



# Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,  
January 25, 2026  
10:00 AM**

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**Third Sunday  
After Epiphany**





# 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](mailto: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](mailto:pastor@stpeteruccskokie.org)

**Ben Westphal (Music Director):** [bcwestphal@gmail.com](mailto:bcwestphal@gmail.com)

**Laura Olson (Office Manager):** [office@stpeteruccskokie.org](mailto:office@stpeteruccskokie.org)

Office hours Mon-Fri 9am to 2pm

**Facebook/Instagram/YouTube:** @stpeteruccskokie

**Website:** [www.stpeteruccskokie.org](http://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**

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**St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Skokie**  
**Order of Worship for**  
**Sunday, January 25, 2026 at 10:00am**  
**Third Sunday after Epiphany**

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*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** "Gather Us In" arr. Moore

**THE RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** Peggy Reins

*You may stand in body or spirit.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *Isaiah 49:6-7*

One: Jesus invites every person:

"Come to me! Follow me! Be my disciples!"

**All: We come to this place, to this time,  
at the invitation of Jesus Christ.**

One: In a world where cruelty abounds,

**All: we proclaim the God of Compassion.**

One: In despair that threatens to swallow up  
whole lives, whole peoples,

**All: we proclaim the God of Hope.**

One: In a world of indifference and apathy,

**All: we proclaim the God of Love.**

One: Come, let us worship together

and share our witness of God's living presence in  
the world.

P = Pastor

C = Congregation

A = All

# GATHERING HYMN "Gather Us In" vs. 1, 2, 4



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-ers,  
 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-cr 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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**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**One:** To follow Jesus is to hear God's call and take a risk to become part of God's new world. Let us pray to be part of this transformation.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**All:** God...you call us...and sometimes...we duck under the table...hoping you didn't notice us when you walked into the room.  
You call us...and sometimes...we grab a stapler and a stack of papers...trying to look too busy to be bothered at the moment.  
You call us...and sometimes we just say, "No!"  
We know that we aren't expected to do everything...  
but sometimes we forget that you call us to be our selves in the places where our very self is what is most needed.  
So give us the grace to say "Yes" to your call... even now...in the quiet of this moment. Amen  
*Pause for quiet reflection*

**WORDS OF GRACE**

One: God calls us to be exactly who we are, using our gifts for God's greatest hopes. Let us share the good news:

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

One: For there is nothing we can do and nothing that can be done to us that will ever separate us from the love of God.

**All: Thanks be to God! Amen!**

**PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

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** "Emmanuel"

**A: Emmanuel, Emmanuel,  
his name is called Emmanuel.  
God with us, revealed in us,  
his name is called Emmanuel.**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Mark Loach

Hebrew Scripture

Isaiah 9:1-4

Christian Scripture

I Corinthians 1:10-18

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

**GOSPEL LESSON**

Matthew 4:12-23

*Please be seated.*

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

“The Summons”

**SERMON**

“Drop Everything”

# HYMN OF AFFIRMATION:

## “The Summons”

Capo 3: (D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (Asus) (A)  
 F C7 Dm Gm7 Csus C

1 “Will you come and fol - low me if I but call your name?  
 2 “Will you leave your-self be-hind if I but call your name?  
 3 “Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call your name?  
 4 “Will you love the ‘you’ you hide if I but call your name?  
 5 Lord, your sum-mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.

(D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (G) (D)  
 F C7 Dm Gm7 B<sup>b</sup> F

Will you go where you don’t know and nev - er be the same?  
 Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?  
 Will you set the pris-oners free and nev - er be the same?  
 Will you quell the fear in - side and nev - er be the same?  
 Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.

(Em7) (G) (F#m7) (G) (Asus) (A)  
 Gm7 B<sup>b</sup> Am7 B<sup>b</sup> Csus C

Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;  
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at - tract or scare?  
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,  
 Will you use the faith you’ve found to re - shape the world a - round,  
 In your com - pa - ny I’ll go where your love and foot-steps show.

(D) (A7) (Bm) (Em7) (G) (D)  
 F C7 Dm Gm7 B<sup>b</sup> F

will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?“  
 Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?“  
 and ad - mit to what I mean in you and you in me?“  
 through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?“  
 Thus I’ll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

**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**

*Sung*

**A: Glo-o-oria! In excelsis Deo! Glo-o-oria! In excelsis Deo!**

## **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**A: Great God of Heaven and Earth, you call us to leave behind our preoccupations and to follow you into the future. Sometimes that call is challenging. We are comfortable, maybe even complacent, in our present. May this act of giving be a gesture of our willingness to follow where you lead. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

# CLOSING HYMN "I am the Light of the World"

**Unison Introduction**

**Refrain**

"I am the light of the world!"

You peo-ple come and fol-low me!" If you fol-low and love you'll

learn the mys-ter-y of what you were meant to do and be.

1 When the song of the an-gels is stilled, when the  
 2  $\gamma$  To find the lost and lone-ly one,  $\gamma$  to  
 3  $\gamma$  To free the pris-oner from all chains,  $\gamma$  to  
 4 To bring hope to ev-ery task you do,  $\gamma$  to

Continued on next page

P = Pastor

C = Congregation

A = All

star in the sky is gone,  
heal the bro - ken soul with love,  
make the pow - er - ful care,  
dance at a ba - by's new birth,

When the  
7 To  
To re -  
7 To

sag - es and the shep - herds have found their way home, the  
feed the hun - gry chil - dren with warmth and good food, To  
build the na - tions with strength of good will, to  
make mu - sic in . . . an old per - son's heart, and

work of Christ - mas is be - gun:  
feel the earth be - low, the sky a - bove!  
see all God's chil - dren ev - ery - where!  
sing to the col - ors of the earth!

