



Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,
August 16, 2026
10:00 AM**

**Twelfth Sunday
after Pentecost**





Welcome to Worship!

SUNDAYS @ 10:00AM

In-person Worship. All are welcome to join us

Livestream on YouTube. Live at 10am then available on our channel after



Ways to Give

Send a Check. Mail to the address below ... this way still works fine!

Send with Zelle. Use your banking app to send to finance@stpeteruccskokie.org

Use PayPal. <https://www.paypal.me/stpeteruccskokie>

Set up Vanco. <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZCME/home>

Set up your account or log in to give



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 **joyously welcome all people** to share worship, membership, marriage, baptism, funeral, and fellowship with us.



Contact, Follow, or Talk to Us

Rev. Brenda Barnes Jamieson (Interim Pastor): pastor@stpeteruccskokie.org

Ben Westphal (Music Director): bcwestphal@gmail.com

Laura Olson (Office Manager): office@stpeteruccskokie.org

Office hours Mon-Fri 9am to 2pm

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
8013 Laramie Ave., Skokie, IL 60077
Order of Worship for
Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost
Sunday, August 16, 2026 at 10:00am**

Meditation during our sacred music:

*Listen. Be attentive. Feel God's Spirit connect all of us gathered here,
those with us online and in spirit, and those who cannot be present today.*

PRELUDE Selected

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peggy Reins

You may stand in body or spirit.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: With open arms, God welcomes all who gather.

**All: No one stands outside the circle of God's mercy
and love.**

One: We come to offer our worship—
to declare the One who is our God, and that we
are God's people,

All: called and chosen from the very beginning.

One: Now we ask Holy Spirit:
open our eyes to see God here;

**All: open our minds to receive God's truth,
and our mouths to speak and sing our praise.**

One: Let us worship God!

GATHERING HYMN "Gather Us In"

SSB #19



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
 bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,
 light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
 call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath - er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath - er us in, the
 Gath - er us in, the rich and the haugh - ty, gath - er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the
 Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath - er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
 bread that is you; nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
 make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen

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PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

All: Loving God, we don't always understand why things happen the way they do; why our plans and dreams fail, and we find ourselves facing challenge after challenge, and disappointment after disappointment.

Yet we also believe that you are at work in our lives, and that you have a larger plan and purpose for each one of us.

Teach us to trust in you no matter what challenges we face. Give us courage to place our dreams and ambitions in your hands, and then follow where you lead without hesitation, confident that your loving presence goes with us. **Amen.**

Pause for quiet reflection

WORDS OF GRACE

One: Again and again, the Bible repeats the refrain: God was with Joseph. Again and again we hear that God is with us.

All: For there is nothing we can do, and nothing that can be done to us, that will ever stop God from loving us.

One: In Jesus our Christ, we are forgiven. We are loved. We are being made whole.

All: Thanks be to God!

PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you all!

All: And also with you!

Share a sign of God's peace: a smile, a wave, an elbow bump, a handshake, a hug. Let us fill this space with love.

SUNG RESPONSE

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah! Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah! Hallelujah, Hallelujah!

The congregation may be seated.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Jenn Schneider

Hebrew Scripture

Genesis 45:1-15

You may wish to stand for the reading of the Gospel.

GOSPEL

Matthew 15:21-28

Please be seated.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Selected

SERMON

“Learning with Jesus”

HYMN OF RESPONSE

“God Will Take Care of You”



1 Be not dis-mayed what-e'er be-tide, God will take care of you;
 2 Through days of toil when heart grows frail, God will take care of you;
 3 All you may need God will pro-vide, God will take care of you;
 4 No mat-ter what may be the test, God will take care of you;




Be-neath God's wings of love a-bide, God will take care of you.
 When dan-gers fierce your path as-sail, God will take care of you.
 Noth-ing you ask will be de-nied, God will take care of you.
 Lean, wea-ry one, up-on God's breast, God will take care of you.



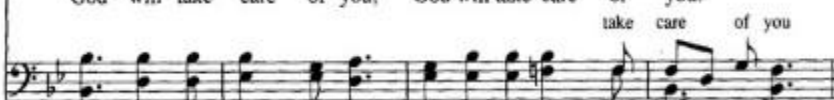
Refrain



God will take care of you, through ev-ery day, o'er all the way;




God will take care of you, God will take care of you.
 take care of you



CALL TO PRAYER**JOYS, CONCERNS, PRAYER REQUESTS****SILENT PRAYER, 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**

OFFERTORY

If you donate electronically, you may place an "Electronic Giving" card into the plate as it comes around so you can enjoy participating in the physical act of giving.

