

A vertical decorative strip on the left side of the poster. It features a circular stained glass window at the top with a colorful, multi-colored pattern. Below the window is a wooden cross. The background of the strip is dark with intricate floral and vine patterns in shades of green, yellow, and red.

Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,
January 29,
2023**

10:00 AM

**Fourth Sunday
after Epiphany**



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/paypalme/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 29, 2023 at 10:00am
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

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

PRELUDE “Warum ist das Licht gegeben” by Walther

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

Those who are able please stand

CALL TO WORSHIP *From Psalm 19*

P: “The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament declares God’s handiwork.

C: **Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.**

P: There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;

C: **Yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.”**

A: **Let us worship God our Creator, the Creator of the ends of the earth and sky!**

OPENING RESPONSE:**“Awesome God” SSB #21 (With repeat)**

Our God is an awe - some God, he

reigns from heav - en a - bove with wis - dom,

pow'r, and love— our God is an awe - some God!

Our God is an awe - some God! Our God is an awe - some God!

CALL TO CONFESSION *Matthew 7:3, 4*

P: Jesus said, “Why do you see the speck in your neighbor’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to the neighbor, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ while the log is in your own eye?” It is time to realize there are logs in our eyes and come clean about it with God. After reading the prayer silently to ourselves first, that we may come closer to making it our prayer, then we’ll pray it together aloud.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

A: Eternal God, whose wisdom makes foolish the wisdom of the earthly-wise, we confess to You that there are times we judge others when we are guilty of the same things, whether we realize it or not. We call others cheap, when we can be, too. “But they’re worse!” We despise others being insensitive to the feelings of others, yet we have hurt other people’s feelings too, usually unawares, which does not excuse us. We criticize those who do not do anything to advance the causes of justice, equality, love and understanding, yet when our chances come to do the same things, “it’s not a good time” and we feel guilty for a little while.

Please forgive us; and fit our hearts for love and community ahead of our Annual Meeting, as well! Wash us clean by the blood of the Lamb, by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *First Corinthians 1:30*

P: Paul wrote, speaking of God, “is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption.” Christ became for us righteousness. That means His righteousness from God is ours. That means more than our forgiveness, but it sure includes it! Christ became our redemption. Paying the cost on Calvary, he frees us, or redeems us, from the things, people and forces which stand in the way of our usefulness to God and each other. This is forgiveness, and soul liberation with a purpose: to serve and honor our merciful God! In Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven. Claiming this grace, let the whole church say . . .

A: Thanks be to God! Amen.

HYMN**“Blest be the Tie that Binds”**

#280

1. Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Chris - tian love:
 2. Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne We pour our ar - dent prayers;
 3. We share our mu - tual woes, Our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
 4. From sor - row, toil, and pain, And sin, we shall be free;

The fel - low-ship of kin-dred minds Is like to that a - bove.
 Our fears, our hopes, our aims, are one, Our com - forts and our cares.
 And of - ten for each oth - er flows The sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
 And per - fect love and friend-ship reign Through all e - ter - ni - ty. A-MEN.

The congregation may be seated

WORDS ABOUT OFFERINGS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Annie Noorts

From the Psalter:

Micah 6:1-8

Epistle:

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

MUSICAL MEDITATION “Blest Are They”

by Haugen

Will the congregation please rise

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 5:1-12

RESPONSE:

Doxology #551

The congregation may now take their seats

PASTORAL 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

“The Message”

Will the congregation please rise and sing

HYMN "O God, You Call for Justice"

Sing to the tune "The Church's One Foundation"

**O God, you call for justice — for goodness, never greed!
You seek a world of fairness where all have what they
need —**

**Where all have food and water and homes in which to
thrive,**

Where all have hope and laughter and joy to be alive!

**O God, you call for kindness instead of keeping score;
You seek a world that welcomes the hungry and the
poor.**

**Lord, where there is injustice may we work to protect
The struggling ones, the voiceless that others would
reject.**

**You call us to walk humbly, for we are not our own;
We all are poor and needy; we need the grace you've
shown.**

**May we respond to others reflecting what you give —
Compassion, kindness, justice — so all may gladly live.**

**O God, may our great nation seek justice, as we should,
and work with dedication to seek the common good.
We're blessed to be a blessing; may we within our law
Seek justice and compassion that reaches out to all.**

Biblical Reference: Micah 6:8

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CHARGE

P: Act, with faith;

C: Believe, with humility;

P: Love one another;

C: And love those whom nobody loves;

A: Serve the Lord!

BENEDICTION *Ephesians 3:20, 21*

P: “Now to Him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than we can ask or imagine, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”

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	Peter Svenson
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Mike Ryan

News in the Pews

We gather in Jesus' name to answer God's call: "to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with [our] God" (Micah 6:8). Welcome.

