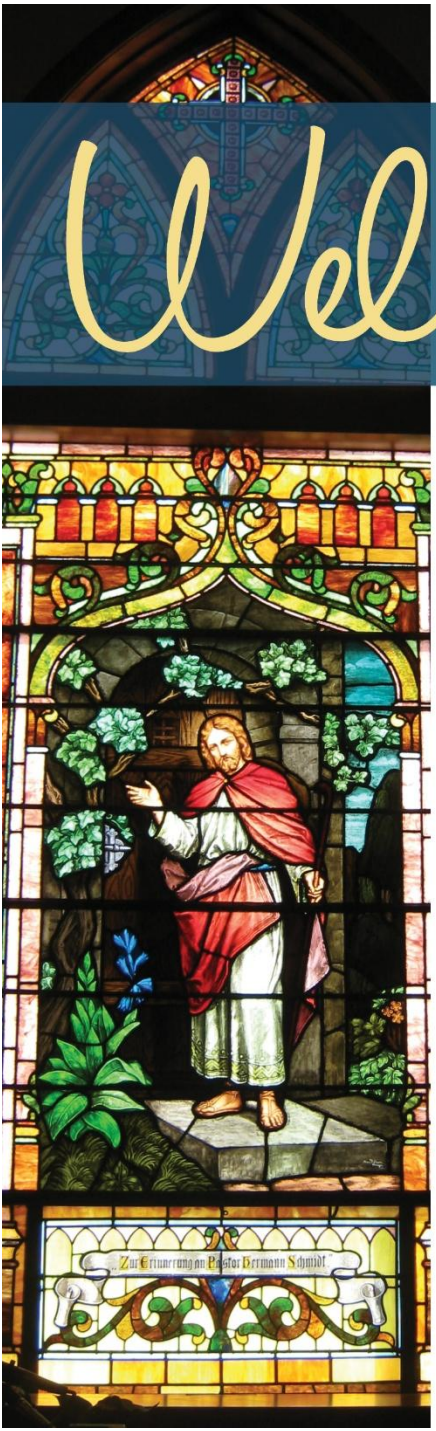
Welcome



ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

Sunday, September 20, 2026 10:00 AM

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

ST. PETER'S
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
OPEN & AFFIRMING IN SKOKIE, IL

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
Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost
Sunday, September 20, 2026 at 10:00am

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 **"**Nettleton" arr. Callahan

ANNOUNCEMENTS Peggy Reins

You may stand in body or spirit.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Feeling overburdened with the demands
of work and leisure, family and friends,
we come to this place in search of rest.

All: May we find here the strength to work for justice.

One: Forgiveness is elusive and anger is justified,
too often we settle for the sweet fleeting fruit of revenge.

