

# Welcome

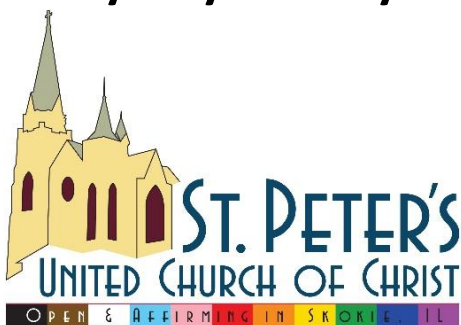
ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,  
September 7,  
2025  
10:00 AM**

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**Thirteenth Sunday  
after Pentecost**

**Rally Day Sunday**





# 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](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, September 7, 2025 at 10:00am**  
**Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Rally Day**

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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"

**THE RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Peggy Reins

*You may stand in body or spirit.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *Inspired by Jeremiah 18, Psalm 139*

One: We come into your house, Divine Potter.  
We are your clay.

**All: We praise you, O God. Wonderful are your works.  
Mold us again!**

One: We bring our burdens and concerns,  
our hopes and dreams, our doubts and our  
delights.

**All: We praise you, O God. Wonderful are your works.  
Hold us in your sure and righteous hand!**

One: We seek your wisdom.  
Reveal your direction and our path.

**All: We praise you, O God. Wonderful are your works.  
Teach us and make us new!**

One: Let us worship God.

# OPENING HYMN “Spirit of the Living God”

F Gm D Gm F Dm C F

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me;

F Gm D Gm F Bb/C C7 F

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

Bb F G7 C

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

F Gm D Gm F Dm C7 F

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

## **DEDICATION OF SUNDAY SCHOOL LEARNERS AND TEACHERS**

**A:    God, you are our potter, we are your clay.  
      You are our teacher, we learn from you.  
      You create us to learn and to grow,  
      every day of our lives.  
      You mold people who help us learn,  
      and we are thankful.  
      You mold teachers who care for learners,  
      study our faith, tell us stories  
      and guide us in our learning.  
      You mold learners who hear stories, ask questions,  
      search for answers, and grow in our faith.  
      You mold Confirmation students who are ready to  
      learn about faith and consider joining the church.  
      You mold parents to nurture and to guide,  
      to support teachers and learners,  
      and to keep on growing themselves.  
      You mold people who care about our Sunday  
      School and pray for us all.**

**God, we give ourselves to you.  
Melt us, mold us, fill us, use us, now and always.  
Amen.**

# SUNG RESPONSE "Spirit of the Living God"

F Gm D Gm F Dm C F

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me;

F Gm D Gm F Bb/C C7 F

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

Bb F G7 C

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

F Gm D Gm F Dm C7 F

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *Psalms 139: 1-6, 13-18*

One: Lord, you have examined me and you know me.  
You know everything I do;

**All: from far away you understand all my thoughts.**

One: You see me, whether I am working or resting;  
you know all my actions.

**All: Even before I speak,  
you already know what I will say.**

One: You are all round me on every side;  
you protect me with your power.

**All: Your knowledge of me is too deep;  
it is beyond my understanding.**

One: You created every part of me;  
you put me together in my mother's womb.

**All: I praise you because you are to be feared;  
all you do is strange and wonderful.  
I know it with all my heart.**

One: When my bones were being formed,  
carefully put together in my mother's womb,  
when I was growing there in secret,

**All: You knew that I was there-  
you saw me before I was born.**

One: The days allotted to me had all been recorded in  
your book,

**All: before any of them ever began.**

One: O God, how difficult I find your thoughts;

**All: how many of them there are!**

One: If I counted them, they would be more than the  
grains of sand.

**All: When I awake, I am still with you.**

*Quiet Reflection*

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

One: Our God the potter is always asking us to learn and grow.

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

One: In 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!**



**MUSIC RESPONSE “Halle, Halle, Halle”**

Two staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. Chords are indicated above the staff.

Staff 1: A E A D Bm E  
Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

Staff 2: A C#7 F#m Bm E7sus4 E7 A  
Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le - lu-ja, hal - le - lu - ja.

