

A vertical American flag is positioned on the left side of the poster. The top portion of the flag is partially obscured by a dark blue horizontal band containing the word 'Welcome'.

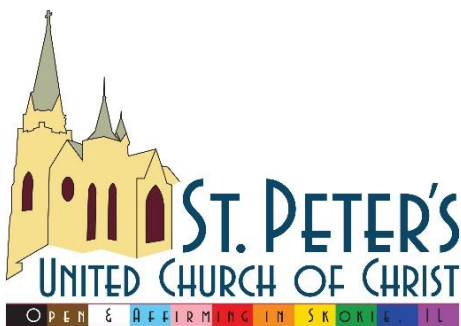
Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,
August 31, 2025
10:00 AM**

**Twelfth Sunday
after Pentecost**

Labor 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

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
Sunday, August 31, 2025 at 10:00am
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

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 "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peggy Reins

You may stand in body or spirit.

CALL TO WORSHIP *based on Psalm 81*

One: Sing aloud to God our strength and shout with joy:

All: God, our Host, welcomes us.

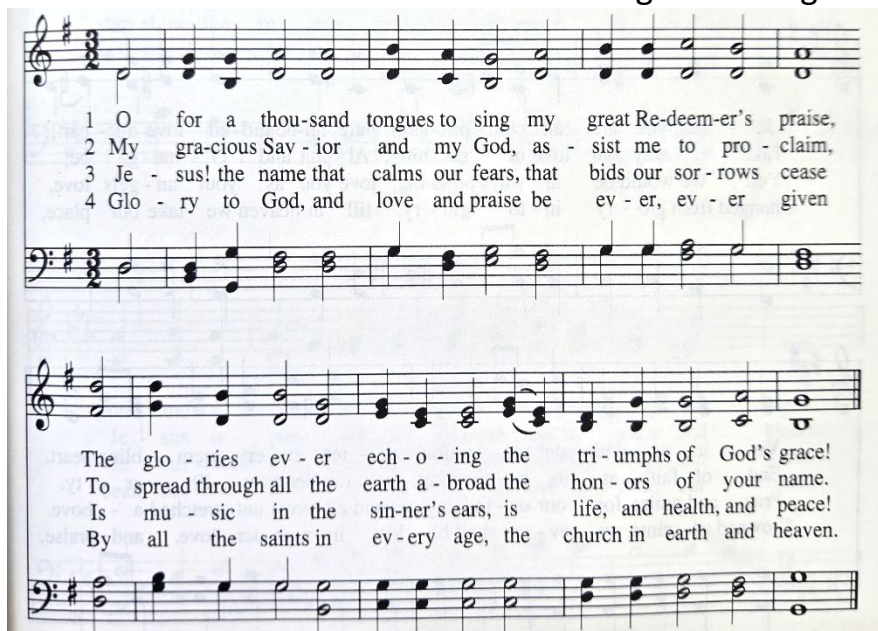
One: God brought us out of the land of Egypt and fed us
along the way:"

**All: When we opened our mouths, God filled us with
good things.**

One: God calls us to walk the path of faithfulness,
trusting the promise:

**All: Room at the table and a feast for all!
Let us worship God!**

OPENING HYMN “O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”



1 O for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
 2 My gra-cious Sav-ior and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim,
 3 Je - sus! the name that calms our fears, that bids our sor - rows cease
 4 Glo - ry to God, and love and praise be ev - er, ev - er given

The glo - ries ev - er ech - o - ing the tri - umphs of God's grace!
 To spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of your name.
 Is mu - sic in the sin-ner's ears, is life, and health, and peace!
 By all the saints in ev - ery age, the church in earth and heaven.

You may be seated

CALL TO CONFESSION

One: God has great visions of our own potential. But sometimes God cries for ways we fall short. Hear Psalm 81:

I am the Lord your God,
 who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.
 Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.

“But my people did not listen to my voice;
 Israel would not submit to me.

So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts,
 to follow their own counsels.

