



Welcome

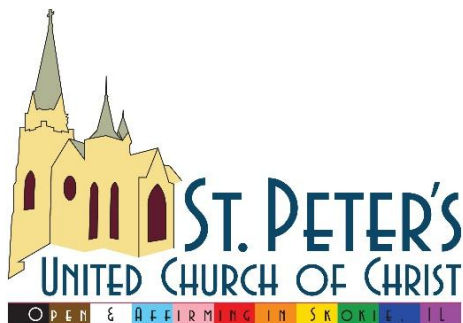
ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,
November 16,
2025
10:00 AM**

**Twenty-third
Sunday after Pentecost**

Presentation of Bibles

Blanket 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, November 16, 2025 at 10:00am****Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost****Presentation of Bibles****Blanket Sunday**

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 "Meditation on Jesus Loves Me" arr. Clarke

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Peggy Reins

You may stand in body or spirit.

CALL TO WORSHIP *Inspired by Psalm 98*

One: O Sing to our Creator a New Song,

All: Make a joyful noise to God, everyone!

One: With trumpets and sounds of the horn

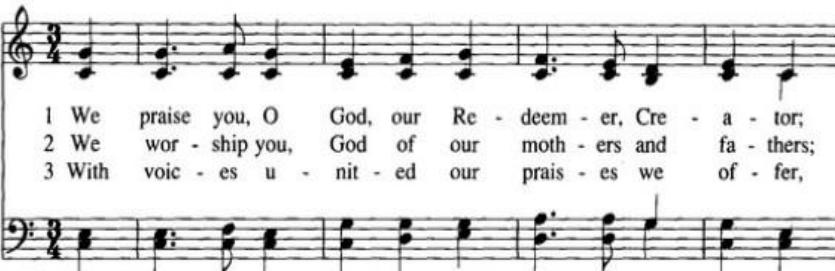
All: We create joyful sounds for you, God of love.

One: The hills will sing together in heavenly joy.

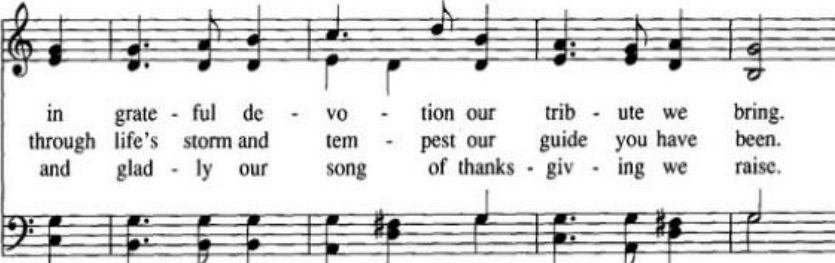
**All: Just as the sea roars and the artists rhyme, we
serenade our Creator.**

One: Let us worship God!

OPENING HYMN “We Praise You, O God”



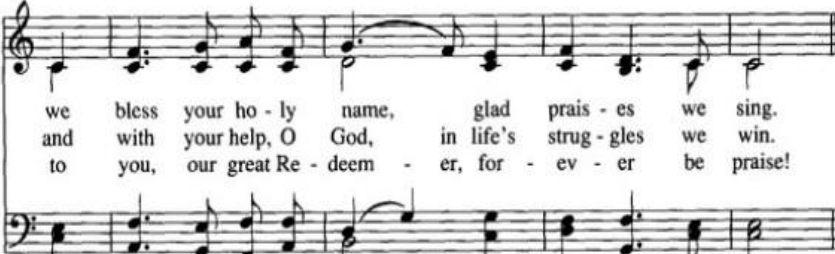
1 We praise you, O God, our Re - deem - er, Cre - a - tor;
 2 We wor - ship you, God of our moth - ers and fa - thers;
 3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer,



in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.
 through life's storm and tem - pest our guide you have been.
 and glad - ly our song of thanks - giv - ing we raise.



We lay it be - fore you, we kneel and a - dore you;
 When per - ils o'er - take us, you nev - er will for - sake us,
 Our sins now con - fess - ing, we pray for your bless - ing;



we bless your ho - ly name, glad prais - es we sing.
 and with your help, O God, in life's strug - gles we win.
 to you, our great Re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: O God of hope, your love and care is always with us. Sometimes we forget that. All around us we see dangers, hatred and violence. Sometimes it feels like too much.

Today we bring all of life's struggles to you. Help us believe in Isaiah's vision of the peaceable reign and in your promise of a new heaven and new earth. Let your cry be our cry: "They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain." Amen.

Pause for quiet reflection

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: God loves us more than we can ask or imagine.

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

One: In Jesus our 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!

Share a sign of God's peace: a smile, a wave, an elbow bump, a handshake, a hug. Let us fill this space with love.

SUNG RESPONSE "Halle, Halle, Hallelujah"

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES

One: The Bible has been handed on through generations of faithful people. Today we hand it on to these young people. It comes from God, through all of you. We will start these Bibles in the back of the sanctuary and pass them forward. When one comes to you, hold it. Bless it. Fill it with your love, so that when these young people read it, your love will help them to feel God's love.

