



Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,
September 14,
2025
10:00 AM**

**Fourteenth Sunday
after Pentecost**





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, September 14, 2025 at 10:00am
Fourteenth 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 "For the Beauty of the Earth"

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peggy Reins

You may stand in body or spirit.

CALL TO WORSHIP *Inspired by Luke 15: 1-10*

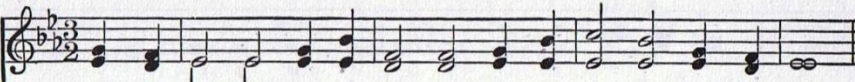
One: God calls to the lost, the least, and all who long for home;

All: **God calls when we wander from the path chosen for us and waste the gifts we have been given.**

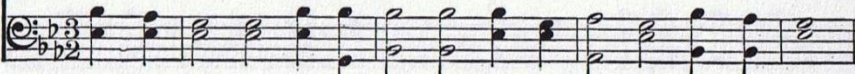
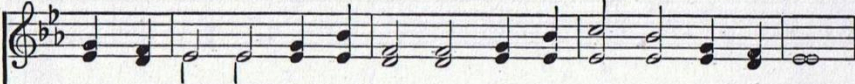
One: God calls and welcomes us back to worship this day;

All: **let us celebrate and rejoice in God's presence forever; let us worship God together.**

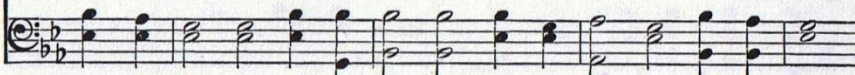

OPENING HYMN "Come, O Fount of Every Blessing"



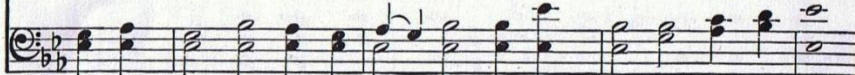

1. Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
 2. Here I raise my Eb-en - e - zer; Hith-er by Thy help I'm come;
 3. O to grace how great a debt - or Dai - ly I'm con-strained to be!

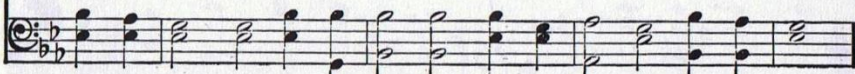
Streams of mer - cy nev - er ceas - ing Call for songs of loud-est praise:
 And I hope, by Thy good pleas-ure, Safe - ly to ar - rive at home,
 Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, Bind my wan-dering heart to Thee.

Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, Sung by flam-ing tongues a-bove.
 Je - sus sought me when a stran-ger, Wan-dering from the fold of God;
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; Prone to leave the God I love;

Praise the mount; I'm fixed up - on it, Mount of God's un-chang-ing love.
 He, to res - cue me from dan - ger, In - ter-posed with pre-cious blood.
 Here's my heart; O take and seal it, Seal it from Thy courts a - bove.



CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18*

One: Lord God of the Universe,
we are forgetful people.
We forget that you made this world
and that we are to care for it and protect it.
We forget that you created each of us
with wonderful talents and interests to enjoy
and to use in serving others.
We forget the rules you have given us
for good and happy lives.
We forget that we are your people.
People with jobs to do.
Sometimes we "forget on purpose."
At other times, we just are so busy or want
something so badly that we really do forget.
We try to go our own way,
do what we want,
and make our own plans.
Forgive us in Jesus' name.

All: Amen.

Quiet Reflection

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: God creates in us a clean heart and renews a right
spirit within us.

**All: For there is nothing we can do, nothing that can
be done to us that will ever stop God from loving
us.**

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

All: Thanks be to God! Amen

PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

A: And also with you!

MUSIC RESPONSE “Halle, Halle, Halle”

Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le - lu-jah! Hal-le, hal-le, hal-

- le - lu-jah! Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le -

lu-jah! Hal-le-lu-jah! Hal-le-lu-jah! Hal-le

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Hebrew Scripture

Psalter

Christian Scripture

Jenn Schneider

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28

Psalms 51:1-10

Luke 15:1-10

SPECIAL MUSIC “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

SERMON “When All Seems Lost”

SUNG RESPONSE “God's Great Love Is So Amazing”

CONVERSE 8.7.8.7 D "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

A: God's great love is so amazing!

See — a shepherd with his flocks!

Ninety-nine are safely grazing;

one is lost among the rocks.

That good shepherd goes and searches

till he finds the one astray.

So God says to fill our churches

with the ones who've lost their way.

God in love is always seeking!

See — a woman with her broom!

For a single coin she's sweeping

every corner of the room.

When it's found she calls each neighbor,

telling friends from all around.

So God says to search and labor

till God's precious ones are found.

God keeps waiting, searching, yearning!

See — a father's heartfelt joy!

Thankful for his son's returning,

he runs out to greet his boy.

To the angry older brother,

hear the father's patient call.

