

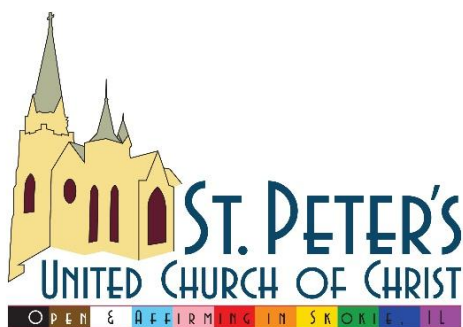
Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,
September 21,
2025**

10:00 AM

**Fifteenth 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 21, 2025 at 10:00am
Fifteenth 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 "Jubilant Psalm" by Lehenbauer

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS Peggy Reins

You may stand in body or spirit.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, let us worship God, the Creator of all things, who calls us to dwell in peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.

All: **We gather in gratitude for God's creation, longing for justice and peace to abide in the land.**

One: Come, let us follow the Lord Jesus Christ, who reconciles all things and leads us in the way of righteousness, so that the wilderness may become a fruitful field and the fruitful field be deemed a forest.

All: **We come to walk in the footsteps of Christ, seeking healing for creation and peace for all people.**

One: Come, let us move with the Holy Spirit, the breath of life, who is poured out upon us, bringing

renewal to the earth and restoring the harmony of Creation.

All: We praise God, who revives the land and calls us to be peacemakers with all of Creation.

OPENING HYMN “Stars and Planets Flung in Orbit”

See Insert

CALL TO CONFESSION

One: All Creation is full of God’s praise, and we are called to join in with joy, righteousness and peacefulness. Yet as we look around us, we see conflict and destruction. Let us come before the Triune God and as for truth-telling and renewal.

Stars and Planets Flung in Orbit


HERMAN G. STUEMPFLE, JR.

JOHN GOSS (1869)

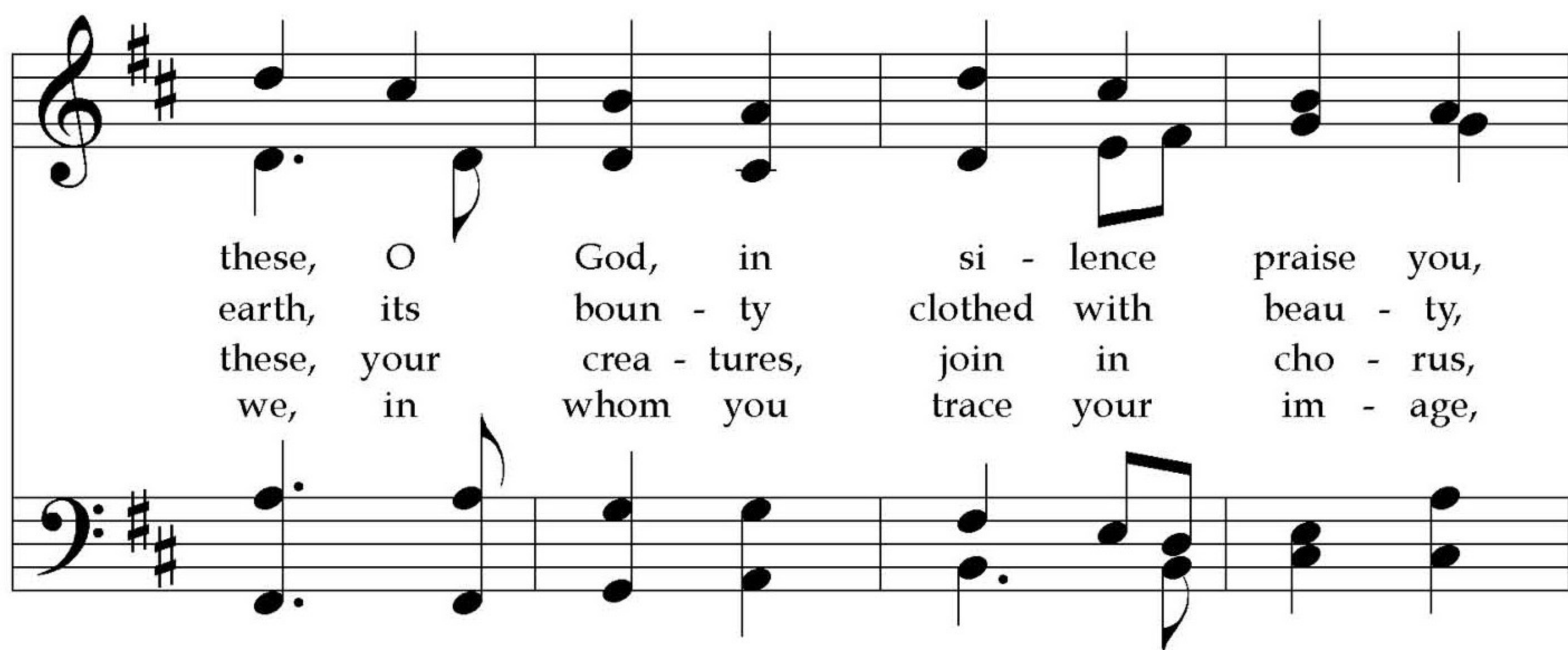
Stars and plan - ets flung in or - bit,
Skies a - dorned with sun - set splen - dor,
Life in won - drous, wild pro - fu - sion,
Hu - man - kind, earth's deep - est mys - tery,