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Ann Herren

Hebrew Scripture

Jeremiah 18:1-11

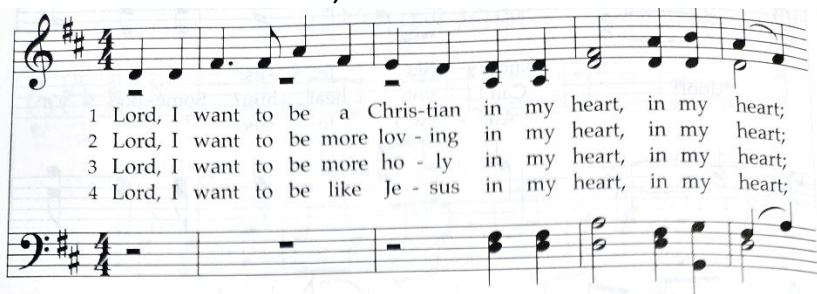
Christian Scripture

Luke 14: 25-33

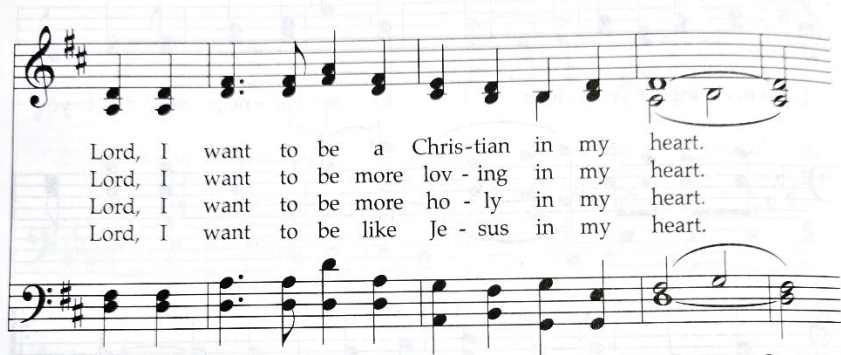
**CHORAL ANTHEM “Let There Be Peace on Earth”****SERMON**

“Cost and Joy”

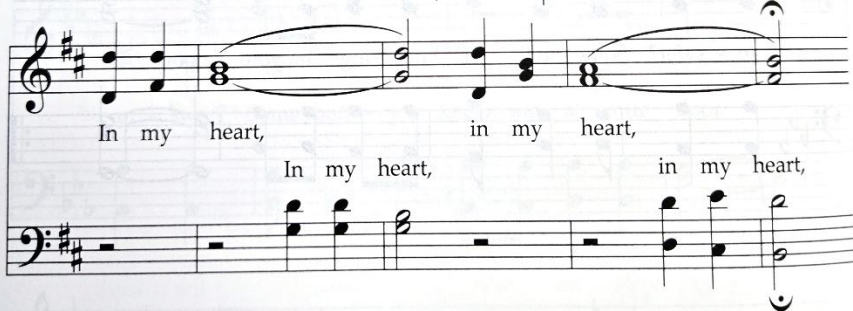
# SUNG RESPONSE "Lord, I Want to be a Christian"



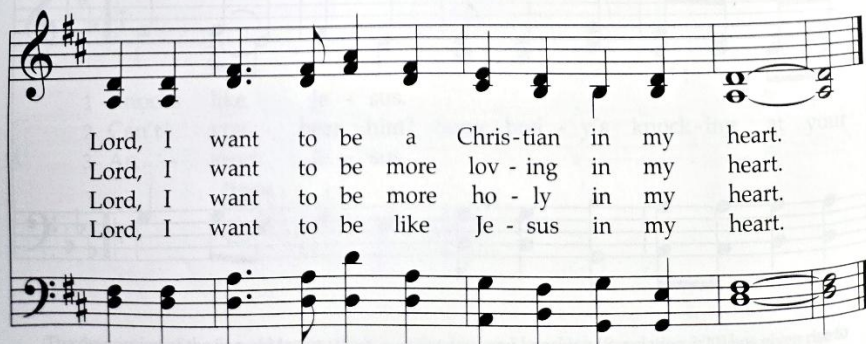
1 Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart, in my heart;  
 2 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart, in my heart;  
 3 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart, in my heart;  
 4 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart, in my heart;



Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.  
 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.  
 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.  
 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.



In my heart, in my heart,  
 In my heart, in my heart,



Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in my heart.  
 Lord, I want to be more lov - ing in my heart.  
 Lord, I want to be more ho - ly in my heart.  
 Lord, I want to be like Je - sus in my heart.

## 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.

## CALL TO OFFERING

### 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: All that we have, all that we are come from you, O God. Use these gifts so that we may see ourselves with your eyes. Break through our expectations, so our compassion might grow in this world, and all may know the miracles of your light and love.**

## **SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION**

### **Invitation**

**One: Come and find God at this everyday and unremarkable table just as God finds the incredible within you. Come.**

**All: We come to the Table of Jesus our Christ.**

**One: Lift up your hearts.**

**All: We lift them to our Holy God.**

**One: Let us give thanks to God.**

**All: It is good to give God our thanks and praise.**

### **Great Prayer of Thanksgiving:**

**One: The Peace of Christ be with you.**

**A: And also with you.**

**One: Let us pray. . .**

## SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

### PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

**A:** We thank you, Holy One, for the fullness of your love, shared through the power of this meal. And now by your power, fill our voices with stories of your grace. By your power, strengthen our hands for the work of your mercy. By your power, transform us into your representatives of your love. Amen.

### CLOSING HYMN “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:  
 2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,  
 3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.  
 teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.  
 gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!

