



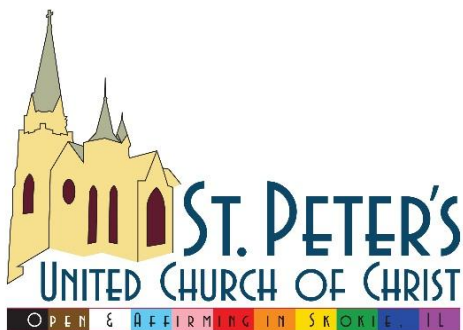
# Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,  
January 18, 2026  
10:00 AM**

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**Second 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**

**St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Skokie**  
**Order of Worship for**  
**Sunday, January 18, 2026 at 10:00am**  
**Second 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**                      "Prelude on "Galilee"                      by CS Lang

**THE RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**    Peggy Reins

*You may stand in body or spirit.*

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

One: Listen to me, O Coastlands;  
pay attention, you people from far away!

**All: God called us before we were born;**  
**God named us while in our mother's womb.**

One: God made our mouths like sharp swords;  
in the shadow of God's hand, we were hidden.

**All: God made us a polished arrow;**  
**in God's quiver, we were hidden away.**

One: I will give you as a light to the nations, that  
my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.

**All: Kings shall see and stand up;**  
**princes shall prostrate themselves,**  
**because of God, who is faithful;**  
**the Holy One has chosen you.**

# GATHERING HYMN "I Am the Light of the World"

*Unison Introduction*

*Refrain*

**F** **B $\flat$**  **C** **F**

"I am the light of the world!"

**B $\flat$**  **C** **F** **Gm** **Dm** **C**

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

**F** **Gm7** **C** **B $\flat$**  **F** **B $\flat$**  **F** *Last time, end*

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

**F** **B $\flat$ /D** **C** **F**

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, When the  
 heal the bro - ken soul with love, 7 To  
 make the pow - er - ful care, To re -  
 dance at a ba - by's new birth, 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!

Return to §

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

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

**One:** The God of Light and Life reminds us of what we were meant to do and be. This is the time to learn and remember. Let us pray together.

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**All:** Holy God, sometimes we remain in the dark, beset as we are by fear, anxiety, brutality, violence, loss — and a dozen alienations that we cannot manage.

**We want to be people of your light. So we pray for the light of your glorious presence. We pray for the light of your wondrous grace as we exhaust our coping capacity; we pray for your gift of newness that will override our weariness; we pray that we may see and know and hear and trust in your good rule.**

**Give us energy, courage, and freedom to become your light through the demands of this day.  
Amen.**

*Pause for quiet reflection*

**WORDS OF GRACE**

One: God called to us, even before we were born. God calls us still.

**All: There is nothing we can do and nothing that can be done to us that will ever separate us from God's love.**

One: Let us always remember God's good news:

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

One: Thanks be to God.

**All: 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**

Rich Schneider

Hebrew Scripture

Isaiah 49:1-7

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

John 1:29-42

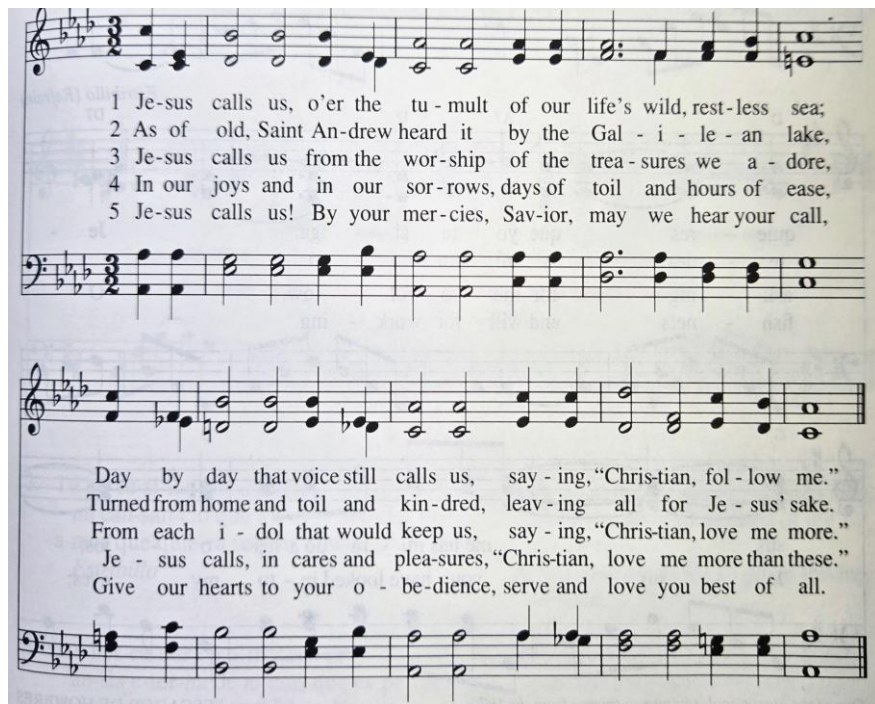
*Please be seated.***CHORAL ANTHEM**

“We Are Singing for the Lord is Our Light”