gal - ax - ies that swirl through space,
si - lent peaks in calm re - pose,
seed and fruit, each flow'r and tree,
born of dust but touched by grace,

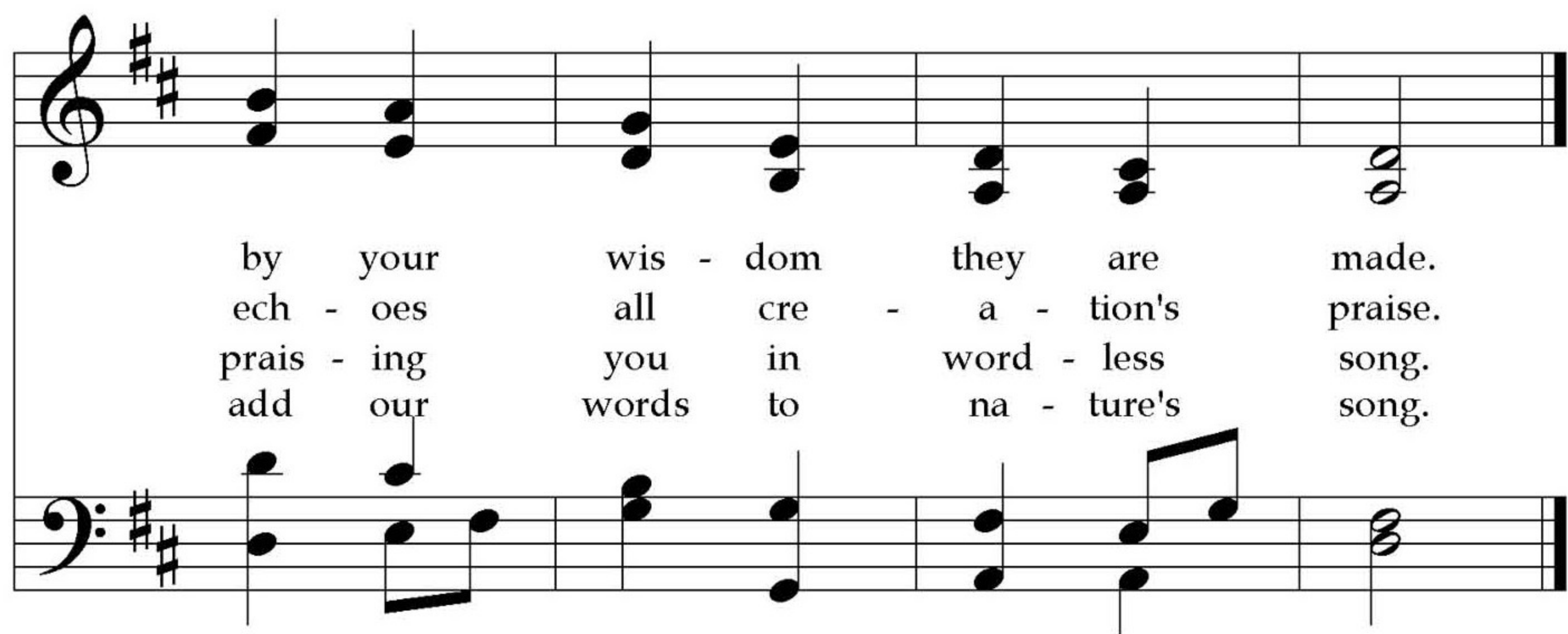
pow - ers hid with - in the at - om,
gol - den fields a - wait - ing har - vest,
beast and fish and swarm - ing in - sect,
torn a - part by tongue and col - or,