You may stand in body or in spirit.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

**All: Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
praise God, all creatures, here below!**

Alleluia, Alleluia!

**Praise God above, you heavenly host,
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost!**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

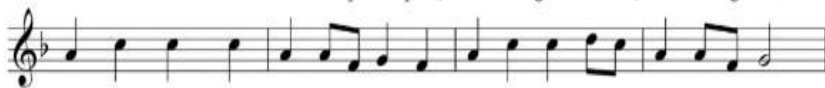
**All: God, you give each of us unique gifts and abilities
and you call us to unique settings— our homes,
schools, neighborhoods and places of
employment. As you used Joseph and the
Canaanite woman to fulfil your purposes, we pray
that you would use us, too. Take our gifts, our
time and our resources. Use us so that your will
might be done, on earth, as it is in heaven.
Amen.**

HYMN OF COMMITMENT:**“God, who Stretched the Spangled Heavens”**

1. God, who stretched the span-gled heav - ens In - fi - nite in time and place,
2. We have ven - tured worlds un - dreamed of Since the child - hood of our race;
3. As each far ho - ri - zon beck - ons, May it chal - lenge us a - new:



Flung the suns in burn - ing ra - diance Through the si - lent fields of space;
Known the ec - sta - sy of wing - ing Through un - trav - eled realms of space;
Chil - dren of cre - a - tive pur - pose, Serv - ing oth - ers, hon - oring You.



We, Your chil - dren in Your like - ness, Share in - ven - tive powers with You;
Probed the se - crets of the a - tom, Yield - ing un - i - mag - ined power,
May our dreams prove rich with prom - ise Each en - deav - or well be - gun:



Great Cre - a - tor, still cre - at - ing, Show us what we yet may do.
Fac - ing us with life's de - struc - tion Or our most tri - um - phant hour.
Great Cre - a - tor, give us guid - ance Till our goals and Yours are one.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Selected

We pause to reflect during the Postlude as we prepare to follow God out into the world.

Today's liturgy is adapted from:
worship.blogspot.com, Proper 15 A

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

INTERIM MINISTER	Rev. Brenda Barnes Jamieson
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Denise Hopp
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Rich Schneider
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Heidi Tarzian

News in the Pews

We come together to "call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised" (Psalm 18:3, NRSV). All are sincerely welcomed to this service of worship and praise.

Summer conversations before worship Sunday mornings.

Join us in Lanford Hall starting at 9AM. Topics will be pulled from the UCC daily devotionals, you can sign up for them here: <https://www.ucc.org/daily-devotional/>.

A Just Harvest Kitchen this month! We're serving at AJH on the 29th from 11AM to 2:30PM. We need donations totaling \$500 for the cost of the meal and 2-3 volunteers to help serve. Please contact Chad McCoy if you'd like to volunteer – chadwoodmccoy@gmail.com. Donations can be placed in the offering or brought to the office, AJH in the memo.

Lorel Park outdoor worship service is August 30th at

10AM. Meet at the pavilion near the tennis courts. Folding chairs will be provided, but feel free to bring your own comfy chair.

Rummage Sorting – please join us Tuesdays from 10AM-12PM, Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:30PM and Fridays 10AM-2PM each week to sort. No experience necessary, just a willingness to help. We'll find a job that

works for you. It's a lot of fun, and even better when you find something you need! Come see what its all about.

Rummage Sale donations collecting is on - We are collecting donations



for the 2026 Rummage and Bake Sale, to be held Friday and Saturday, September 25th and 26th. We will take almost everything except furniture and large appliances (like old tvs). Drop off during office hours 9-1:30PM (call to let us know you are coming (847) 673-8166), on Sundays, or call the office to make other arrangements. We thank you in advance for your donations, you help keep us going!!!

Thank you to everyone who's been donating to our food pantry, and we can still use donations if you are able.

Calling all Crafters. Our annual craft show will be on Saturday, November 7th from 10-3. If you are interested in a table, or have a question, please see Annie Noorts or email Wendy Svenson at stpeteruccbazaar@gmail.com.