**So God says to love each other,
for in Christ, God loves us all.**

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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.**

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 *Sing to the tune of "All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night"*

**A: For gifts of earth and hands that give,
For hearts that learn and lives that live,
We raise our song of thanks and praise,
To God who loves in countless ways.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

A: Seeking God, receive these offerings as signs of our trust in you. Help us grow in our desire to live differently, to live redemptively, and to live hopefully. Use our gifts —and us—for the good that ripples outward, for the healing of hearts and the strengthening of your people. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN “Praise with Joy the World’s Creator”

1 Praise with joy the world's Cre - a - tor, God of jus - tice,
 2 Praise to Christ who feeds the hun - gry, frees the cap - tive,
 3 Praise the Spir - it sent a - mong us, lib - er - a - ting
 4 Praise the Mak - er, Christ, and Spir - it, one God in Com -

love, and peace, Source and end of hu - man knowl - edge,
 finds the lost, Heals the sick, up - sets re - li - gion,
 truth from pride, Forg - ing bonds where race or gen - der,
 mu - ni - ty, Call - ing Christ - ians to em - bod - y

grace be - stow - ing with - out cease, Cel - e - brate the
 fear - less both of fate and cost, Cel - e - brate Christ's
 age or na - tion dare di - vide, Cel - e - brate the
 one - ness and di - ver - si - ty. Thus the world shall

Ma - ker's glo - ry, power to res - cue and re - lease.
 con - stant pres - ence— Friend and Strang - er, Guest and Host.
 Spir - it's trea - sure— fool - ish - ness none dare de - ride.
 yet be - lieve when shown Christ's vi - brant un - i - ty.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Selected

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

Today's liturgy is adapted from:

Presbyterian Church in Canada website.

<http://presbyterian.ca/worship/>;

— from Worship for Kids: October 9, 2011, written by Carolyn Brown;

Discipleship Ministries | Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Year C

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FOR WORSHIP TODAY

INTERIM MINISTER	Rev. Brenda Barnes Jamieson
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Peter Svenson
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Rich Schneider
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Heidi Tarzian

News in the Pews

Welcome, friends — new and familiar! The psalmist reminds us: “This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it” (Psalm 118:24). May our hearts be open today to God’s presence, peace, and purpose.

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

We are looking for people to work the Rummage and Bake Sale, Sept. 26th and 27th! You can sign up for half or full day shifts. Light breakfast and lunch will be provided to all workers. Contact Annie Noorts (annie.noorts@gmail.com) or talk to her and thank you!

Calling all bakers! We'll need lots of delicious goodies to sell at the sale, can you help? We are looking for cookies, muffins, sweet and savory breads, pies and coffee cakes. When possible, items should be individually wrapped to price - 6-12 cookies per bag/plate, etc. Also, drop off items on Thursday, September 25th from 3-5PM or 7-8PM, or you can drop off anytime the week before the sale. Contact Barb Todd with any questions: (847) 965-0345.

Pop donations needed for sorters for sorting and sale days. If you can donate soda of any kind, we’d appreciate it! Bring to kitchen or drop off at office during the week and thank you!

Help stock our mini-Food Pantry – Thank you to everyone who has been donating. We can still use more donations, and ongoing donations, so keep them coming in. Bring your items to the shelves by the office or leave them in the narthex. Thank you so much!

Rummage sorting and pricing – 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 so 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 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:

- Richard Hook, who took a fall last week.
- Kathy Zipperer and her family.
- Paul Abramchik and the Abramchik family.
- 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.
- 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 Errol Mitchell, Dylan Kahn, Megan Caras and Ryan Puckett. **Happy Anniversary to** Dave and Jackie (Meyer) Rosenthal.

According to the schedule and barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector will be Barb Todd, and Carolyn Van Til 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

Growing in God's Love (September 14, 2025)

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Green

1 Timothy 1:12-17

In all my years in ministry, I only once lived in a parsonage. The church-provided house was one of those Sears Roebuck mail-order homes that were popular from 1908 through the 1940s.

The house had pocket doors, a sunroom, and a cozy living room with a large stone fireplace. It also had a kitchen doorway that was marked with lines and dates, documenting the growth of a former pastor's child. Judging by the years etched into the wood, it seemed no one had the heart to ever sand the frame and give it a much needed coat of fresh paint.

The markings always intrigued me, making me pause each time I walked into the kitchen. I would gently touch the grooves and marvel at the miracle of growing up, not just physically, but spiritually as well.

I thought about how the growth lines on a doorframe are ultimately so finite. There comes the day when we reach our God-intended height. Our spiritual growth lines, though, are infinite. There is no stop point. God wants us to keep growing in knowledge of God's love. The Spirit wants us all to reach new and glorious heights.

The Apostle Paul, our ancient, prolific letter writer is once again penning a note of wisdom and grace. This time to his young disciple Timothy.

Paul wants to impart his honed leadership skills to Timothy, but before he does, he reflects on his own spiritual growth. He shares with Timothy how no one is beyond the reach of God's forgiveness and, once received, that forgiveness leads to a spiritual growth spurt that Paul himself experienced. Once a persecutor of Jews, God's grace led Paul to become a towering proponent of Christ's love.

Paul's letter to Timothy is one we all need to read this day because no matter how old we are, we need to remember that we should never stop growing spiritually. There is a divine doorframe with markings on it for each one of us, recording just how much we have matured in the knowledge of a great and redeeming God.

Wondering just how much you have grown? Here's a spiritual exercise for you. Think back to who you were 5 years ago. Now 10 years. How about 20 years ago? What did you believe? What were the prejudices you clung to? What were the awakenings your soul experienced?

Now mind you, spiritual growth does not always mean a notch higher up on the heavenly doorframe year after year. There might be years of no growth. There might even be years of backsliding. And that's okay, because the wonderful truth is this: God always gives us another chance. There are limitless opportunities to keep growing in the Spirit.

God of wisdom, may we never stop growing in the Spirit. May we continue to master the lessons you have for us — lessons on how to love one another, how to trust your guidance, and how to forgive and show grace to others. 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.)
