

Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,
November 23,
2025
10:00 AM**

**Twenty-fourth
Sunday after
Pentecost**

Totenfest Sunday

Jane Ann Abramchik

Ursula Luise Dworak

*Annemarie Franziska
Gloeckner*

Kelly Panzke

Gloria Napathalung





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!

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 in Skokie
Order of Worship for
Sunday, November 23, 2025 at 10:00am
Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Totenfest Sunday
Transgender Remembrance Sunday
Thanksgiving Sunday

During our sacred music, listen. Be attentive. Feel God's Spirit connecting all of us gathered here, those with us online and in spirit, and those who cannot be present today.

PRELUDE "For All the Saints" arr. Willingham

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peggy Reins

You may stand in body or spirit.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We gather to sing and celebrate the God of this bountiful Creation.

All: We gather to share our lives, to praise the power of the Risen Christ.

One: We come to comfort one another when fear rises from deep within.

All: We wait in faith for God's presence to become clearer in the world around us.

One: Let us pray:

All: O Holy Mystery, open our ears, our eyes and our hearts so we can recognize that every thought and thing belongs to you. Amen.

OPENING HYMN "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" #434

3. These to Thee, our God, we owe, Source whence all our bless-ings flow;

1. Come, ye thank-ful peo-ple, come, Raise the song of har-vest home:
 2. All the bless-ings of the field, All the stores the gar-dens yield;
 3. These to Thee, our God, we owe, Source whence all our bless-ings flow;

And for these our souls shall raise Grate-ful vows and sol-emn praise.

All is safe-ly gath-ered in Ere the win-ter storms be-gin;
 All the fruits in full sup-ply, Rip-pened 'neath the sum-mer sky;
 And for these our souls shall raise Grate-ful vows and sol-emn praise.

Come, then, thank-ful peo-ple, come, Raise the song of har-vest home;

God, our Mak-er, doth pro-vide For our wants to be sup-plied;
 All that Spring with boun-teous hand Seat-ters o'er the smil-ing land;
 Come, then, thank-ful peo-ple, come, Raise the song of har-vest home;

Come to God's own tem-ple, come, Raise the song of har-vest home. A-MEN.

Come to God's own tem-ple, come, Raise the song of har-vest home.
 All that lib-eral au-tumn pours From her rich o'er-flow-ing stores,
 Come to God's own tem-ple, come, Raise the song of har-vest home. A-MEN.

CALL TO CONFESSION

One: God is expanding our thankful imaginations. As we pray for God's coming reign, we try to remember that the whole earth already belongs to God. Let us pray together.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Imagining your reign can be difficult, eternal God. We can scarcely picture a world governed by your justice and righteousness alone. Our minds are held captive by the worst images of human kings, rulers, and powers. When our vision fails and we settle for kingdoms of our own making, correct and forgive us. Free the borders of our imaginations, that we may envision your greater good and celebrate the coming of your reign on earth as in heaven. Amen.

Pause for quiet reflection

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Zechariah reminded us: Tender mercy and forgiveness are the way of God.

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! Amen!

PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

A: 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”**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Hebrew Scripture

Song of the Prophet

Peggy Reins

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Luke 1:68-79

*You may wish to stand for the reading of the Gospel.***CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE**

Luke 23:33-43

*Please be seated.***VOCAL SOLO**

“You’ll Never Walk Alone”

By Richard Rodgers

Sung By: Richard Schneider

SERMON

“Just Jesus”

HYMN “Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 4/4 time, with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody is primarily in the Soprano and Alto parts, with the Tenor and Bass parts providing harmonic support. The lyrics are: "Lord, lis - ten to your chil - dren pray - ing, Lord, send your Spir - it in this place; Lord, lis - ten to your chil - dren pray - ing, send us love, send us power, send us grace." The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and accidentals. Chord symbols are placed above the staff: E-flat, E-flat7, D-flat/A-flat, A-flat, E-flat, F7, B-flat7, E-flat, E-flat7, D-flat/A-flat, A-flat, A-dim7, E-flat/B-flat, B-flat7, A-flat/E-flat, and E-flat. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Lord, lis - ten to your chil - dren pray - ing, Lord, send your
Spir - it in this place; Lord, lis - ten to your chil - dren
pray - ing, send us love, send us power, send us grace.

PASTORAL AND 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

Sing to the tune of "All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night"

**A: For gifts of earth and hands that give,
For hearts that learn and lives that live,
We raise our song of thanks and praise,
To God who loves in countless ways.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

A: Holy God, we know that what we regard as excess, others may need, and all that we need, others may regard as excess. May we recognize that when all share, all are enriched. In joyful thanksgiving, we offer our gifts. Amen.