**SERMON**

“Where do You Stand”



**HYMN OF AFFIRMATION:****“Jesus Calls Us O’er the Tumult”**

1 Je-sus calls us, o'er the tu - mult of our life's wild, rest-less sea;  
2 As of old, Saint An-drew heard it by the Gal - i - le - an lake,  
3 Je-sus calls us from the wor-ship of the trea - sures we a - dore,  
4 In our joys and in our sor-rows, days of toil and hours of ease,  
5 Je-sus calls us! By your mer-cies, Sav-ior, may we hear your call,

Day by day that voice still calls us, say - ing, "Chris-tian, fol - low me."  
Turned from home and toil and kin-dred, leav - ing all for Je - sus' sake.  
From each i - dol that would keep us, say - ing, "Chris-tian, love me more."  
Je - sus calls, in cares and plea-sures, "Chris-tian, love me more than these."  
Give our hearts to your o - be-dience, serve and love you best of all.

## 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 the Giver, let your abundance continue to flow through us to your whole world. Take these gifts and transform them into heaven on earth. May we see a day when there will be no scarcity, no shortage, no good thing lacking. Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN “Lift Every Voice and Sing”

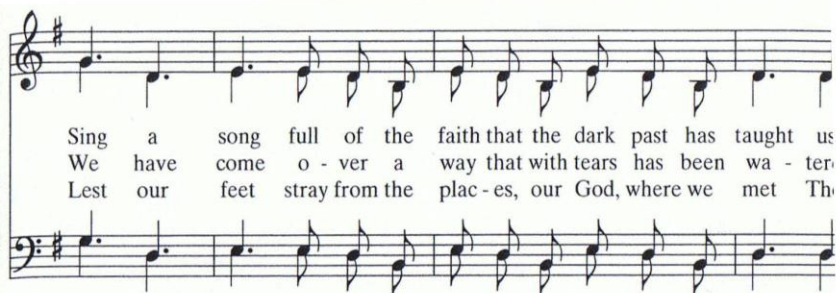
1. Lift ev - ery  
2. Ston - y the  
3. God of our

voice and sing till earth and heav - en ring, Ring with the har - mo -  
road we trod, bit - ter the chas - tening rod, Felt in the days when  
wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears, Thou who hast brought us

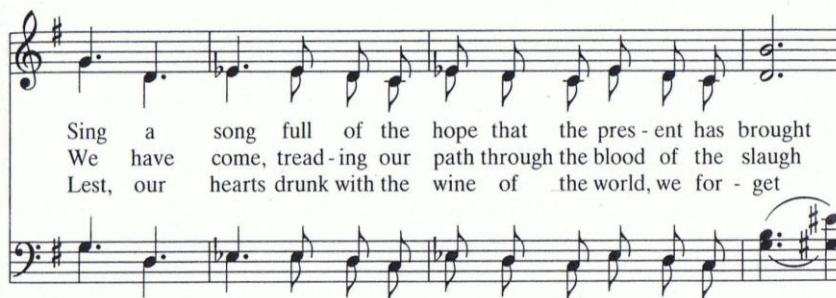
nies of lib - er - ty. Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the  
hope un - born had died; Yet, with a stead - y beat, have not our  
thus far on the way; Thou who hast by Thy might led us in -

lis - tening skies; Let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.  
wea - ry feet Come to the place for which our \*fa - thers sighed?  
to the light; Keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.


*Continued on next page*



Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us  
 We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - ter  
 Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met Th



Sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent brought  
 We have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh  
 Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get



us; Fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be  
 tered, Out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at  
 Thee; Shad-owed be - neath Thy hand may we for - ev - er



gun, Let us march on, till vic - to - ry is won.  
 last Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.  
 stand, True to our God, true to our na - tive land.

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## CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE “Lift Every Voice and Sing”

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

*Salvation May Reach: Service Prayers for the Second Sunday after Epiphany was written by Rev. Teña T. Nock, who serves as The Associate Pastor of Digital Ministry, First United Church of Tampa, United Church of Christ. Mystic in the making.*

*~ written by Walter Brueggemann in Prayers for a Privileged People (Nashville: Abingdon, 2008), p. 163. Posted on Journey with Jesus. <http://www.journeywithjesus.net/poemsandprayers/>*

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## FOR WORSHIP TODAY

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INTERIM MINISTER	Rev. Brenda Barnes Jamieson
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Peter Svenson
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Jen Schneider
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Mike Ryan

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# News in the Pews

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**Greetings! Whether this is your first Sunday with us or your five-hundredth, we're so glad you're here! Every time we gather to worship is worth celebrating. If you're visiting today, we extend an extra warm welcome!**

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

**Paper copies of our Annual Report for 2025** are available to take home by both sanctuary entrances. Digital copies were emailed out last Friday.