Our People

Please keep St. Peter's extended family in your thoughts and prayers. Other folks that need your prayers include:

- Pastor Brenda and her family.
- The family and friends of Mark Kelly, neighbor of Ginger Kalensky.
- Ben Westphal and his family.
- The family of Kaye Dufern.
- Mark Kelly, friend of Ginger K., is now in rehab gaining strength to be able to come back to his apartment.
- The Iannotti family who lost Carol's cousin Diane, who also was extended family of St. Peter's UCC.
- Annie Noorts' friend Geo Bonamasso who is fighting cancer.
- Mark Taylor.
- Wendy, friend and colleague of Beth Sterba, who is fighting liver cancer.
- Annie's friend Renee is fighting a long term, rare illness.
- Nicole McGinnis, childhood friend of Laura's who is fighting stage 4 cancer.
- Prayers for Julius and all immigrants, refugees and displaced people.
- Sharon Johnson's daughter Donna continues her battle with Lymphoma, which can be controlled but not cured.
- Susan Garcia's Aunt Janice battling cancer.
- Paul Brzozowski has now completed all treatment and will have MRIs every 2 months.

Others in our church family to keep close in our hearts include Larry Baumhardt and Lois Jarmuth.

If you are aware of others to include in our shared prayers, please let a church officer, an Elder, or the office know!

Happy Birthday to Tom Schaller, Dan Guenther and Fredrick William Carnate Svenson. **Happy Anniversary** to Barb & Jim Todd, Bonnie & Mark Loach and Dan & Heather O'Hara. God's blessings to you on your special day!

According to the schedule and barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector is David Iannotti, our Nursery attendant is Mike Ryan. Thank you so much for your service!

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

PRESIDENT	Peggy Reins
VICE-PRESIDENT	Karen Christianson
TREASURER	Carolyn Kuechler (interim)
SECRETARY	Jenn Schneider
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Maria Altmayer (interim)

Regular Reminders!

Let us know you were here! Please sign the attendance sheet in the black pew pads and when you think your pew is ready, please pass the pad towards the center aisle of the church.

Private Signs: You will notice certain rooms around the church have been designated as "private." If ICE should ever come to our building, they will not be allowed to enter any room marked "private."

Donations to our mini-food pantry are always needed and greatly appreciated! Donations can be left in the narthex or downstairs by the offices on the designated shelves. Thank you!



MISSION MOMENTS

Bold Moves

August 16, 2026

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Green

Genesis 45:1-15

I recently heard a saying that if you hold tightly to grudges your hands are not free to catch the blessings.

Joseph, the dreamer in the Bible, had every right to hold a grudge. He was betrayed by his brothers and sold to a group of Ishmaelites who then brought him to Egypt.

The young boy could have allowed his circumstances to sour his spirit. But he didn't. Instead, Joseph grew up, rising to the position of prime minister to the Pharaoh. He was second-in-command of all of Egypt.

So, when a seven-year famine, in which Joseph had seen in one of his dreams, devastated his family's land of Caanan, he was now able to help his brothers who came seeking relief. At first, though, they didn't recognize Joseph as the brother they had sold. But as the story unfolds, the tears of realization and redemption flow freely among the broken siblings.

Joseph's story is not an easy one for us to embrace, especially when we prefer the heaviness of grudges to the lightness of forgiveness. But it is a story that reminds us that wrongs can be righted on the God path. In those times of feeling lost and wondering where in heaven's name is God, we must not let despair or even anger take hold.

I know this is easier said than done. Even as I write, I hesitate with each click of the keyboard because while my heart knows how gracious God is, my head is reciting a monologue of doubt. If my hands weren't typing, I am sure they would be found curled into a tight ball of frustration, hurt and anger.

It is not easy to believe that good can come out of something painful. But it can. Because God is our God of bold moves, and the boldest of moves was showing us that new life does emerge from the tomb.

Hope never dies. But holding on to that grudge is slowly doing its best to suffocate it. So put down this bulletin right now, unclench your hands, and catch that blessing.

Redemptive God, help us to let go of the grudges that we have been holding on to for far too long. May we realize they are serving no purpose in our lives. They are, in fact, robbing us of the life You want for us. With Your help, pry our clenched fists open now. We surrender all the hurt to you and wait patiently for the blessings. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

(Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson is a communications specialist for the United Church of Christ and author of today's Sunday Bulletin.)

Genesis 45:1-15

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, “Send everyone away from me.” So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. ²And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. ³Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸So it was not you who sent me here but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me; do not delay. ¹⁰You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹I will provide for you there, since there are five more years of famine to come, so that you and your household and all that you have will not come to poverty.’ ¹²And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. ¹³You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.”

¹⁴Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. ¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them, and after that his brothers talked with him.

Matthew 15:21-28

²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” ²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” ²⁴ He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” ²⁶ He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁷ She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’^[b] table.” ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed from that moment.