



Welcome

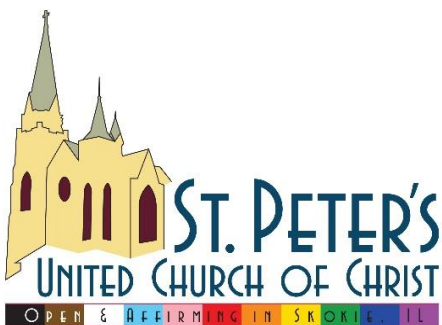
ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

Sunday,

April 26, 2026

10:00 AM

**Fourth 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!

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 in Skokie
Order of Worship for
The Fourth Sunday of Easter
Sunday, April 26, 2026 at 10:00am

Meditation during our sacred music:

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

“Psalm 23”

by Wright

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peggy Reins

You may stand in body or spirit.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God of teeming galaxies and the great empty
freeways of space, Shepherd of the meek,

All: we approach you with loving awe.

One: God of mother earth, of sunlit mountains and
moonlit deserts, Shepherd of the poor,

All: we approach you with loving gratitude.

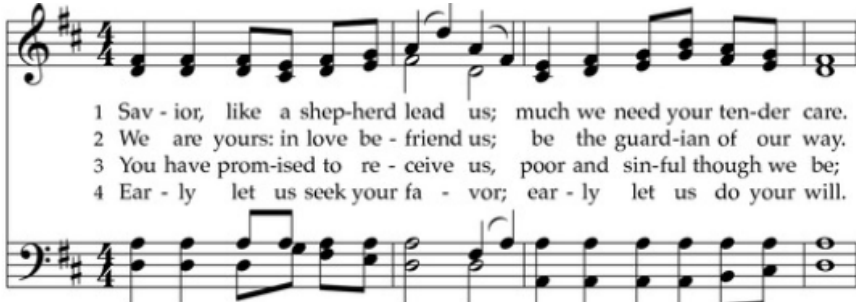
One: God of countless millennia and the rise and fall of
cultures and empires, Shepherd of the merciful,

All: we approach you with loving faith.


One: God of incarnation and redemption, of the dying
and rising Christ, Shepherd of the lost,

All: we approach you with loving hope.

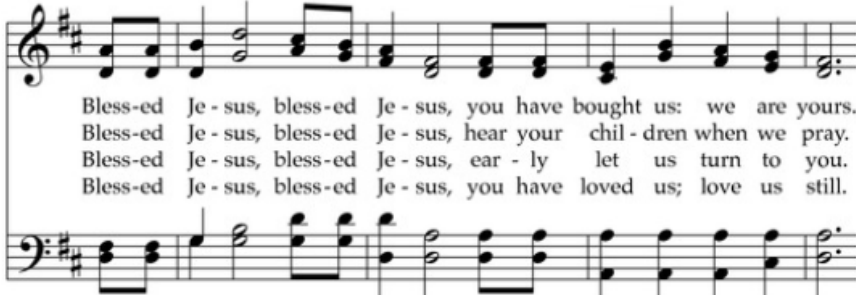
GATHERING HYMN “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”



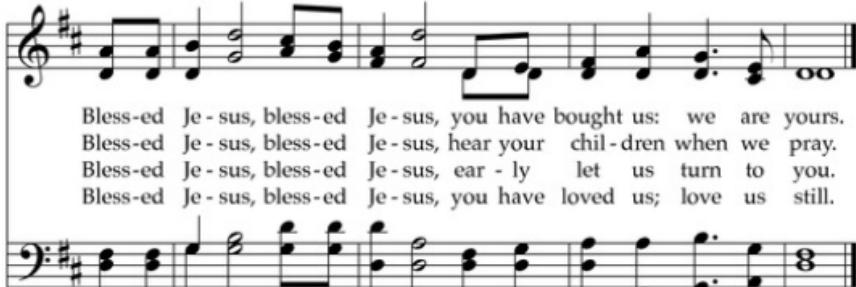
1 Sav - ior, like a shep-herd lead us; much we need your ten-der care.
 2 We are yours: in love be - friend us; be the guard-ian of our way.
 3 You have prom-ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin-ful though we be;
 4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor; ear - ly let us do your will.