LIGHTING THE TOTENFEST CANDLES

Jane Ann Abramchik

Ursula Luise Dworak

Annemarie Franziska Gloeckner, mother of Andre
Gloeckner

Kelly Panzke, daughter of Dorothy Panzke

Gloria Napathalung, community member, mother of
Peter and Paul Napathalung

LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE *from The Rabbi's Manual*

One: In the rising of the sun and in its going down,

All: We remember them.

One: In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter,

All: We remember them.

One: In the opening of buds and in the rebirth of spring,

All: We remember them.

One: In the blueness of the sky and the in the warmth of
the summer,

All: We remember them.

One: In the rustling of leaves and in the beauty of
autumn,

All: We remember them.

One: In the beginning of the year and when it ends,

All: We remember them.

One: When we are weary and in need of strength,

All: We remember them.

One: When we are lost and sick at heart,

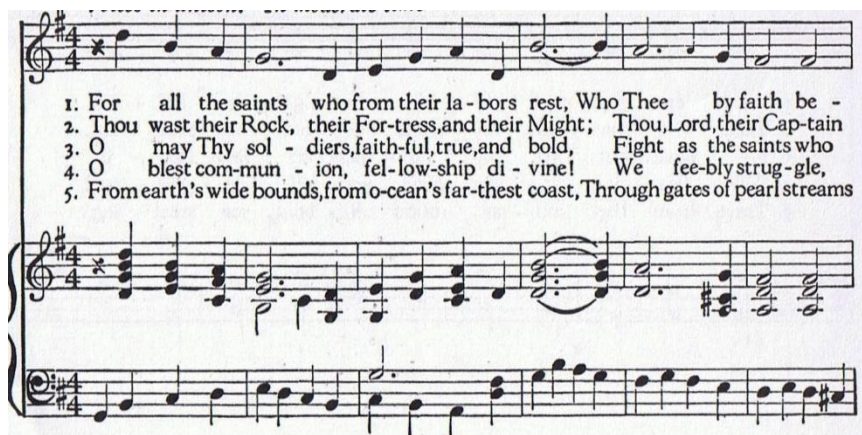
All: We remember them.

One: When we have joys we yearn to share,

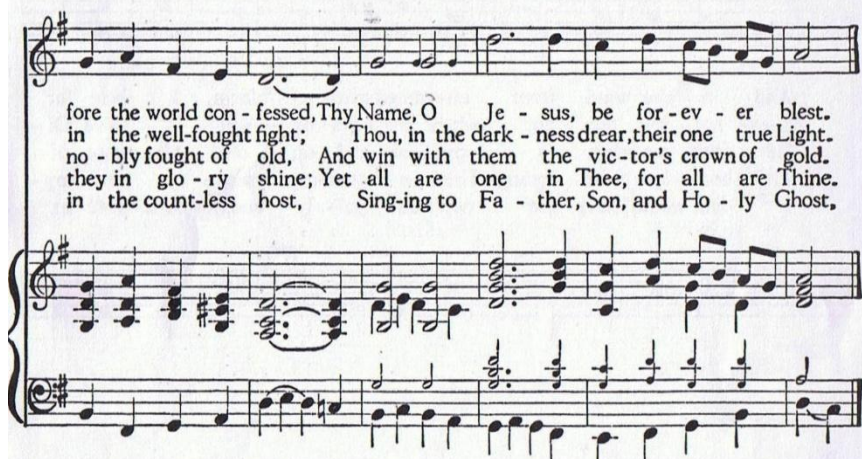
All: We remember them.

One: So long as we live, they too, in a way, shall live,
For they are now a part of us, as we remember
them.

CLOSING HYMN "For All The Saints" #418 vs. 1, 2, 4



1. For all the saints who from their la-bors rest, Who Thee by faith be -
 2. Thou wast their Rock, their For-tress, and their Might; Thou, Lord, their Cap-tain
 3. O may Thy sol-diers, faith-ful, true, and bold, Fight as the saints who
 4. O blest com-mun-ion, fel-low-ship di-vine! We fee-bly strug-gle,
 5. From earth's wide bounds, from o-cean's far-thest coast, Through gates of pearl streams



fore the world con-fessed, Thy Name, O Je-sus, be for-ev-er blest.
 in the well-fought fight; Thou, in the dark-ness drear, their one true Light.
 no-bly fought of old, And win with them the vic-tor's crown of gold.
 they in glo-ry shine; Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.
 in the count-less host, Sing-ing to Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost,



Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! A-MEN.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “For All the Saints” arr. Lehenbauer
During the Postlude, we pause to reflect as we prepare to follow God out into the world.