**Church Council meets today** after worship.

**Our Annual Congregational Meeting is next Sunday,** January 25th after worship. All are invited to attend.

**Many thanks for all who made Advent and Christmas so meaningful for us:** speakers, readers, decorators, Sunday School participants, candle lighters, choir, deacons, elders, donors to our Baby Shower for Jesus. Special thanks to Ben Westphal for his music, leading our Carol Sing and for putting together our December 28 service.

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**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!

**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.

**FOUND:** A football and purse were found in the Memorial Room and accidentally taken home over Christmas. Did you lose these items, or did you leave them there? Please let me know. The purse is here and the football will be returned soon.

**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:**

- Annie Noorts, still recovering from colitis and a high fever.
  - 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.
  - 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.
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- 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 Andre Gloeckner, Harry Kuras, Karen Christianson, Alane (Schaller) Swiderski, Richard Schaller and Ricky Riley!!!  
Happy Anniversary to Annie and Gerry Noorts.

**According to the schedule** and barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector is Mark Loach, our Nursery attendant is Laurie Mitchell. 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.

**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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## **MISSION MOMENTS**

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**All That We Are**

**January 18, 2026**

**Second Sunday after Epiphany**

**GREEN**

**John 1:29-42**

When the Spirit descended from heaven like a dove and remained on Jesus at his moment of baptism, John saw it. He was in the Jordan River baptizing his cousin, Jesus. He witnessed that holy, amazing moment. He knew Jesus was the one to follow — not him — and so, he told his two followers just that.

“Look, there’s the Lamb of God. That’s who you want to follow,” said John. So off they went after Jesus. Jesus, sensing he was being followed, turned and asked them bluntly, “What are you looking for?” To which they replied, “Where are you staying?”

What kind of question was that? So much meaning gets lost in translation as our modern ears hear this as a question of actual location or a curiosity about how one is living. But the former followers of John who wanted to be in the Jesus club, were not wanting to know if Jesus was in a hip neighborhood or residing in a swanky dwelling. Their question we discover is much deeper for the Greek word we translate into “staying” should read “abide.”

The word “abide” is an important one in John’s Gospel. It is used 10 times in the first 10 verses in John 15. The biblical definition for abide means “to be held or kept” or “to remain.” So, what the soon-to-be

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followers of Jesus wanted to know was who was holding this prophetic teacher. Who was “keeping” Jesus — keeping him safe, secure, steadfast?

Jesus’ reply “come and see” is also one that goes deeper than an invitation to tour his home and have a cup of tea. Jesus’ “come and see” is an invitation to an adventure that unfolds throughout the entire Gospel of John.

Come and see how I abide in God. Come and see the importance of abiding in me as I abide in you. Come and see how, with God, you will always be held tightly.

Let’s now revisit this story. Jesus walks by and we realize he is the one we need to follow. Just as we catch up with his flowing robes, he turns to us and asks, “What are you looking for?”

Pause here and really think about your answer. What have you been looking for?

What have been our expectations of Jesus? What is it we hope to discover? Now dare to ask the question, “Where are you abiding?”

Show us, Lord, once and for all, how we can also remain in the safe and transformative care of God, so that we can face the trials of this life victoriously — and with grace.

Tell us, Lord, where you abide because we would like to abide there as well. Let us end our time together praying the words of the great old hymn, “Abide with Me.”

*Abide with me, fast falls the eventide. The darkness deepens, Lord with me abide. When other helpers fail and comforts flee, help of the helpless, oh, abide with me. May it be so. 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 18, 2025**

**Isaiah 49:1-7**

49 Listen to me, O coastlands;  
pay attention, you peoples from far away!  
The Lord called me before I was born;  
while I was in my mother's womb he named me.

<sup>2</sup> He made my mouth like a sharp sword;  
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;  
he made me a polished arrow;  
in his quiver he hid me away.

<sup>3</sup> And he said to me, "You are my servant,  
Israel, in whom I will be glorified."

<sup>4</sup> But I said, "I have labored in vain;  
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;  
yet surely my cause is with the Lord  
and my reward with my God."

<sup>5</sup> And now the Lord says,  
who formed me in the womb to be his servant,  
to bring Jacob back to him,  
and that Israel might be gathered to him,  
for I am honored in the sight of the Lord,  
and my God has become my strength—

<sup>6</sup> he says,  
"It is too light a thing that you should be my servant  
to raise up the tribes of Jacob  
and to restore the survivors of Israel;  
I will give you as a light to the nations,  
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

<sup>7</sup> Thus says the Lord,  
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,  
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,  
the slave of rulers,  
"Kings shall see and stand up;  
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,  
because of the Lord, who is faithful,  
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

## **John 1:29-42**

<sup>29</sup> The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! <sup>30</sup> This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ <sup>31</sup> I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” <sup>32</sup> And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. <sup>33</sup> I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ <sup>34</sup> And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One.”<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>35</sup> The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, <sup>36</sup> and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” <sup>37</sup> The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup> When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” <sup>39</sup> He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. <sup>40</sup> One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. <sup>41</sup> He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed<sup>[b]</sup>). <sup>42</sup> He brought Simon<sup>[c]</sup> to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas”<sup>[d]</sup> (which is translated Peter<sup>[e]</sup>).