

Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,
May 18, 2025
10:00 AM**

**Fifth Sunday of
Easter**

ST. PETER'S
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
OPEN & AFFIRMING IN SKOKIE, IL
CENTRAL SONGBOOK





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, May 18, 2025 at 10:00am
Fifth Sunday of Easter

During our sacred music, listen. Consider:

Love one another, Jesus said.

Love one another as I have loved you, Jesus said.

Fortunately, that love does not have to extend to Judas.

Or does it?

PRELUDE

Selected

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peggy Reins

You may stand in body or spirit.

CALL TO WORSHIP *Psalm 148*

One: Praise the Lord!

**All: Praise the Lord from the heavens.
Praise God from the heights!**

One: Praise the Lord, you angels.
Sing praise, you heavenly host!

**All: Praise the Lord, O sun and moon.
Join in song, O shining stars!**

One: Praise the Lord, snow and rain.
Blow loud, wind and storm!

**All: Praise the Lord, O trees.
Dance with joy, O birds!**

One: Praise the Lord, women and men.
Rejoice, children and rulers!

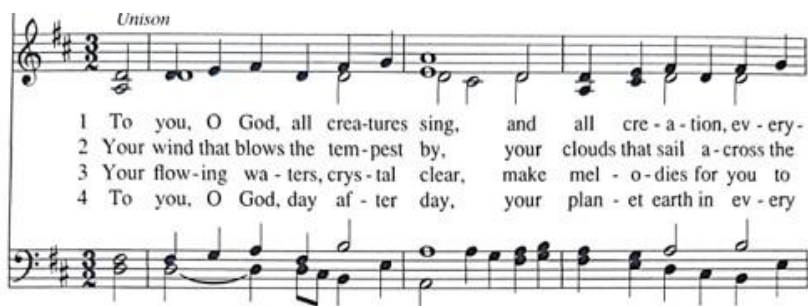
**All: Praise the Lord, weak and strong.
Sing for joy, timid and bold!**

One: Praise the Lord, mothers and aunts.
Give praise, grandfathers and cousins!

**All: Let all creation praise God's name!
Praise the Lord!**

GATHERING HYMN "All Creatures of our God and King" (1-4)

Unison



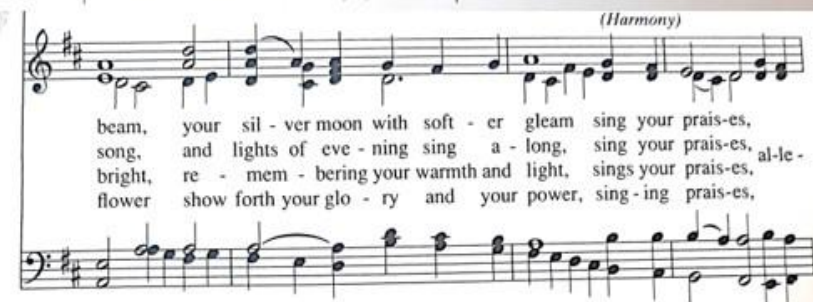
1 To you, O God, all crea-tures sing, and all cre - a - tion, ev - ery -
 2 Your wind that blows the tem - pest by, your clouds that sail a - cross the
 3 Your flow - ing wa - ters, crys - tal clear, make mel - o - dies for you to
 4 To you, O God, day af - ter day, your plan - et earth in ev - ery

(Harmony) *(Unison)*



thing sings your prais-es, al-le - lu - ia! Your burn-ing sun with gold-en
 sky sing your prais-es, al-le - lu - ia! Your morn-ing ris - es with a
 hear, sing your prais-es, al-le - lu - ia! Your fire, . . . boun-ti - ful and
 way, sings your prais-es, al-le - lu - ia, As sa - vory fruit and fra-grant

(Harmony)



beam, your sil - ver moon with soft - er gleam sing your prais-es,
 song, and lights of eve - ning sing a - long, sing your prais-es,
 bright, re - mem - bering your warmth and light, sings your prais-es, al-le -
 flower show forth your glo - ry and your power, sing - ing prais-es,

(Unison)



lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

You may be seated.

CALL TO CONFESSION

P: All we who breathe will notice God's glory and sing out our praise. Yet all we who breathe understand that we will never measure up to God's love. Let us bring this before God, so that we might be healed.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

A: Loving God,
we are often upset
by people who are not like us—
those who think differently,
those who act differently,
those who speak differently.
Our parched hearts are thirsty for your love.
Our dry spirits are thirsty for your waters of life.
Pour your love over us and transform us,
that we may embrace all people as your own. Amen.
(Silent prayer)

HYMN “All Creatures of our God and King” (v.5)

All: **Now we who are of tender heart,
Forgiving others, take our part,
Sing your praises, alleluia!
To you we lift our pain and care,
Receive the burdens that we bear,
Singing praises, alleluia,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: “Little Children, love one another as I have loved you.” It sounds so simple when Jesus says it. But we repeat the words because they do not come naturally for us. For there is nothing we can do, and nothing that can be done to us that will ever stop God from loving us.