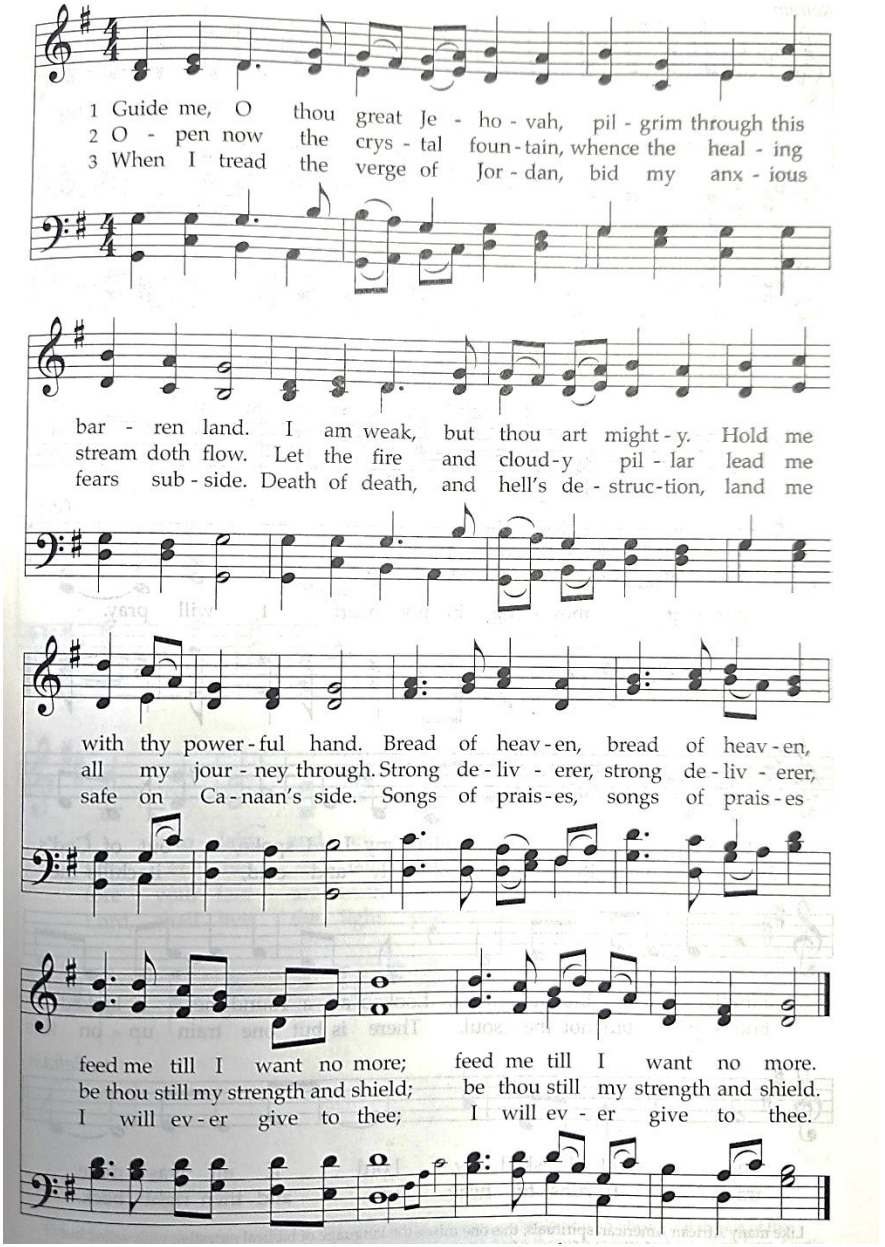
All: May we find here the patience to embody mercy.

One: Deluded by the world in which we live
receiving power and prestige and money as just reward missing the Spirit's call
to a life grounded in humble service.

All: May we find here the wisdom to walk in the Spirit.

GATHERING HYMN

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"



CALL TO TRANSFORMATION

One: Sometimes when we give, we begin to realize that we can never give what we owe. We cannot repay God for abundance of supply, for extravagance of grace. Nor are we required to. And yet, we expect fairness from others, expecting them to do what we cannot. We can only love by giving, by serving, by praying. Let us offer our confession.

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

All: God of fruitful labor,
work sometimes brings out the worst in us.
At home, at school, in the workplace,
even in our relationship with you,
we too easily question what others do and get,
instead of taking care of our own business.
Take away our bitterness.
Teach us the art of the careful complaint.
Give us grateful hearts, we pray. Amen.
In Jesus's Name we pray, Amen.

Pause for quiet reflection

WORDS OF GRACE

One: What we do matters, but all change comes from God, the one who makes promises to us.

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

One: It is life-changing to know this truth:
There is nothing we can do, and nothing that can be done to us, that will ever stop God from loving us.

