisoners and the jailers, as well. Suddenly, everyone in the story began thinking of themselves and their place in the world in a transformed way. Like the transformed people in the story of Paul and Silas, as old walls and ways of being crumble, many churches and conferences are opening themselves up to a new way of being and doing in the world.

In recent years many UCC Conferences have gone through the wrenching process of letting go of their beloved church camps, for a variety of reasons. Tears have been shed over these decisions, because of the poignant memories and formative faith experiences that have taken place at these camps. Many clergy are camp alumni; they felt their call to ministry in the beauty of nature among extraordinary people.

After the tears, one such camp alum felt propelled by the Holy Spirit to start a non-profit to purchase and operate Camp Mimanagish in central Montana. Rev. Cathy Barker, with her husband, Rev. Dick Weaver, started talking with others who love

that particular sacred space. The group sent out a “What If” survey to gauge the interest in seeing Mimanagish into a new future.

Within months the working group had founded and incorporated Singing Waters Montana, a 501(c)(3) non-profit. The group consulted extensively with the U.S. Forest Service, who manage the land, sharing their vision of becoming “A Camp for those who have no Camp.” Mimanagish alumni lent their expertise in fundraising and Singing Waters Montana raised over half a million dollars for the purchase and maintenance of the facility.

At the Dedication Celebration on July 31, 2021, over 50 people, including UCC Conference leaders, honored the past and shared hopes for the future. In addition to faith communities, this lovely wilderness retreat on the Boulder River will host recovery groups, veterans, LGBTQ+ support groups, youth de-stress weeks, Foster and Adoptive Family Camps, and more. Fishing, Art, and Music will round out the schedule. The welcome will be wide.

When the Holy Spirit is leading, anything can happen!

Revelation 22:12-17, 20-21

"See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates. Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and fornicators and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

"It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come."

And let everyone who hears say, "Come."

And let everyone who is thirsty come.

Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.

The one who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon."

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.

John 15:12-17

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing;

but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

John 17:20-26

"I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

"Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."