*Today’s liturgy is adapted from:
Ashley Goff in [ucc.org/Worship Ways](http://ucc.org/WorshipWays). Copyright 2019 Justice and
Witness Local Church Ministries,*

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

INTERIM MINISTER	Rev. Brenda Barnes Jamieson
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Barb Bailey
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Beth Sterba
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Rita McMahon

POINSETTIAS

Orders are now being
taken for Christmas

Poinsettias. This years' colors are Red and Marble. See below for details on each. To place an order, please fill in the form below, include payment and drop it off at the office, mail it to St Peter's, or place it in the collection plate on Sunday morning. *The deadline for ordering is Sunday, December 7th 2025.* The plants will be delivered to the church in time to decorate the sanctuary on Christmas Eve. Please take your plants after Christmas Eve worship if possible.



Name:	Phone #:	
In Honor Of:	In Memory Of:	

Quantity	Color	Price	Total
	Red (6") Single	\$16.00	
	Marble (6") Single	\$16.00	
Grand Total			

News in the Pews

It is only right that we should express our unlimited gratitude to God on this Sunday before Thanksgiving. We rejoice in your presence. Let us joyfully praise God through prayer, song and reflection on the Word.

We extend heartfelt gratitude to all our volunteers; without their help, this and every service would not be possible – thank you.

Please stay for a special Churchwide Conversation Coffee Hour after worship today. The topic is Advent – why we celebrate it, its history and tradition. Join us downstairs in Lanford Fellowship Hall immediately following the service.

It is our turn to donate the cost of a meal at A Just Harvest, Nov 29th. We are collecting donations totaling \$500 all this month. *We do not need servers this time around as AJH already has some lined up.*

The Thanksgiving Interfaith Service is this Tuesday, Nov. 25th at 7:30PM. The theme this year is Mental Health. Join us at Central United Methodist Church in Skokie (8237 Kenton Ave.) Don't forget to bring a food pantry donation.

Christmas dinner donations needed NOW at the Jewel! *Thank you to everyone who donated to the Thanksgiving dinners, we were able to give out 41 dinners.* These dinners go to needy families in Skokie School District 69, as well as folks that come to our door and use our mini-pantry. Go to the Jewel Foods at the Village Crossing Shopping center to donate at the service desk, (5667 Touhy, Niles) or if shopping, donate at the registers. If you have any questions, contact me (Laura) in the office.

Advent candle lighting volunteers are needed! We have a sign-up sheet in the Narthex on Sunday and it will be downstairs near the offices during the week. Pastor Brenda will give you more information closer to the event.

December 7th, the Niles Township Clergy Forum is having a special shopping day caravan to Little Village, who, since the recent attacks on immigrants have been decimated and need support. We will have more info as it becomes available, and you can also talk to Pastor Brenda.

Christmas Carol Sing December 14th at 3PM! Join us as we celebrate the holidays together in song. We will meet in the Sanctuary, and we hear the Women's Guild will be heading up appetizers after the event. Come join us and have some fun!

2026 Calendars are in! Copies will be available in the Narthex, the Lanford Fellowship Hall, and near the offices. Take one for a friend, too!

Poinsettia Orders are being taken now! Find a form in this bulletin or the November Announcer. Orders must be in by Dec. 7th. Thank you!

You can now donate via Zelle! Put finance@stpeteruccskokie.org in the address. Please indicate under memo/notes where the funds should go, i.e. weekly offering, poinsettia order, etc.

Help stock our mini-Food Pantry – Thank you to everyone who has been donating. Bring your items to the shelves by the office or leave them in the narthex. Thank you so much!

Sign up for Coffee Hour! Regular coffee hours are on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. See our President Peggy if you are interested in signing up.

Our People

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

- Kate Traub, niece of the Bailey's, who had Surgery Friday after a fall where she fractured her ankle.
 - Mark Taylor.
 - The Kuras family welcomed a baby girl Virginia! All are doing well.
 - Daughters of Ann Herren Jenny and Betsy, both recovering after surgeries.
Wendy, friend and colleague of Beth Sterba, who is fighting liver cancer.
 - Chad McCoy and his family.
 - Richard Hook who had a stroke.
 - Kathy Zipperer and her family.
 - Dorothy Panzke with a new health concern.
 - Annie's friend Renee is fighting a long term, rare illness. She and her family are fighting to find a remedy that will slow and maybe even reverse the progress of this illness.
 - Nicole McGinnis, childhood friend of Laura's who is fighting stage 4 cancer.
 - David, uncle of Chad McCoy, as he undergoes kidney dialysis treatments.
 - Robert Elliot, brother-in-law of Anna Riley, diagnosed with cancer stage 2.
 - 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, Lois Jarmuth and Bob Seitman.