In your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us; for our use your fold pre-pare.
 Keep your flock: from sin de - fend us; seek us when we go a - stray.
 you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free.
 Bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us: we are yours.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear your chil - dren when we pray.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us; love us still.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us: we are yours.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear your chil - dren when we pray.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us; love us still.

You may be seated.

CALL TO CONFESSION

P: Jesus said, 'I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.' Let us pray together.

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

**A: Merciful God, who is more than we can ever imagine,
give us a wider vision of the world;
give us a broader view of justice;
give us dreams of peace that are not defined by boundaries of geography or race or religion, or by the limitations of worldly structures and systems. Open our eyes and our ears that wherever we go, we may hear your voice calling us by name, calling us to serve, calling us to share, calling us to praise, so that we never give up on the promise of your kingdom, where the world is transformed, and all can enjoy life in all its fullness. Amen.**

Pause for quiet prayer

WORDS OF GRACE

One: Let us share the Psalm we know so well:

All: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul. He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

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

All. Thanks be to God! Hallelujah!

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, Halle”

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

The congregation may be seated.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Peggy Reins

New Testament Scripture:

Acts 2:42-47

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

GOSPEL LESSON:

John 10:1-10

Please be seated.

CHORAL ANTHEM “The King of Love My Shepherd”

SERMON

“Love Changes Us”

HYMN "There's a Church Within Us, O Lord"

Unison

1. There's a church with - in us, O Lord; There's a
 2. There's po - ten - tial with - in us, O Lord; Some - thing
 3. There's a fire with - in us, O Lord; A new
 4. There's some build - ing to be done, O Lord; There's some
 5. There's the church with - in us, O Lord; There's the

church with - in us, O Lord; Not a build - ing,
 stir - ring with - in us, O Lord; Some - thing strain - ing
 life a - burn - ing, O Lord; A new fire
 build - ing to be done, O Lord; Not with steel,
 church with - in us, O Lord; Not a build - ing

but a soul, not a por - tion, but a whole; There's a
 to have birth, to be vis - i - ble on earth, There's po -
 for a life, com - bat - ting pres - ent strife, There's a
 not with stone, but with lives which are your own, There's the
 but one soul, not a por - tion, but a whole, We

church with - in us, O Lord.
 ten - tial with - in us, O Lord.
 fire with - in us, O Lord.
 church to be built, O Lord.
 are your church in the world.

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**

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

tune: All Creatures of our God and King

**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 *Unison*

A: Thank you, Risen Christ, for moving the hearts of the people to give of themselves. May our offerings of service and financial support give voice to your work for justice and peace in this world. May we grow more mindful of you through our giving and our living. Amen.

HYMN OF COMMITMENT

“God Be With You Til We Meet Again”

1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; lov - ing
 2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; un - seen
 3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; when life's
 4 God be with you till we meet a - gain; keep love's

coun - sels guide, up - hold you, with a shep - herd's care en -
 wings pro - tect - ing hide you, dai - ly man - na still pro -
 per - ils thick con - found you, put un - fail - ing arms a -
 ban - ner float - ing o'er you; smite death's threat - ening wave be -

fold you:
 vide you:
 round you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.
 fore you:

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Selected

We pause to reflect during the Postlude as we prepare to follow God out into the world.

God-Consciousness: Service Prayers for Easter 4 by the Rev. Marilyn Kennedy Levine, a United Church of Christ pastor in the Northern Plains Conference Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100.

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

INTERIM MINISTER	Rev. Brenda Barnes Jamieson
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Barb Bailey
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Rich Schneider
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Rita McMahon

News in the Pews

The welcome mat is out for you! We are happy to have you here today as a partner in prayer, in song and in the hearing of God's word. We hope that you will stay for coffee after worship, so that we may become friends and be strangers no longer.

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

Thank you to Mrs. Christianson's 3rd grade class for hosting coffee hour today! Please join us downstairs after worship.