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

One: Thanks be to God!

All: **Amen!**

SPECIAL MUSIC

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Jenn Schneider

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING:

Acts 11: 1-18

You may wish to stand, in body or in spirit.

GOSPEL Reading

John 13: 31-35

You may be seated

SPECIAL MUSIC

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.

You may stand in body or in spirit.

RESPONSE “Halle, Halle, Halle,” sung twice

Two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the first line of the hymn, and the second staff contains the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: A, E, A, D, Bm, E for the first staff; and A, C#7, F#m, Bm, E7sus4 E7, A for the second staff.

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.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION *Unison*

A: Loving God, you ask us the task to love one another as you have loved us. May these gifts bring love and life to others. May the love we share bring hope to a world that has forgotten how to love. Amen.

You may be seated.

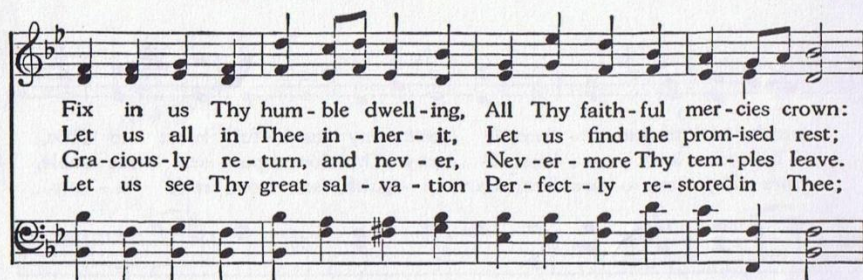
SERMON “When Love Was New”

CLOSING HYMN "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

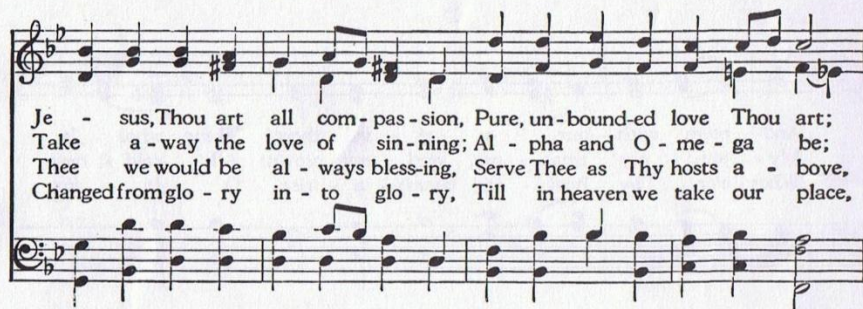
In moderate time



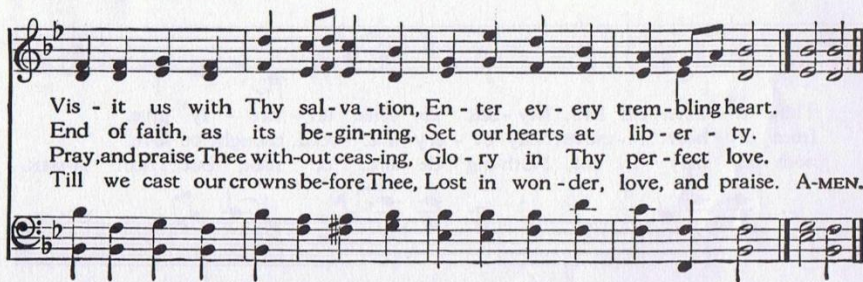
1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
 2. Breathe, O breathe Thy lov - ing Spir - it In - to ev - ery trou - bled breast;
 3. Come, Al - might - y to de - liv - er, Let us all Thy life re - ceive;
 4. Fin - ish, then, Thy new cre - a - tion; Pure and spot - less let us be;



Fix in us Thy hum - ble dwell - ing, All Thy faith - ful mer - cies crown:
 Let us all in Thee in - her - it, Let us find the prom - ised rest;
 Gra - cious - ly re - turn, and nev - er, Nev - er - more Thy tem - ples leave.
 Let us see Thy great sal - va - tion Per - fect - ly re - stored in Thee;



Je - sus, Thou art all com - pas - sion, Pure, un - bound - ed love Thou art;
 Take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be;
 Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, Serve Thee as Thy hosts a - bove,
 Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, Till in heaven we take our place,



Vis - it us with Thy sal - va - tion, En - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 End of faith, as its be - gin - ning, Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 Pray, and praise Thee with - out ceas - ing, Glo - ry in Thy per - fect love.
 Till we cast our crowns be - fore Thee, Lost in won - der, love, and praise. A - MEN.