O that my people would listen to me,

that Israel would walk in my ways!
Then I would quickly subdue their enemies
and turn my hand against their foes.
Those who hate the Lord would cringe before him,
and their doom would last forever.
I would feed you[d] with the finest of the wheat,
and with honey from the rock I would satisfy you.”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Hospitable God, you invite us to a banquet
where the last may be first, and the humble and
the mighty trade places. Let us share your
abundance with no fear of scarcity; let us greet
strangers as angels you have sent! Send your
Spirit now so that we may find a place at your
table and welcome others with radical
hospitality. In the name of Jesus, Guest at all our
tables, we pray. Amen.

Quiet reflection

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Friends, hear the good news of the Gospel: God is
always calling us and making us new. There is
nothing we can do, and nothing that can be done to
us that will ever stop God from loving us.

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

One: Thanks be to God! Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you!

MUSICAL RESPONSE: “Halle, Halle, Halle”

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le - lu - ja, hal - le - lu - ja.

The musical score is written on two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the first line of the melody with lyrics 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.' and chords A, E, A, D, Bm, E. The second staff contains the second line of the melody with lyrics 'Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le - lu - ja, hal - le - lu - ja.' and chords A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4 E7, A.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Hebrew Scripture

Christian Scripture

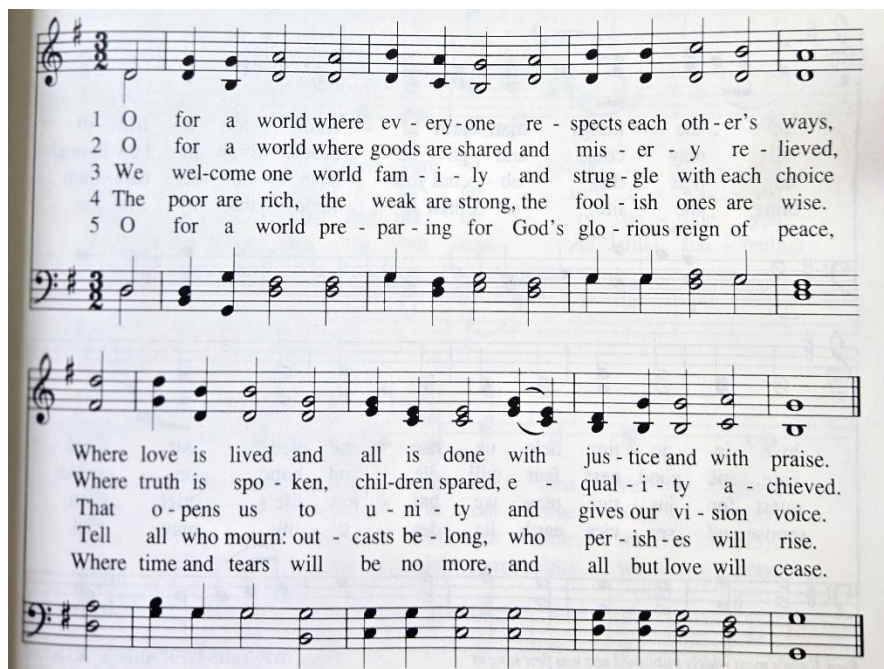
David Iannotti

Jeremiah 2: 4-13

Luke 14:1, 7-14

MUSICAL MEDITATION “Little Piece in C”

SERMON: “Don’t Invite Jesus to Dinner”

SUNG RESPONSE: "O For a World"


1 O for a world where ev - ery-one re - spects each oth - er's ways,
 2 O for a world where goods are shared and mis - er - y re - lieved,
 3 We wel - come one world fam - i - ly and strug - gle with each choice
 4 The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the fool - ish ones are wise.
 5 O for a world pre - par - ing for God's glo - rious reign of peace,

Where love is lived and all is done with jus - tice and with praise.
 Where truth is spo - ken, chil - dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.
 That o - pens us to u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.
 Tell all who mourn: out - casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.
 Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

PASTORAL PRAYER, 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.

Please stand in body or in spirit

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

A: God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar: We your people, yours the journey, now and ever, now and ever, now and ever more.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

A: Take our gifts, O God, 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.