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 Paul Froelich

Hebrew Scripture Exodus 16:2-15

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

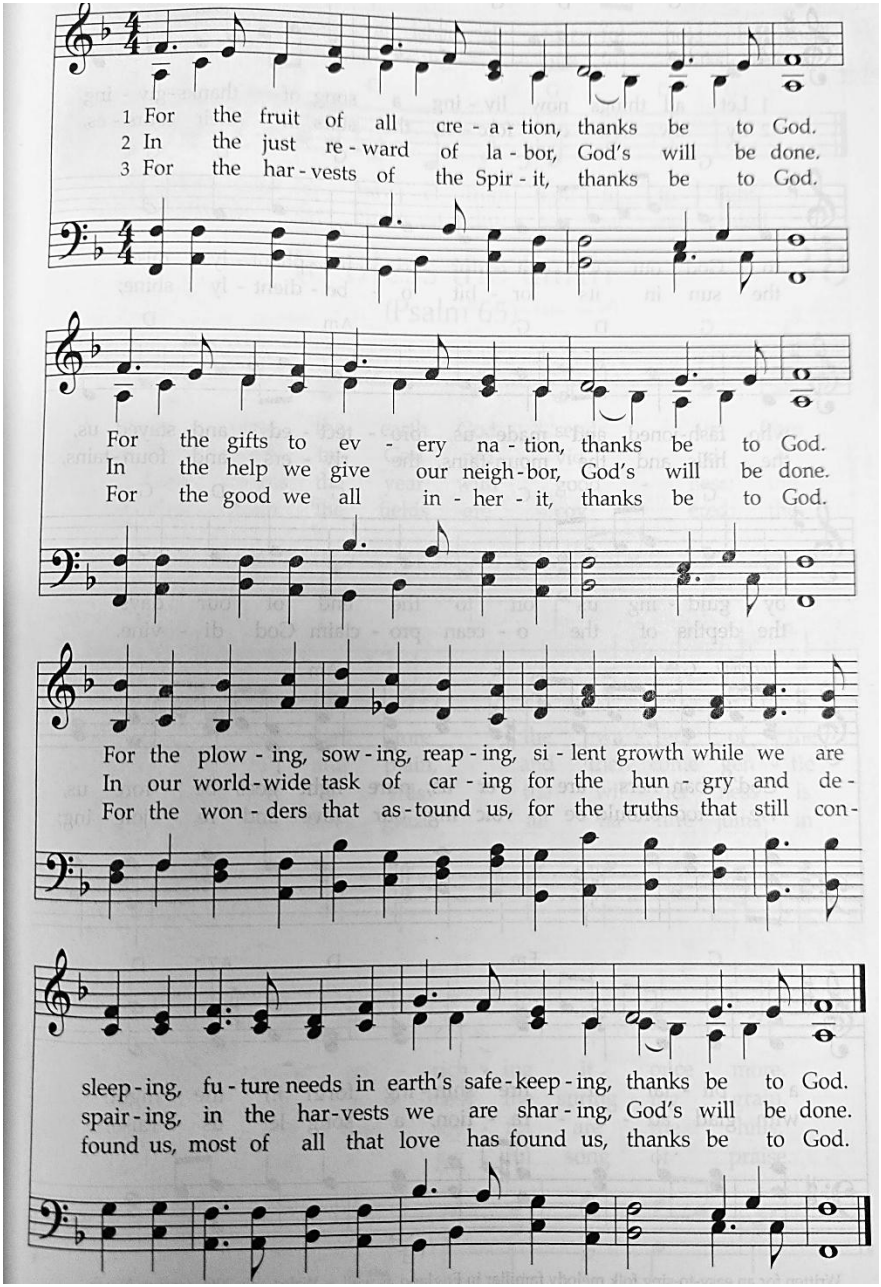
Matthew 20:1-16

Please be seated.

CHORAL ANTHEM "There is a Wideness in God's Mercy"

SERMON "More than Fair"

HYMN OF RESPONSE: "For the Fruit of All Creation"



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 "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"
Arr. Joel Raney
Phillip and Peggy Johnson

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.