#### *Refrain*



Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Music: LINSTEAD, Jamaican folk tune, adapt. Doreen Potter, 1925–1980

## CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

### “Fugue in C”

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

*Today’s liturgy is adapted from:*

Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ. Posted on [ucc.org/worship-way](http://ucc.org/worship-way)

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### FOR WORSHIP TODAY

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INTERIM MINISTER	Rev. Brenda Barnes Jamieson
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Jenn Schneider
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Peter Svenson
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Laurie Mitchell

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# News in the Pews

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**Welcome to worship and Happy Grandparents Day!** Today, we give thanks for the grandparents and elders who have helped shape our faith and guide our steps. Like Timothy, who learned from Lois and Eunice (2 Timothy 1:5), may we honor the ones who planted seeds of faith in us.

**Thank you to everyone involved in Rally Day today and our Sunday School program.** We are so excited for our new and returning students, and for what lies ahead!

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

**Thank you to the Board of Education and everyone involved in our huge Nursery cleanup!** If you have a chance to check out the nursery, please do- it looks amazing!

**Help stock our mini Food Pantry –** Thank you to everyone who has heard the cry and helped. There is still plenty of space on the shelves for more donations, so keep them coming in. All donations can be brought to the shelves by the office. Thank you so much!

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**Rummage collecting ends September 14<sup>th</sup>!** Drop off during office hours (please call ahead if you don't have a key), bring on Sundays when you come to worship, or call us to arrange a time that works for you. We'll take most anything but no furniture and old TV's. Questions can be directed to Annie Noorts at: [annie.noorts@gmail.com](mailto:annie.noorts@gmail.com), or call the office.

**Rummage sorting** – Join us **Mondays from 10AM-12PM, Wednesdays from 6:30-8:30PM and Fridays from 10AM to 2PM** to sort, no experience necessary! There are jobs for every person, talk to Annie for more information. This sale is our biggest fundraiser of the year but cannot happen without a tremendous amount of help all summer long. Please come help us!

**September workdays!** Please join our trustees as they continue to make repairs and improvements to our beloved building. All skill levels are welcome. Join us **September 20<sup>th</sup>, from 9AM-1PM**. Please contact Rich Schneider for questions: [richschneider@comcast.net](mailto:richschneider@comcast.net).

**Holiday Craft Show applications are being accepted now.** If you are interested in having a table at our sale, contact Wendy or Annie for more information. For an application, email [st.peteruccskokiebazaar@gmail.com](mailto:st.peteruccskokiebazaar@gmail.com), or contact the office.

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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:**

- Paul Abramchik and the Abramchik family.
- Dorothy Panzke and her family.
- Sue Bailey has been diagnosed with Crohn's/Ulcerative Colitis and spinal lesions.
- 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.
- Prayers for healing for Ginger Kalensky.
- 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!***

**This week we wish a Happy Birthday to** Isabella Aguayo, Jackie Johnson, Isabella Mau Gemignani and Judy Wiliford. **Happy Anniversary to** Wendy and Roy Svenson!

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**According to the schedule** and barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector will be Jenn Schneider, and Heidi Tarzian is on Nursery duty. 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	Annie Noorts
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.

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

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## **MISSION MOMENTS**

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**A New Identity (September 7, 2025)**

**Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Green**

**Philemon 1:1-21**

Grace to you and peace from God.

Wouldn't it be a wonderful world if we received letters from friends with the same salutation of that of the Apostle Paul? Better yet, wouldn't it be nice just to receive letters rather than texts and emails?

But I'm not here to talk about the lost art of letter writing. I want to discuss the seemingly lost art of seeing one another as siblings who belong to the family of God and, as such, truly able to love despite flaws, failures, and fickleness.

Onesimus was standing in the need of such redeeming and accepting love. The runaway slave had returned to his master, Philemon, but Philemon was not willing to take him back. Enter Paul, who steps in to mediate. He urges Philemon to not only welcome Onesimus with open arms but to welcome him as a beloved brother, not a slave.

Paul knew firsthand how our true identities were not found in the roles we were assigned, nor do they rest in familial bloodlines. Our

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true identities are steeped in the blood of Christ, making us all siblings of one another.

By the grace of God, Paul himself received a new identity going from “Saul the Feared Persecutor of Jews” to “Paul the Great Spokesperson for the Risen Lord.”

Why couldn’t Onesimus’ identity change as well?

Philemon does as Paul says, and while we don’t have subsequent letters to see how this new friendship progressed, we do have the legends. One has Onesimus becoming an influential Christian leader in Greece. Another has Onesimus becoming bishop of Ephesus.

While we aren’t certain what is true or not, this we do know: Onesimus, whose name means “useful,” reminds us today, that we, too, are useful in the eyes of God.

Our identities are not wrapped up in who we think we are, what others say of us, or what we do for a living. Our very being is found in Christ, and as such, Christ urges us to take on a new identity. Perhaps you are really a peacemaker, or bridge builder, or even a compassion sharer? What divine potential is within you?

*Creator God, free us from the roles we play in life. May this day we embrace new identities as your beloved children, ready to be used for your purpose in making this world a loving and just place for all. 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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