Sunday, May 3 will be special. Instead of our traditional worship service, please join us downstairs for "Exploring Our Future" -- or, as Judy Paige put it, "WOW!" We will sing, pray, wonder, discuss, create and engage with God. One exercise will even take us outside our building. It is the beginning of an even deeper conversation yet to come. Please join us. Bring friends. Bring children. We need everyone's wisdom, observations and wonder. This will take a little extra time; Please plan to stay until 12:15.

Our New Members will be officially welcomed into the church during our May 17th worship service. Please attend and show these new folks some St. Peter's UCC love.

Praise Banners! We are exploring the possibility of taking advantage of excellent pricing on banners to decorate our sanctuary, specifically on the sides by the organ pipes. We've formed a small "task force" to explore this – if you are interested in participating, please contact Jenn Schneider (email) as soon as possible. Thanks!

Please let us know about any Graduations or other special events you'd like to share! We'll include those in our upcoming May and June Announcers.

Experience hope in action! Tour the Night Ministry - the Night Ministry will again be hosting a behind-the-scenes tour on Thursday, May 14th from 5-7PM. The Night Ministry has been a longtime community partner of St. Peter's UCC. Contact MaCheaux Ransom to register: macheaux@thenightministry.org.

Coming in May! Our Church's 159th Anniversary, Mother's Day Sunday and service at A Just Harvest.

Our People

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

- Matt Anthony, nephew of Marlene Russell, who has incurable cancer.
- Mark Taylor.
- Wendy, friend and colleague of Beth Sterba, who is fighting liver cancer.
- Annie's friend Renee is fighting a long term, rare illness.
- 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 Elisa Meggs, David Rees, Dayle Zelenka and Dale Todd. God's blessings to you on your special day!

According to the schedule and barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector is David Iannotti, our Nursery attendant is Mike Ryan. 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."

Please remember to update the office on your current prayer request, we appreciate the help keeping the prayer requests timely and accurate.



MISSION MOMENTS

Breaking Bread

April 19, 2026

Third Sunday of Easter

White

Luke 24:13-35

Dear readers, I have some Eastertide questions for you. Consider this your Risen Lord check in.

First, where have you recently seen the Risen Lord on your path? Second, what have been the conversations that left you feeling as if you were in the presence of the divine? Third, when did your heart burn with the truth of the Gospel fully awakening your senses?

Finally, when was the last time you ripped into a warm, soft loaf of bread and, before slathering a piece with butter, paused and imagined the Lord with you in that breaking of the bread?

I have always been enamored with the resurrection encounter of the travelers on the road to Emmaus who didn't realize Jesus was walking with them until he later joined them for a meal. Luke's Gospel tells us that after Jesus blessed and broke the loaf, the travelers' eyes were opened, and they recognized him for who he was: The Risen Lord.

And so, every opportunity I have I will take a loaf of bread and share not only the yeasty goodness with friends, but I will ask them to join me in realizing that in this ordinary act we are experiencing

something extraordinary. We are being given an opportunity for fellowship with not just one another but with Jesus our Lord. Perhaps this ritual of mine was born out of the slow food movement that originated in Italy in the 1980s. It was a call to take time to thoughtfully and lovingly prepare a meal rather than niking something quick to eat. Slow down to savor the food before you, because it is only when we are fully present that we can see all that we should be grateful for.

Yes, breaking bread is an everyday sacred occurrence in my home where I slow down to be fully present to my Risen Lord. Coincidentally, during the slow food movement of the 1980's, Michael Philip Ward wrote a song called, "In the Breaking of the Bread."

Based on the Emmaus encounter, the lyrics beautifully go beyond the bread breaking, reminding us that opportunities to see the Risen Lord are all around: In the walking on the road, we saw Him. In the telling of our hopes, we saw Him. In the burning of our hearts, we saw Him. In the breaking of the bread, we saw Him. Suddenly our eyes were opened, and we knew He was alive.

May this day your eyes suddenly open to the truth that Jesus is with you in every step you take and in every prayerful moment you make. Sustaining and bounteous God, we thank You for the Bread of Life, our Risen Lord, who walks alongside us on our Emmaus Roads, always listening to our questions, our fears and our doubts. 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.)

Acts 2:42-47

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds^[a] to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home^[b] and ate their food with glad and generous^[c] hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

John 10:1-10

“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who came before me^[a] are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.