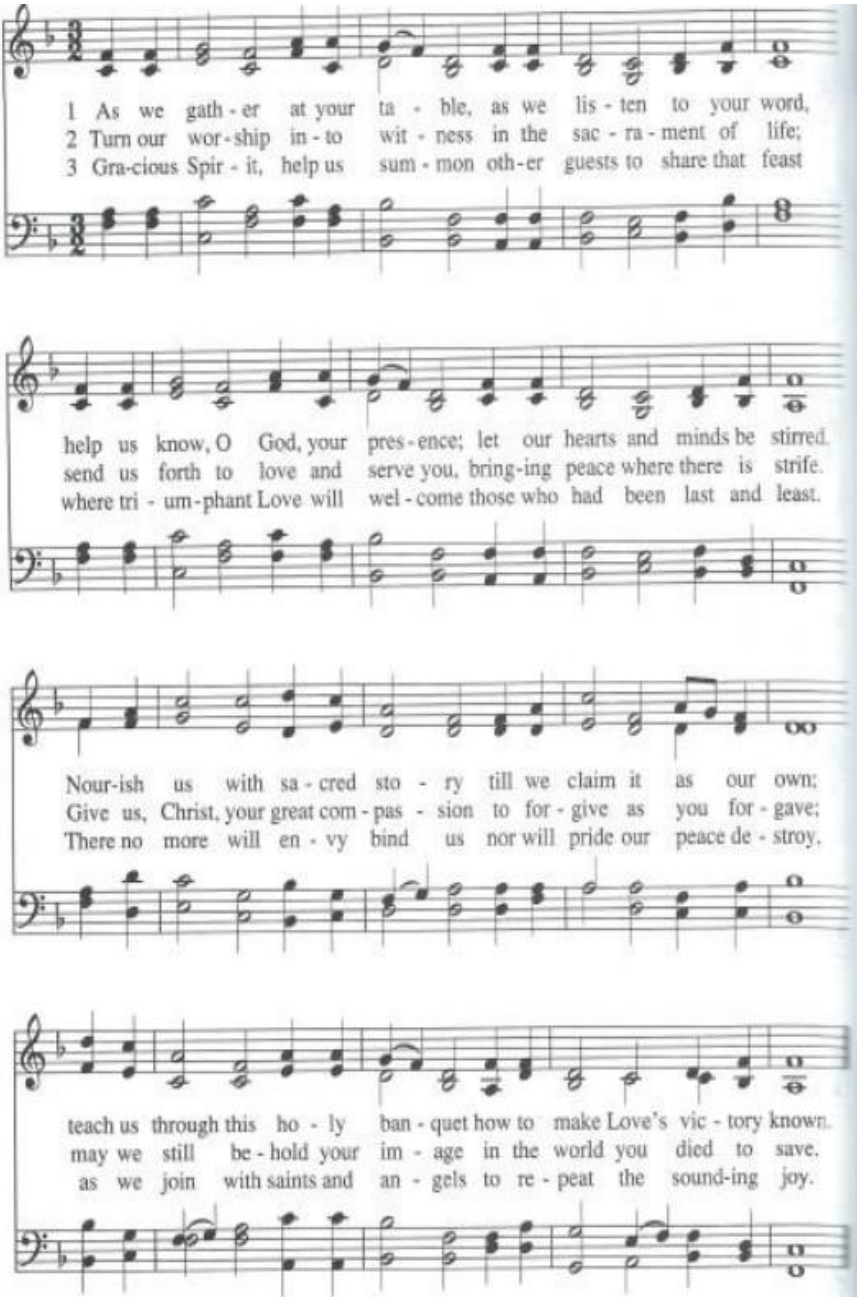
OFFERTORY RESPONSE

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: O God,
Even when grumbling and dissatisfied, you provide what we need for our lives. Teach us your ways of justice and lead us to practice your generosity, so that we may live a life worthy of the gospel made known through your Son Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

HYMN OF COMMITMENT "As We Gather at Your Table"



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:
Katherine Hawker, 2002, as posted on her Outside the Box website.
John van de Laar on Sacredise.com.

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

INTERIM MINISTER	Rev. Brenda Barnes Jamieson
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Denise Hopp
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Beth Sterba
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Marilyn Froelich/Rita McMahon

News in the Pews

With warm hearts and hands, we welcome all who have come to worship the Lord. May this be a time of encouragement and inspiration for us all.

The Rummage and Bake Sale is this Friday and Saturday from 9AM to 3PM.

Sign up to work the Rummage and Bake Sale! There will be jobs for everyone no matter what your ability. We'll take any amount of time you are available Friday and/or Saturday, from 9-3PM. Contact Annie Noorts or the office to sign up.

We need baked goods! We need you to make your best creations for the Bake Sale portion of the Rummage and Bake Sale. We ask if you are able, please individually pack the items in plastic or foil pans. Items can be brought on September 24th to the kitchen to be priced or drop off in the days prior.

Help us fill our pantry shelves for the fall. We made it through summer, thanks to all of you for donating! Now we need a good supply for the fall/early winter. If you can donate, bring your items to the shelves outside the offices, to the office doors or on Sundays. Thank you so much!

