

# Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,  
April 27, 2025  
10:00 AM**

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**Second Sunday  
Of Easter**





# 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**

**St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Skokie**  
**Order of Worship for Sunday, April 27, 2025 at 10:00am**  
**The Second Sunday of Easter**  
**Holy Humor Sunday**

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*Welcome to worship. The music before the service is intended as a time of silent prayer and preparation.*

**PRELUDE**

Selected

**THE RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Peggy Reins

*You may stand in body or spirit.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: This is the time to rejoice!

**All: What better time than now!**

One: This is the day to laugh: What did the cabbage pastor say to the people?

Pastor: Lettuce pray!

One: How many choir directors does it take to change a light bulb?

*Choir: No one knows, because no one watches the director!*

One: How many church members does it take to change a light bulb?

**All: Change? We don't believe in change!**

One: What's the greatest joke ever?

**All: The one God played on death on Easter morning!**

**GATHERING HYMN** “Christ Joyful”

(We Lack the Gift of Laughter)

Tune: Lancashire

**A:**

- 1. We lack the gift of laughter;  
Faith sits all pale and glum,  
Hope dozes on a rafter,  
and Love is stricken dumb  
Come, Christ, into our drabness,  
tell us that matchless jest  
of life and resurrection,  
your sweetest and your best.**
- 2. You joined our sad profession,  
made good our foolishness,  
brought clowning into fashion,  
put on our joker's dress.  
Come, Christ, come holy laughter,  
to share that matchless jest  
of life and resurrection,  
your sweetest and your best.**
- 3. Upon a foolish cross, Lord,  
you hung to make us mirth;  
but there you conquered loss, Lord,  
old death became new birth.  
Come everlasting joy; Christ,  
confirm that matchless jest  
of life and resurrection,  
your sweetest and your best.**

*You may be seated.*

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

**P:** None of us likes to look foolish. So I ask you: which is sillier? Chasing after the world of gaudy trinkets to flatter our egos; or being a 'fool for Christ', devoted to serving others, offering ourselves in love and joy to the world? Let us admit to God the foolish choices we make each and every day.

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**A:** Chuckling, chortling God, who lifts our hearts when we feel most down, who strikes the light of joy in the midst of despair's gloom, who surprises us with wonder and awe, enter into our hearts this morning, we pray. Open our minds to the endless possibilities you create for growing closer to you with a giggle. Open our eyes to your presence in all things, allowing us to respond in joy. Amen.

*Pause for quiet prayer*

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

**One:** "God has a sense of humor. God has the last laugh and the last word. That word is Resurrection in Jesus Christ! Christ is Risen! The joke is on human reason and rigidity. Rejoice!"

**All:** **Through the Holy Spirit, we are gifted with joy. We are sent forth to bring good news to the oppressed, to bring healing to the broken, to anoint everyone with the oil of gladness.**

One: Through the Risen Christ, we are forgiven, we are loved, we are being made whole.

**All: Thanks be to God. Hallelujah!**

## SUNG RESPONSE "Halle, Halle, Halle"

*Let's sing it twice: once straight, then again up tempo, with clapping.*



*The congregation may be seated.*

**Christian Scripture:**

John 20: 19-31

**Christian Scripture:**

Acts 4: 32-35

## EASTER CAROL "Beautiful Day, Glorious Day"

*Tune: Silent Night*

**A: Beautiful Day. All is new, all's okay!**

**'Round the tomb**

**There is dancing and song,**

**See inside that the body is gone.**

**Christ, the Savior's alive,**

**Christ, the Savior's alive.**

*The Congregation may be seated*

## **PASTORAL AND SILENT PRAYERS**

### **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**

### **EASTER CAROL "Hark the Herald Angel Said"**

*Tune: Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

**A: Hark the Herald Angel said,  
Why seek Jesus with the dead?  
He's not here, as you can see,  
Gravecloths lie where he would be.  
On your way now, tell the others,  
Jesus will be with his brothers.  
Sisters, too, he wants to see  
on the hills of Galilee.  
Hark the Herald Angel said,  
He is risen from the dead.**