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 this week to Linda Mau, Felix Roy Svenson and Emily Brzozowski.

According to the schedule and barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector will be Barb Todd, and Kathy Zipperer is on Nursery duty. Thank you so much for your service!

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

PRESIDENT	Peggy Reins
VICE-PRESIDENT	Barb Todd
TREASURER	Chad McCoy
SECRETARY	Annie Noorts
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Maria Altmayer

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.

We are always grateful for all offerings to the church. So many thanks to everyone who's been keeping us going with your donations! See inside the front cover for details on how to donate.

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."



MISSION MOMENTS

A Wise Reign (11/24/2024)

Reign of Christ | 27th Sunday after Pentecost

GREEN

John 18:33-37

Today is Christ the King Sunday, a festival on church calendars that brings our attention once again to the why God sent his Son to us — to reign with righteousness, justice, peace and love.

It's a day we hear Jesus in John's Gospel telling Pilate, an earthly ruler, that the kingdom that Jesus has come to establish is not from here. It is beyond policies, agendas and elections. Perhaps that is why the use of the word "kin-dom" rather than "kingdom" is better suited for our time, as it emphasizes a reign where we are indeed kin, a family called to care for one another.

The celebration of Christ the King Sunday, though, is not an ancient church festival like Epiphany or Pentecost.

Christ the King Sunday was created by Pope Pius XI in 1925 to address the rise of communism and fascism that was taking place in Europe. He had envisioned his papacy to be "the reestablishment of the Kingdom of Christ by the peace of Christ," and sought ways to lead people back to loving God first in a world that was being divided by politics.

Almost a century later, it is not hard to imagine the fears felt in the uncertain and volatile world of 1925. In many ways, they are the same. What will tomorrow bring for my family? Will my children be safe? When will the fighting end? Will there be jobs? Food? Housing?

Our world is still filled with power grabs and political loyalties that pit families, friends and congregations against one another. The Reign of Christ seems so distant. The reign of love so elusive. The reign of peace so impossible.

Yet here we are. Christ the King Sunday 2024. Where have we placed our trust for a hopeful tomorrow? If that trust is in the hands of mere mortals, we are in trouble. But if that trust is in God who reigns now and forever, then we just might have a chance in seeing peace in our lifetime. In The Lord's Prayer there's a line recited that says, "thy kingdom come." What if today we stop right there and ask ourselves what is this kingdom we are praying for? Have we given it any thought to what it really looks like? How is this kingdom asking us to change how we live — how we use your resources to help others?

Jesus' kingdom is not from here. It is a kingdom foretold by the prophet Isaiah as one where the poor hear good news, the brokenhearted are comforted and prisoners are set free. It is a kingdom where all are welcome, and no one is without.

God, You so loved the world that You gave us Your Son who is our Lord, Savior, Redeemer and King. May today we catch the vision of Christ's reign here in our time, and may our words and deeds help to usher in thy kingdom. Amen.

Jeremiah 23:1-6

23 Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. ²Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. ³Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall no longer fear or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord.

⁵The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

Luke 1:68-79

⁶⁸ "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has looked favorably on^[a] his people and redeemed them.
⁶⁹ He has raised up a mighty savior^[b] for us
in the house of his child David,
⁷⁰ as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
⁷¹ that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who
hate us.
⁷² Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors
and has remembered his holy covenant,
⁷³ the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,
to grant us ⁷⁴ that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,
might serve him without fear, ⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness
in his presence all our days.
⁷⁶ And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
⁷⁷ to give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.
⁷⁸ Because of the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break^[c] upon^[d] us,

⁷⁹to shine upon those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

Luke 23:33-43

³³When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus^[Q] there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. [[³⁴Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”]]^[P] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah^[Q] of God, his chosen one!” ³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” ³⁸There was also an inscription over him,^[I] “This is the King of the Jews.”

³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding^[S] him and saying, “Are you not the Messiah?^[I] Save yourself and us!” ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴²Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come in^[U] your kingdom.” ⁴³He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”