Pacific Islander & Asian American Ministries (PAAM-UCC) welcomes National Moderator Eppie Encabo to the Chicago area for an official Midwest Region visit. All UCC congregations are invited to a Hybrid Regional Gathering on Saturday, September 19, from 2–4 pm at Eden UCC in Chicago, with participation also available through Google Meet.
September 19, 2026
2 - 4pm at Eden UCC (Chicago)
In-person: 5051 West Gunnison Street, Chicago, IL 60630

Rummage Sorting and pricing – 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.

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.

Coming in October: A Just Harvest and our Pet Blessing!

Our People

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

- Annie's friend Renee who has been sick for some time, fell last week and has 2 dislocated disks and a small fracture and may have permanent paralysis. She is currently in the ICU after surgery.
- Pastor Brenda and her family.
- Ben Westphal and his family.
- 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.
- 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 this week to Beth Sterba!

According to the schedule and barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector is Marilyn Froelich, our Nursery attendant is Rita McMahon. 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!

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

MISSION MOMENTS

September 20, 2026
Exodus 16:2-15
Tensions in the Wilderness

Today, receive a letter of wisdom and compassion from The Alliance of Associate Conference Ministers of the United Church of Christ and The Council of Conference Ministers of the United Church of Christ. The letter, written earlier this year and excerpted here, is an invitation and a challenge to churches to care for their pastors in a radical way. How can your setting respond to these powerful words?

"…We are aware that there is a particular burden, often unseen by many, that you who serve in authorized ministry carry because of the inherently relational nature of ministry. We see you, and we hear your weariness and often discouragement. We also love you and hold you in our prayers.

As such we are aware that there is a need to tend to the particular needs of you who serve as our authorized ministers so that your spirits may be renewed and so that the long-term health of God's mission manifest in the many expressions of the church may be strengthened. The collective care of all our Conferences and indeed the church in every setting compels us to offer a word of encouragement regarding the

need for care in ways that give space for rest and rejuvenation; clarity and the renewal of one's calling.

While we recognize that resources vary widely throughout the settings of our shared life, there are several suggestions we would offer for consideration by local congregations and other settings of ministry.

● First, we urge you to intentionally pray for your leaders and the renewal they may need.

● Second, we encourage you to give permission and blessing for two consecutive weeks away for renewal leave, not counted as vacation time. This time alone will not be enough to process all that has happened or continues to happen in the life of the church, but it will offer space for a new ground to be cultivated to engage in ongoing practices of self-care, necessary for sustained and life-giving ministry.

● Third, we encourage you to trust that your setting of ministry will not be diminished by this time away but rather strengthened by it.

…Grief and loss are inherent in this season. Some of us even feel shame, which is a burden that we need not carry. We are hopeful that this time away helps you reconnect deeply with your call and with God, who loves you."

Exodus 16:2-15

2 The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against
Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. 3 The Israelites said to them, “If only
we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by
the pots of meat and ate our fill of bread, for you have brought us out into
this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

4 Then the Lord said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from
heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough
for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my
instruction or not. 5 On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring
in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.” 6 So Moses and
Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you shall know that it was
the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, 7 and in the morning
you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your
complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain
against us?” 8 And Moses said, “When the Lord gives you meat to eat in
the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has
heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your
complaining is not against us but against the Lord.”

9 Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the
Israelites: ‘Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.’ ”
10 And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they
looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the
cloud. 11 The Lord spoke to Moses, 12 “I have heard the complaining of the
Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning
you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord
your God.’ ”

13 In the evening quails came up and covered the camp, and in the
morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. 14 When the layer of
dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky
substance, as fine as frost on the ground. 15 When the Israelites saw it,
they said to one another, “What is it?”[a] For they did not know what it
was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the Lord has given you to
eat.

Matthew 20:1-16

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early
in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. [2] After agreeing with the
laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. [3] When
he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the
marketplace, [4] and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I
will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. [5] When he went out again
about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. [6] And about five
o'clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to
them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' [7] They said to him,
'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the
vineyard.'

[8] When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his
manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the
last and then going to the first.' [9] When those hired about five o'clock
came, each of them received a denarius. [10] Now when the first came,
they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a
denarius. [11] And when they received it, they grumbled against the
landowner, [12] saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have
made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the
scorching heat.'

[13] But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong;
did you not agree with me for a denarius? [14] Take what belongs to you and
go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. [15] Am I not
allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious
because I am generous?'[a]

[16] So the last will be first, and the first will be last."[b]