### **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.*

**RESPONSE** “Deck the Halls with Easter Lillies”

**A: Deck the halls with Easter lilies,  
Fa-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia!  
Dance a jig and sing the sillies,  
Fa-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia!  
At the devil, mean, old bloke,  
Fa-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia!  
On whom God has played a joke,  
Fa-la-la-la-la-le-lu-ia!**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION** *Unison*

**A: Thank you, Giving God, for humor that allows us to enjoy your gifts to the fullest. We can laugh because you conquered death, the tomb is empty, and your light shines so bright that it overcomes the darkness. Thank you, thank you, thank you! Amen.**

*You may be seated.*

**Joke Break****SERMON**

“Holy Humor”



*You may stand in body or in spirit.*

## **HYMN OF COMMITMENT**

**“Go, Tell it On the Mountain”**

**A: Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and  
everywhere,  
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is raised.**

**The women found no body their spices to anoint,  
Instead they found an angel, God’s message to  
appoint.**

*Chorus*

**Christ Jesus went to Mary, and other women too.  
And on to the disciples the Holy Spirit blew.**

*Chorus*

**Now some disciples doubted, but still in faith the  
grew,  
They shared, uniting into a church like me and you.**

*Chorus*

## **CHARGE**

**P: On this Day of Resurrection, follow the new path  
Christ has opened up for us.  
May you dance an alleluia dance, and sing a laughing  
resurrection song.  
Laugh with God, love your passion, and let joy reside  
in your hearts always.**

## 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:*

*Thom Shuman, [lectionaryliturgies@blogspot.com](mailto:lectionaryliturgies@blogspot.com), © 2012*

*Lyrics adapted from Paul Lintern, from*

*<<http://www.joyfulnoiseletter.com/hhsunday.asp>>*

*Ralph Milton:*

*<<http://ralphmiltonsrumors.blogspot.com/2009/04/preaching-materials-for-april-19th-2009.html>>*

*Trinity United Parish,*

*<http://www.trinityunitedparish.org/lukewordpress/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/April-10.pdf>*

*— Colin Gibson, Words © Hope Publishing Company,  
from his collection of songs, Reading the Signature.*

*From <<https://www.joyfulnoiseletter.com/hhsunday.asp>>*

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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	Jen Schneider
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Rita McMahon

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# News in the Pews

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**After Christ's resurrection, the disciples demonstrate many responses: not only faith and joy but also doubt and confusion. Welcome to worship — no matter where you are on your faith journey.**

**Welcome to our special 🎉 “Holy Humor Sunday” service!**

Holy Humor Sunday service not only gives us an opportunity for ongoing celebrations of the greatest miracle in human history - Jesus' resurrection - it also gives each of us an opportunity to celebrate, and give thanks for, our own smaller resurrections in this world and this life.

*From The Joyful Newsletter:*

<https://www.joyfulnoiseletter.com/hhsunday.asp>

The Sunday after Easter is sometimes called, “Low Sunday,” or even “Bowling Ball Sunday.” So few people attend that you can roll a bowling ball through the sanctuary and not hit anyone. We may not have as many bodies here today but we will fill this morning with enough love and laughter that no one will notice. And really, what better way is there to celebrate the joy of Easter than to get in on the joke ourselves?

**Help support Ricky Riley as he raises funds for Misericordia's**

**🎉 Candy Days!** Please use only the link below to donate and help Ricky Riley raise funds. Thank you so much to everyone for donating:

<https://secure.e2rm.com/p2p/fundraising/390732/participant/5513003/en-CA>


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**Rummage Sale donations** – we will publicly be accepting donations starting the first week of June. Now's a great time to clean out your closets, basements, attics, and garages. We accept just about anything except furniture and old TVs or old computers.

**Mini food pantry news-** Thank you so much to everyone who continues to donate, the need is great and we are starting to get low. We also kindly ask that you check for expiration dates before donating, we cannot put out expired food. We really appreciate your help with that and continued generosity!

**The Women's Guild meets here Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>** at 11:30 AM. All women of the church are invited, please join us!

**Next Sunday is our church's  158<sup>th</sup> Anniversary/Birthday!**  
We will also be celebrating a baptism in worship. Don't miss it!