CHARGE AND 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:

Mary Petrina Boyd, pastor of Langley United Methodist Church on Whidbey Island, WA

<https://www.ministrymatters.com/worship/entry/3774/worship-elements-may-19-2019>

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

INTERIM MINISTER	Rev. Brenda Barnes Jamieson
GUEST PIANIST	Daniella Rukin
DEACON	Peter Svenson
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Jenn Schneider
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Laurie Mitchell

Three members of St. Peter's UCC that I trust:

Please place in the offering plate, submit to the office,
or email your list to Brenda: pastor@stpeteruccskokie.org

News in the Pews



Psalm 148 calls all creation to praise the Lord. We join with springtime blooms and buds, more hours of sunlight, newborn animals, singing birds and greening landscapes. Welcome to worship!

Thank you to our volunteers, who make this and every worship service possible!

Thank you to our guest pianist Daniella Rukin, for filling in for Ben today.

June Announcer articles are due tomorrow, May 19th. Please email your submissions to the office@stpeteruccskokie.org. Thanks!

Nominate three people you trust – as our insert says, Pastor Brenda is looking to form an Interim Steering Committee and can use your help. More details are in the May [Announcer](#). You do not need to include your name. Drop yours in the offering plate or give to Pastor. You can also email your submission. Thanks so much for your help.

Our Undy  500  is back all of May - We are now collecting underwear for the Night Ministry, who serves Chicago's most needy. We need women's and men's underwear in all sizes, *colors only*. Collection baskets are in the sanctuary and Lanford Fellowship Hall. You can bring your donation with you to worship or drop off during office hours.

Graduate in the family? Let the office know so we can celebrate with you! office@stpeteruccskokie.org. Thanks!

A Just Harvest 🌾 service is this month – we are looking for 3-4 volunteers to serve the day of, as well as donations totaling \$500 to cover the cost of the meal. Contact Chad for details on serving.



Help support Ricky Riley as he raises funds for Misericordia's 🍭 Candy Days! Please use only the QR code or link below to donate and help them raise funds. Thank you so much to everyone for donating:

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

Climate Action Camp News - Plans for a Climate Action Camp at Tower Hill Camp and Retreat Center in Sawyer, Michigan are coming together. This all-new summer camp, June 16th – 20th, is for anyone interested in caring for God's creation with deepened faith. Families, faith leaders and learners, and climate justice activists are invited! Camp registration includes all meals for the duration of the camp, four nights of indoor lodging and program materials. Scholarships are available! Register now at www.outdoorministries.campbrainregistration.com

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.

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:

- The family of Ruth Uchtman, (Molly's grandma).
- Nicole McGinnis, childhood friend of Laura's who is fighting a rare cancer.
- David, uncle of Chad McCoy, as he undergoes 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.
- Judy Paige who 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.
- 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 Gail Hoellerich, Diane Meggs and Angelo Iannotti. **Happy Anniversary to** Ann and Mark Aler.

According to the schedule and barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector will be David Iannotti, and our Nursery Attendant will be Heidi Tarzian.

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.

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

Imagine (5/18/2025)
Fifth Sunday after Easter
WHITE
Revelation 21:1-6

There's a magical place in New Jersey where children have been letting their imaginations run wild since 1954. It's called the Land of Make Believe and, just as its name says, it invites children to literally step into nursery rhymes read to them at bedtime. There are the homes of the three little pigs to run through and the old lady's shoe — the one with so many children she didn't know what to do — to slide down from.

For years it was thought that as we grew older, we no longer visited these lands of make believe. It was thought our ability to imagine faded with each passing year. Researchers from Kent University in England proved otherwise as a recent study among 470 people between 4 and 81 showed that adult imagination was not only as vivid as a child's but became more vivid with age.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could right now play in our own lands of make believe? Wouldn't it be even better to enter God's land of belief that John is inviting us to do this day?

The beloved friend of Jesus writes to us from his seclusion on the Greek island of Patmos. It is there in a dank cave where he penned the visions, which he received that would later become The Book of Revelation. And one such revelation calls for us to revisit the promise that God will indeed make all things new — a promise echoed all throughout scripture.

Today, we are being called to imagine a new heaven and a new earth for the former ones have passed away. This new heaven and earth don't necessarily mean that the current ones have been destroyed and something different has emerged. Rather the ancient Greek word for "new" — *kaine* — means "new in character" or "fresh." John is talking not about the next heaven and earth, but rather a better heaven and earth.

Let's now imagine together what this "better" might look like, especially for our earth today? Close your eyes. What do you see? How would you characterize this better earth? And more importantly, how is God asking you to be a pivotal player in making this better earth a reality rather than make believe?

Imagination is a wonderful thing for all ages — and it can be a powerful spiritual practice to engage in daily. For who wouldn't want to step into a place where God is making all things new, where death and crying and pain are no more? Let our imagining become the prayer portal for making this possible.

God of new beginnings, help us to look beyond the realities of this world and toward a better heaven and a better earth, where all Your children are fed, loved and safe. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.