Chords: Gm, Dm, C, F, Bb, Gm7, C

Return to 8

## CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE “I am the Light of the World”

*During the Postlude, we pause to reflect as we prepare to follow God out into the world.*

*~ On Earth Peace website. <http://www.onearthpeace.org/>, re:Worship: Epiphany 3 A ([re-worship.blogspot.com](http://re-worship.blogspot.com))*

*—Rev. Scott Cervas, and posted on the LiturgyLink website.*

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### FOR WORSHIP TODAY

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

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# News in the Pews

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Today we celebrate the precious gift of life — each person wonderfully made and deeply loved by God. Whether you are young or old, joyful or weary, know that your life has purpose and value in His eyes. May we honor the Creator by cherishing the lives He has created.

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

**A Just Harvest service is next Saturday.** Donations are needed for the cost of the meal, about \$500. If you are interested in serving, talk to Chad McCoy.

**Our Annual Congregational Meeting is today.** All are invited to attend. A light lunch will be served. The meeting will begin about 11:30AM.

**Softgoods Drive all January!** We collect clothing, bedding, linens, shoes, belts, hats, coats, pillows & stuffed toys for our Savers FUNDrive, which pays by the pound. Bring your items to the office on weekdays or on Sundays. Thanks for your help!

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**We're having a special collection day for our Savers FUNDrive on January 24<sup>th</sup> from 10-2pm.** The scouts will be on hand to help with those big bags. Just stop by and drop it all off!

**Thinking about joining the church?** We will probably be holding classes in February, please note the change. If you might be interested, please tell Brenda, Laura or another church leader.

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

**Our  for the Veterans home essentials collection** for vets transitioning from homelessness to homes is coming in February!

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# Our People

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

- Jenny, daughter of Ann Herren is recovering from eye surgery and has yet to regain full vision. Betsy is in the midst of radiation therapy for her breast cancer. This is her second breast cancer.
  - Matt Anthony, nephew of Marlene Russell, who has incurable cancer.
  - Kate Traub, niece of the Bailey's, recovering from surgery.
  - Mark Taylor.
  - The Kuras family welcomed a baby girl Virginia! All are doing well.  
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.
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- 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 Layla Costello.

**According to the schedule** and barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector is Rita McMahon, our Nursery attendant is Heidi Tarzian. Thank you so much for your service!

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## CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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

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## *Regular Reminders!*

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**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."

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UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

## **MISSION MOMENTS**

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**Called Together**

**January 25, 2026**

**Third Sunday after Epiphany**

**GREEN**

**Matthew 4:12-23**

Jesus calling the fishermen to leave their nets to fish for people has always been lifted as a call for evangelism. No matter what time or place, the message from pulpits has been the same: Be like those fishermen. Put aside what you are doing and hook more people for Jesus.

While we are all called to share the Good News of the excluded finding inclusion, the sick finding healing, and the poor finding riches, there's a part of this story that often gets ignored in favor of the captivating imagery of lapping waves, bobbing boats and Jesus standing on the shores of the Sea of Galilee with windswept hair. It's the part where we must truly unpack — and understand — why we're being asked to fish for people. Hint: It has nothing to do with growing the church numerically.

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Before Jesus walked the shores recruiting followers, he had retreated to Capernaum after hearing about his cousin John's arrest. His choice of location wasn't by chance. He was there to fulfill what the prophet Isaiah had written centuries before about that being the region where "the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light." They don't even have the strength or courage anymore to "walk in darkness." The troubles and trials of life have paralyzed them. The rolling clouds of gloom have immobilized them. Perhaps you can understand how this can happen.

Today, across the globe, there are still people sitting in darkness, in need of the renewing and revealing light of Christ. When we remember this part of the "go fish for people" narrative, we start to understand on a deeper level what is being asked of our congregations. It is time to cast our holy nets of welcome wide and start helping those sitting in darkness to stand and start walking again.

Jesus is calling our name to put aside what we think is important, set aside our schedules, reprioritize our to-do lists, and reach out to others. For Jesus doesn't care about bolstering membership rolls or increasing pledge cards. He only cares to rescue those he sees sitting in darkness.

*Merciful God, help us hear the all-to-familiar "fish for people" story with new ears. Help us see how we are called together to cast nets of hope and healing to those who are suffering losses, who are in despair, and who battle depression. May our Christ light shine into the darkness this day. 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.)

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January 25, 2026

**Isaiah 9:1-4**

<sup>9</sup> <sup>[a]</sup>But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

<sup>2</sup> <sup>[b]</sup>The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.

<sup>3</sup>You have multiplied exultation;<sup>[c]</sup>  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.

<sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

**I Corinthians 1:10-18**

<sup>10</sup> Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you but that you be knit together in the same mind and the same purpose. <sup>11</sup> For it has been made clear to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. <sup>12</sup> What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." <sup>13</sup> Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? <sup>14</sup> I thank God<sup>[a]</sup> that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, <sup>15</sup> so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. <sup>16</sup> I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else. <sup>17</sup> For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel—and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

<sup>18</sup> 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.

### **Matthew 4:12-23**

<sup>12</sup> Now when Jesus<sup>[a]</sup> heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. <sup>13</sup> He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, <sup>14</sup> so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

<sup>15</sup> “Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,  
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—  
<sup>16</sup> the people who sat in darkness  
have seen a great light,  
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death  
light has dawned.”

<sup>17</sup> From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”<sup>[b]</sup>

<sup>18</sup> As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. <sup>19</sup> And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” <sup>20</sup> Immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>21</sup> As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. <sup>22</sup> Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

<sup>23</sup> Jesus<sup>[c]</sup> went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news<sup>[d]</sup> of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.