



Welcome



ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR
**Wednesday,
December 24, 2025
7:00 PM**

Christmas Eve





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](https://www.facebook.com/stpeteruccskokie)

Website: www.stpeteruccskokie.org

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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
Tuesday, December 24, 2025 at 7:00 PM
Christmas Eve**

Welcome to worship. The music before the service is intended as a time of silent prayer and preparation.

PRELUDER "Christmas Joy" by P. Lehenbauer
THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

You may stand in body or spirit.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Let us go to see what has happened. Let us go with the shepherds:

All: Let us go and find the One of whom the angels sang.

One: Let us go with those who are wise:

All: Let us go and find the One who brings God's truth to us.

One: Let us go with the poor in spirit, and in flesh;
let us go with those who are humbled by life:

All: Let us find the Glory of God born in a stable
and placed in a feeding trough.

One: Let us go with friends and family, neighbors and strangers,
let us go with all the children of God:

All: Let us go to find the One who comes to lead us home to God's kingdom.

One: O come, let us go to the Babe of Bethlehem;
O come, let us adore him!

All: Christ our Lord!

CAROL**“O Come All Ye Faithful”**

ALL: **O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;
O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;
O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!**

**Yea, Lord we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;
O come let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord!**

Please be seated.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Dorothy Panzke

One: Preparing for this night, we have been lighting the candles of Advent:
Hope against apathy, Peace against war, Joy against despair, Love

against estrangement.

The first four candles are lit. Lighting the Advent Candles is Ricky Riley.

ADVENT CAROL “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

ALL: O Come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Child of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

One: But now we pray for an even bigger miracle. Come, Emmanuel. The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight. We lit our lights to call the Light. "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." Christ is born.

The Christ candle is lit.

PRAYER

ALL: God with us, kindle your spark within us, that together we may shine forth your light, we might banish the shadows of this world, we might be the continuation of the Christmas miracle: Emmanuel is in this world, God is with us, now and evermore.

ALL: Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
his name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us;
his name is called Emmanuel.

First Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-7

Read by Peggy Reins

CAROL “Lo, How A Rose E’er Blooming” (*seated*)

ALL: **Lo, how a rose e’er blooming**
 from tender stem hath sprung.
 Of Jesse’s lineage coming,
 as saints of old have sung.
 It came, a floweret bright,
 amid the cold of winter,
 when half spent was the night.

Isaiah ‘twas foretold it,
the rose I have in mind.
With Mary we behold it,
the virgin mother kind.
To show God’s love aright
she bore for us a savior,
when half spent was the night.

SECOND LESSON

Luke 1: 39-56

Read by: Ben Westphal

CAROL “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” (*seated*)

ALL: **It came upon the midnight clear,**
 that glorious song of old,
 from angels bending near the earth
 to touch their harps of God:
 “Peace on the earth, good will to all,
 from heaven’s all-gracious King.”
 The world in solemn stillness lay
 to hear the angels sing.

**For lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophet seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold
When peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world
send back the song
which now the angels sing.**

THIRD LESSON**Matthew 1:18-25**

Read by: Marlene Russell

CAROL "Oh Little Town of Bethlehem" *(seated)***ALL:** **O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep,
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years,
Are met in thee tonight.**

**For Christ is born of Mary,
And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars together,
Proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King,**

And peace to all on earth.

FOURTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

Read by: Judy Paige

CAROL “Away in a Manager” (*seated*)

ALL: **Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,**
The little Lord Jesus
laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky
looked down where he lay,
The Little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus,
look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

FIFTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-14

Read by: Jen Schneider

CAROL “Hark the Herald Angels Sing” (*seated*)

ALL: **Hark! The herald angels sing,**
“Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;

**With the angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”**
**Hark! The herald angels sing
“Glory to the newborn King!
Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of the Virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased on earth with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.**
**Hark! The herald angels sing
“Glory to the newborn King!”**

SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2:15-20

Read by: Paul Froehlich

CAROL “Angels, We Have Heard on High” (*seated*)**ALL:** **Angels we have heard on high,**
 Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
 And the mountains in reply,
 Echoing their joyous strains.
 Glo-o-o-o-o-o-ria, in excelsis Deo!
 Glo-o-o-o-o-o-ria, in excelsis Deo!

**Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be,**

**Which inspire your heavenly song?
Glo-o-o-o-o-o-o-ria, in excelsis Deo!
Glo-o-o-o-o-o-o-ria, in excelsis Deo!**

**Come to Bethlehem and see,
Christ whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Glo-o-o-o-o-o-o-ria, in excelsis Deo!
Glo-o-o-o-o-o-o-ria, in excelsis Deo!**

MEDITATION

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

All: What can I offer, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise one, I would do my part;
but what can I give him: give him my heart.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All: Generous God, thank you for every good and perfect gift that we have received from you. We offer our gratitude that you invite, enable, and empower us to bless others through these gifts. Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Lullaby for a King”

by Hughes

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION**Invitation****Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

One: May the God of holy nights be with you!

All: And also with you!

One: People of God, this is the night God transformed our lives.

All: This is the night we offer our hearts to God.

One: Children of Bethlehem, lift your voices in joy to God.

All: Our voices join with all who celebrate the Birth this night.

One: Let us pray . . .

Sharing of the Bread and Cup**Prayer of Gratitude**

One: Most Holy God of Christmas, you have given us your greatest gift—
your very Word come to earth, to live with us and through us.
Receive our thanks and praise. As you have given to us, let us share
your gifts and your grace with a world in need. Amen.

SEVENTH LESSON

John 1:1-5,14

Read by Rev. Brenda Barnes Jamieson

SHARING THE LIGHT

Ushers will receive light from the Christ Candle and light the candle of the person nearest the center aisle in each row. Tip your unlit candle to the lit candle. Then, hold your lit candle straight up, so the next person can tip their own unlit candle.

CAROL**“Silent Night”**

All: **Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.**

**Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light,
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace;
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

CHRISTMAS 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

EXTINGUISHING OF CANDLES

You may wish to stand in body or spirit.

CAROL "Joy to the World"

All: Joy to the world! The Lord is come:

Let earth receive her king.

Let ev'ry heart, prepare him room,

And heav'n and nature sing,

And heav'n and nature sing,

And heav'n and heav'n and

Say to the earth: The Savior reigns,
Let all their songs employ:

Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, re-

White fields and woods, rocks, hills, and plains Present the scene in

**Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy;**

Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,

Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,

And makes the nations prove

The glories of his righteousness

And wonders of his love,

And wonders of his love,

And wonders, wonders of his love.

COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

“Venite Adoremus”

by Clarke

Today's liturgy is adapted from:

Thom Shuman, LectionaryLiturgies.com, 2010

John VanderLaar, Sacredize.com, 2008

Laura Jaquith Bartlett, “Worship Elements,” MinistryMatters.com, 2012

Meredith Menius, Ardmore United Methodist Church, Winston-Salem, NC

The Grace Of God Has Appeared!: Service Prayers for Christmas Eve/Day Year C, by
Stephanie Dorsey, [Worship Ways](http://WorshipWays.com).

The music after the service is intended as a time of reflection. Pastor will be pleased to greet you at the Sanctuary doors as soon as the postlude has concluded, and our livestream has stopped.

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

MINISTER

Rev. Brenda Barnes Jamieson

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Ben Westphal

DEACON

Peter Svenson

LIVESTREAM RECORDING

Greg Dennis



IN HONOR AND IN MEMORY POINSETTIAS 2025

Maria & Randy Altmayer

In Memory of Thomas Altmayer

Sue & Barbara Bailey

In Memory of our Parents and departed
Loved Ones

Sharon Johnson

In Memory of Johnnie and Susan

Lana and Don Kahn

In Memory of Roy & June Peterson, Love
Don, Lana, Haley and Dylan

Rita McMahon

In Honor of Gary McMahon and in Memory
of Ray McMahon

Peggy & Chad McCoy

In Memory of JoAnn McCoy

Annie & Gerry Noorts

In Memory of Mitzi Verdonck

Judy Paige

In Honor of our Savior's Birth



Harold Ruesch's daughters and their families

In Memory of Ruesch Family Loved Ones

Marlene Russell

In Honor of Special Friends, and in Memory
of Loved Ones

Alice & Bill Schaller

In Memory of Loved Ones

Theresa Stielow, Martha Mazur and Susan Schmidt

In Memory of our Parents, Harold and
Jacqueline Ruesch

The Sterba Family

In Honor of Barb & Jim Todd - 70 years of
marriage and commitment to St. Peter's

Barb & Jim Todd

In Memory of Loved Ones