**In two weeks join us for our  Mother's Day worship, May 11<sup>th</sup>** at 10AM.

**Sign up for  Coffee Hour!** We are getting back to regular coffee hours on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month but need folks to sign-up to host. Hosting is basically bringing some coffee cake, etc. to share, making coffee and light clean-up. You can also co-host, or ask a seasoned host to host with you. Find a Council member or let Pastor know if you are interested, and thank you!

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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:**

- Nicole McGinnis, childhood friend of Laura's who is fighting a rare cancer and in the hospital with an internal infection.
  - Holly Davis, prayer for healing, for herself, loved ones and the world.
  - Rod Hassler, brother-in-law of Peggy, who is coping with heart failure and associated pulmonary disease.
  - The family of Scottie Arms, brother-in-law of Annie Noorts, who unexpectedly passed away April 6th.
  - David, uncle of Chad McCoy, who is back home after heart attack and starting kidney dialysis treatments.
  - Prayers for healing for Ginger Kalensky and Dorothy Panzke.
  - Robert Elliot, brother-in-law of Anna Riley, diagnosed with cancer stage 2.
  - Phil, friend of Carolyn Kuechler, struggling with multiple health challenges.
  - Prayers for Julius and all immigrants, refugees and displaced people.
  - Ann Herren's girls have finished radiation and are both doing well.
  - The family of Annmarie Gloeckner.
  - Judy Paige is having knee therapy for the third time.
  - Sharon Johnson's daughter Donna continues her battle with Lymphoma, which can be controlled but not cured.
  - Susan Garcia's Aunt Janice battling cancer.
  - Jane Abramchik continues to recover at home aided by a team of home caregivers and her husband Paul.
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- Paul Brzozowski who is continuing chemotherapy and a trial drug for brain cancer.

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** David Rees, Dale Zelenka, Dale todd, Diana Pappadakis-Haun and Bill Karol.

**According to the schedule** and barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector will be Barb Todd, and our Nursery Attendant will be Denise Hopp.

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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.

**Our mini-food pantry is a daily mission this church does for the community of Skokie.** If you are able, please donate!

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## **MISSION MOMENTS**

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**Resurrection Witness (4/27/2025)**

**Second Sunday after Easter**

**WHITE**

**Acts 5:27-32**

There once was a church sign that read, “Easter Is Over, Now What?” Good question. We have received the promise of new life, but how are we living that promise? Do our lives look different from that of a week ago when we joined our voices in singing “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today.”

For starters, let’s point out the error of that church sign. Easter is NOT over. Easter is not a one-day celebration in which the memory grows as stale as a leftover marshmallow Peep. Easter is our invitation to live as resurrection people, always seeing the God possibilities amid the impossibilities.

The early church embraced Easter as a 50-day celebration that led to the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. During the days of Eastertide, also known as The Great 50 Days, it was a tradition to read through the Acts of the Apostles, where among the pages are stories of faith and courage — and persecutions — as Jesus’ followers boldly tell of the Risen Christ among them.

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In today's reading from Acts we see Peter in trouble with the Sanhedrin all because he called upon the name of Jesus to heal a crippled beggar. The Sanhedrin are angry for they warned Peter and his friends to not invoke Jesus' name in their healing and teaching. But Peter cannot stop. Nor can his friends. Nor can we. For the Easter moment was the moment when we all became witnesses to the resurrection power that is among us.

In this season of Easter, we are to sing, dance and celebrate that love wins, love is alive, and love can redeem all things. Are we showing the world that we are walking with our Risen Lord, that we are choosing to live with great joy despite all the world throws our way?

If the Lenten season called for us to observe 40 days of following Jesus to the cross, then shouldn't we give the same attention to these 50 days of now witnessing to the resurrection?

As Andrew Peterson, a contemporary Christian musician once observed, "the Easter feast far outweighs the Lenten fast." It is time for us to feast. It is time for us to step into our role as resurrection witnesses.

*God of resurrection hope, we are honored to be witnesses of the redeeming love of our Risen Lord. As we continue the Eastertide celebration, we ask that you strengthen our hearts and make loud our voice so that we have the courage to speak truth to power and show love amid hate. May we truly become your Easter people in the world. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.*

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