Today is the Annual Congregational meeting after worship! Please gather in the Memorial Room downstairs. We need a quorum of at least 24 active (voting) members in-person or on-line to convene the hybrid meeting and conduct business. Friends of the church are welcome to stay, and may be granted voice, but not vote. A voting/active member of St. Peter's United Church of Christ is a member who has, at least once during the past year, received the Lord's Supper, attended worship, or made a financial contribution to the church. We hope that those who took Annual Reports home with them last Sunday have brought them back with them; if not, we do have some extra hard copies. The reports, minus the proposed budget and slate of candidates, were also emailed out in advance.

Thank you to Carolyn Kuechler and Kathy Zipperer for hosting Coffee Hour today! The sign-up sheet to volunteer to host or co-host a future Coffee Hour is posted in the Memorial Room, where our Annual Meeting will be held

All Board members and Officers elected in the Annual Meeting today are asked to be present next Sunday if at all possible, to be officially installed into their new, or incumbent, positions! If you need to do it remotely via

hybrid, then please join us that way and have a copy of an e-bulletin so you can follow along during the Installation part of the worship service. Thank you!

Donation Statements: Donation statements are complete, please see our Financial Secretary Maria Altmayer today for yours! If you couldn't make it today it will be mailed to you next week. If there are any discrepancies or problems with your statement, please let the office know and we'll get it fixed for you!

Offering Envelopes are in the Memorial Room! Please grab yours when you are downstairs for the meeting. ***If you are not on our list and would like a box of envelopes, please let us know, we have plenty of extras and would love to include you!***

FunDrive Soft Goods Collection concludes this week! Those last-minute donations can be brought during office hours through Friday February 3rd.

Fundrive packing and loading date is February 4th at 10 AM. We'll need lots of help, and with lots of help it should go very quickly. Thank you to Bill Orpet who'll be driving the truck!

Food donations for the mini-pantry are needed! We are starting to get low and could use more donations. There's a list of suggested items on the shelves under the office mailboxes if you need help, but we'll be glad to take all food donations!

Our People

Birthdays this week belong to a couple of members' grandchildren: Madeleine Reese Todd and Daniel (Mau) Gemignani. Ken and Karen Christianson have a wedding anniversary on February 2nd. May they all know the blessings of God!

HOSPITALIZED: Ron Schuhrke, we've learned, is still at Balmoral Care Center, 1101 Pembridge Drive, Lake Forest, IL 60045.

ICYMI: Longtime member Helen Mauer, 96, died last Sunday morning or the overnight before, had her funeral held here last Thursday at 11 AM. Interment will be later and private. Thanks to all who were able to attend or to come to the visitation Wednesday.

Are you on our email list? Get weekly updates, our monthly Announcer and weekly electronic bulletins and more by signing up. Give us your email address on the attendance register, or email us at office@stpeteruccskokie.org!

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.



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

MISSION MOMENTS

January 29, 2023

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Matthew 5:1-12

The Vision Beautiful

Health and Human Service Sunday

Blessed are the poor in spirit. Blessed are those with illnesses of the mind and heart, the diseases and dis-eases of these troubled days, and blessed are those who facilitate the slow work of healing.

Blessed are those who mourn. Blessed are those who wail with the grief of loss, and blessed are those who abide with the ones who weep.

Blessed are the meek. Blessed are the children who have been abandoned to circumstance, and bless those who fill the absences in those precious lives with warmth and commitment.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. Blessed are those at the mercy of mean and chilly streets, and blessed are those who offer a warm meal, a dry bed and the promise of a transformed society where all have plenty. Amen.

Today, we gather together with the whole United Church of Christ in observing Health and Human Service Sunday. We bear witness to the faithful heritage the UCC has in co-creating spaces of wholeness with communities across this country and around the world. The UCC and its predecessor denominations courageously founded schools, hospitals, and orphanages during times of pandemic, war, and social upheaval. Now, there are more than 400 UCC affiliated health care centers, hospitals, affordable housing and retirement communities, transitional housing for those experiencing homelessness or domestic violence, and service centers for children, youth, families, and those with developmental disabilities. These ministries continue to show up in the most challenging circumstances—and do so with the fervor of healing and justice. It is thus a day to celebrate that the life of the church is vibrant beyond our church walls and outreach ministries.

“Health and Human Service Sunday.”

<https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/health-and-human-service-sunday/>

Micah 6:1 - 8

¹Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

²Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth;
for the LORD has a controversy with his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

³“O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

⁴For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;
and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

⁵O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

⁶“With what shall I come before the LORD,

and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,

with calves a year old?

⁷Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,

with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,

the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

⁸He has told you, O mortal, what is good;

and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice,

and to love kindness,

and to walk humbly with your God?

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,

and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe?

Where is the debater of this age?

Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶ Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹ so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Matthew 5:1 - 12

¹When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,

for they will be filled.

⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake,

for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.