CLOSING HYMN “Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant”

1 & 6 Won't you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as Christ to you?
 2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - elers on the road;
 3 I will hold the Christ-light for you in the shad - ow of your fear;
 4 I will weep when you are weep-ing; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
 5 When we sing to God in heav-en we shall find such har - mo - ny,

Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my ser-vant, too.
 We are here to help each oth - er go the mile and bear the load.
 I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
 I will share your joy and sor-row till we've seen this jour-ney through.
 Born of all we've known to-geth-er of Christ's love and ag - o - ny.

(repeat stanza 1)

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Servant Song”

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

Today’s liturgy is adapted from:

Rev. Christopher Ney, posted on the United Church of Christ’s Worship Ways website.

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

INTERIM MINISTER	Rev. Brenda Barnes Jamieson
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Barb Bailey
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	N/A
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Mike Ryan

News in the Pews

Friends and guests, as the end of summer nears, it's a delight to be together to praise God and share in his love. Welcome!

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

Mini Food Pantry donations are almost gone. The demand is great, and we really appreciate your help stocking our pantry again. All donations can be brought to the shelves by the office. Thank you so much!

There is no livestream of this service today. We will resume livestream recordings on September 7th, which is also Rally Day!

The office is closed tomorrow in observance of Labor Day.

Sunday School Rally Day is next week, Sunday, September 7th beginning at 9AM. We are so excited for a new year of Christian education and fun!

Rummage collecting ends September 14th! 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, 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 6th and 20th, from 9AM-1PM.*** Please contact Rich Schneider for questions: 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, or contact the office.

Our People

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

- 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.
- Jane Abramchik continues to recover at home aided by a team of home caregivers and her husband Paul.
- 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 Bill Schaller. Happy Anniversary to Jennifer and Anthony Gemignani!

According to the schedule and barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector will be Ann Herren, and Laurie Mitchell is on Nursery duty. Thank you so much for your service!

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

PRESIDENT	Peggy Reins
VICE-PRESIDENT	Barb Todd
TREASURER	Chad McCoy
SECRETARY	Annie Noorts
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Maria Altmayer

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.

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 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. See our President Peggy if you are interested in signing up.



MISSION MOMENTS

Open Table (8/31/2025)

12th Sunday after Pentecost

GREEN

Luke 14:1, 7-14

I have a friend who pastors a neighboring congregation who was hoping to use a generous gift left by a saint of the church to reconfigure the sanctuary seating.

She wanted to remove the ancient wooden pews and buy moveable chairs, thus, opening space to set up banquet tables and invite the hungry in the community to an extravagant sit down dinner.

That didn't happen. The money went instead to repaving the church parking lot.

She asked the committee who made this decision if that was the best way to show hospitality to others? The committee thought so. And perhaps it was.

But if we explore the ancient meaning of hospitality, perhaps removable chairs allowing room to feed the hungry was a better choice than a coat of asphalt.

The word "hospitality," in the original Greek, is philoxenos, which means, "to love the stranger." In Middle Eastern culture it was considered a sacred duty to take responsibility for the stranger — to give

them food and shelter. So true hospitality is more than opening church doors or paving a parking lot but opening our hearts to seeing the needs of others.

Jesus didn't see hospitality on display when he went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee to eat. What he saw was guests clamoring for the good seats — the places of honor. And he called them out, telling them to be humble, adding, too, that around the table should be the poor, the crippled, the lame and the blind.

In the book, *The Ragamuffin Gospel*, Brennan Manning said that in the Near East, the shared table symbolizes the shared life. “Sadly,” Manning writes, “the meaning of meal sharing is largely lost in the Christian community today.”

What does hospitality look like in your life? Are the doors to your heart opened to the stranger who is hungry, cold and lonely?

My friend who failed in getting removable chairs in the sanctuary to create a banquet hall for the hungry in her community is now looking for another church to serve.

The one she served has a great parking lot, not a pothole to be found, but there are no longer cars parked there on a Sunday. The doors closed for good a few months ago.

God, we hear Jesus' words that the first will be last and the last will be first, yet still we put our desire for recognition, prestige and comfort ahead of Your children who are pushed aside and overlooked. Open the doors to our hearts, so that true hospitality is lived in our communities. 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.)