cells that form an in - fant's face:
foam - ing surf and fra - grant rose:
soar - ing bird, re - joic - ing free:
yet a sin - gle, striv - ing race:



these, O God, in si - lence praise you,
earth, its boun - ty clothed with beau - ty,
these, your crea - tures, join in cho - rus,
we, in whom you trace your im - age,



by your wis - dom they are made.
ech - oes all cre - a - tion's praise.
prais - ing you in word - less song.
add our words to na - ture's song.

5. Gra-cious God, we bring be-fore you
gifts of hu-man life a-lone,
Truth that throbs through song and sto-ry,
vi-sions caught in paint and stone:
These, O God, we glad-ly of-fer,
Gifts to praise the Giv-er's name.

6. Christ, the Word be-fore cre-a-tion
as cre-a-tion's fin-al goal,
Once you came for earth's re-demp-tion;
by your Spir-it make earth whole.
Then, O God, the new cre-a-tion
will your praise for-ev-er sing.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Lord God of the Universe,
God of Life,
heal your wounded Earth.
Empower us to choose the road that leads to life.
Guide us in the paths of righteousness, for your
name's sake,
so that we may experience once again
your Shalom in the land and in the sea.
This we ask in the name of the one
who came that we may have life in abundance—
your Son, our Savior, Jesus the Christ.
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-lu-jah! Hal-le-lu-jah! Hal-le-lu-jah!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Barb Todd

Hebrew Scripture

Jeremiah 8:18- 9:1

Psalter

Psalm 113

Christian Scripture

Luke 16:1-13

CHORAL ANTHEM “Sing a New Song to the Lord”

by Sleeth

SERMON

“Secrets of Stewardship”

SUNG RESPONSE "There is a Balm in Gilead"

Intro



There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;

there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.

1 Some - times I feel dis - cour-aged and think my work's in vain,
 2 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can - not pray like Paul,
 3 Don't ev - er be dis - cour-aged, for Je - sus is your friend;

Refrain



but then the Ho - ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.
 you can tell the love of Je - sus and say, "He died for all."
 and if you lack for knowl-edge, he'll ne'er re - fuse to lend.

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 “Take My Gifts and Let Me Love You”

Shirley Erena Murray

1 Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
 2 Take the fruit that I have gathered from the tree your Spir-it sowed,
 3 Take what-ev - er I can of - fer— gifts that I have yet to find,

gave me light and food and shel - ter, gave me life and set me free,
 har - vest of your own com-pas - sion, juice that makes the wine of God,
 skills that I am slow to sharp - en, tal - ents of the hand and mind,

now be - cause your love has touched me, I have love to give a - way,
 spiced with hu - mor, laced with laugh - ter— fla - vor of the Je - sus life,
 things made beau - ti - ful for oth - ers in the place where I must be:

now the bread of love is ris - ing, loaves of love to mul - ti - ply!
 tang of risk and new ad - ven - ture, taste and zest be - yond be - lief.
 take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me.

Shirley Erena Murray

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:

Season of Creation Celebration Guide 2025 by Season of Creation Ecumenical Steering Committee Members. WCC Ecumenical Centre's Morning Prayer, Geneva, Led by ACT.

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

INTERIM MINISTER	Rev. Brenda Barnes Jamieson
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Beth Sterba
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Annie Noorts
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Carolyn Van Til

News in the Pews

Welcome to worship as we enter a new season. Autumn's turning leaves remind us of God's creative power and faithful rhythm of change. May this hour be one of reflection, gratitude, and renewal.

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

Pop-Top Can goods needed – a rep from the Jesse Brown VA Hospital will be coming after the sale for donations, and we'd like to surprise them with a box of pop-top can goods for their grab and go area- they are in need. Bring a can or 2 to the rummage sale or with you next Sunday. 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. 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!

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.

The Pet Blessing will be Sunday, October 26th from 3-4pm. Bring your 4-legged beloved friend for a blessing from Pastor Brenda! In addition to a blessing, we'll have treats for humans and pets, a pet raffle, and C.A.R.E. will be on hand with short leashes and information on adoptable animals. All are welcome, suggested donation of \$5.

Our People

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

- Richard Hook who has heart complications.
- Kathy Zipperer and her family.
- Paul Abramchik and the Abramchik family.
- Dorothy Panzke with a new health concern.
- 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 Amanda Steegmueller and Beth Sterba.

According to the schedule and barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector will be Barb Todd, and Rita McMahon 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

Prayerful Living (September 21, 2025)

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Green

1 Timothy 2:1-7

I recently discovered there's a monastery just over the mountain from my home in Vermont. Founded in 1960 by a Carthusian monk, the monastery prides itself on being very private. Throughout the years, only once was a newspaper reporter invited inside its holy of holies.

Perhaps this guarded solitude is what helps the monks true to their motto, "the cross is steady while the world keeps turning."

While closed to the public, the monastery does have a website. You can imagine my husband's reaction when he found me reading the "how to join us" page. Lucky for him, I did not have any of the qualifications. That hasn't stopped me, though, from desiring a cloistered life.

The world just seems so volatile these days. It doesn't take much for my faith to waver, and many times I feel my cross is unsteady in this turning and churning world. I need more quiet moments amid the chaos. I need a stronger prayer life.

What I need the most, however, is to find a way to live a monastic life while still being plugged into the world. Is that even possible?

According to author, Kathleen Norris, it is.

Norris wrote at length about the power of capturing “monk moments” as you go about your day. She explains that it isn’t necessary to turn your back on the world to have deep communion with God. Monk moments are those moments of grace, epiphanies, and peace that are happening all the time. We just need to be open to them.

In fact, I am having a monk moment right now as I write this reflection in a crowded airport en route to preach for a friend in Miami.

At first glance, this setting is anything but conducive to writing. The air is thick with the stress of many flight delays. The chatter is loud as people call loved ones with new estimated arrival times and gate changes blare over airport speakers.

And yet, this is my holy ground. There is nothing that is stopping me from talking to God. I can pray. Right here, right now. I can pray for the family that just walked right by me. I can pray for the woman sitting across from me worrying about her flight connection. I can pray for the loved ones I hold in my heart as well as the strangers filling the seats here at the airline gate.

After all, being a praying people is what God desires from us. And as the Apostle Paul reminds his young disciple, Timothy, our thanksgivings to God should be made for all people in all places. I don’t need to run away to a monastery to pray. I can — and am — having a monk moment right now. What about you?

All-knowing and ever-listening God, fill our days with beautiful monk moments — moments where amid the noise and chaos of the world, we find peace and solace in your presence. 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.)