HYMN "Jesus Loves Me"

1 Je - sus loves me! This I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so.
 2 Je - sus loves me! This I know, as he loved so long a - go,
 3 Je - sus loves me, still to - day, walk - ing with me on my way,

Lit - tle ones to him be - long; they are weak, but he is strong,
 tak - ing chil - dren on his knee, say - ing, "Let them come to me."
 want - ing as a friend to give light and love to all who live,

Refrain

Yes, Je - sus loves me! Yes, Je - sus loves me!

Yes, Je - sus loves me! The Bi - ble tells me so.

- One:** Receive the Word of God.
Learn its stories and study its words.
Its stories belong to all of us.
They tell us who we are.
They tell us that we belong to one another,
for we are the people of God.
- Young People:** We receive these Bibles with our hands,
our hearts and our minds.
Thank you.
We will read and study the Bible together.
- Congregation:** **We rejoice in this step in your journey with God.**
We pray God will guide you, your family and us
as you use this Holy Bible in your home,
in your church school classes, and in our worship.
We will learn together
and grow in our love for God's Word.
Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rich Schneider

Psalm 98: 4-9

**All: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.
 break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**

Hebrew Scripture

Isaiah 65:17-14

You may wish to stand for the reading of the Gospel.

CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE

Luke 21:5-19

Please be seated.

CHORAL ANTHEM “Sing a New Song to the Lord”

By Sleeth

SERMON “A New Heaven and a New Earth”

HYMN “Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in E-flat major, 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of staves. The lyrics are: "Lord, lis - ten to your chil - dren pray - ing, Lord, send your Spir - it in this place; Lord, lis - ten to your chil - dren pray - ing, send us love, send us power, send us grace." The score includes various musical notations such as chords, accidentals, and dynamic markings (e.g., Adim7). The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is 4/4.

Lord, lis - ten to your chil - dren pray - ing, Lord, send your

Spir - it in this place; Lord, lis - ten to your chil - dren

pray - ing, send us love, send us power, send us grace.

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

**One: We worship a God who gives generously: the food
we eat, the friends and family we cherish, and the
precious gift of God's love. When that love abides
in us, we share our love with our neighbors.
Through our offerings and our special gifts for
Blanket Sunday, we provide hope to neighbors all
over the world.**

OFFERTORY**“How Beautiful”**

by Twila Paris, arr. by Lloyd Larson

Played by Phillip Johnson

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

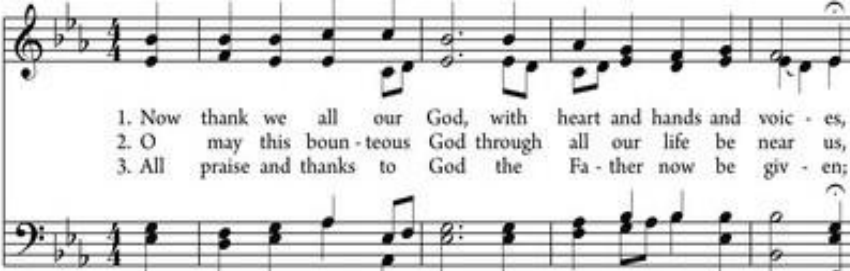
Sing to the tune of “All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night”

**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: Gracious God, bless these gifts. May they bring
warmth and shelter, comfort and privacy, healing
and hope wherever your people may need care.
May we be transformed in our sharing. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN “Now Thank We All Our God”



1. Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voice,
 2. O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
 3. All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given;



who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
 with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
 the Son, and Him who reigns with Them in highest heaven;



who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way
 and keep us still in grace, and guide us when perplexed;
 the one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore;



with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to day.
 and free us from all ills, in this world and the next.
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be ever more.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Now Thank We All Our God” arr. Crüger

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

Today’s liturgy is adapted from:

Gain Your Souls: Service Prayers for the Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost by Rev. Michelle L. Torigian , an ordained UCC minister in Belleville, Illinois.

The United Methodist Church Discipleship Ministries: An order for the presentation of Bibles;

Church World Service Blanket Sunday Leader’s Guide.

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

INTERIM MINISTER	Rev. Brenda Barnes Jamieson
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Peter Svenson
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Annie Noorts
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Mike Ryan

POINSETTIAS

Orders are now being
taken for Christmas

Poinsettias. This years' colors are Red and Marble. See below for details on each. To place an order, please fill in the form below, include payment and drop it off at the office, mail it to St Peter's, or place it in the collection plate on Sunday morning. *The deadline for ordering is Sunday, December 7th 2025.* The plants will be delivered to the church in time to decorate the sanctuary on Christmas Eve. Please take your plants after Christmas Eve worship if possible.



Name:	Phone #:	
In Honor Of:	In Memory Of:	

Quantity	Color	Price	Total
	Red (6") Single	\$16.00	
	Marble (6") Single	\$16.00	
Grand Total			

CWS BLANKETS

Blanket the World in Love

Blanketing the world in love is easy when people of faith unite through the Church World Service (CWS) Blankets and Kits ministry. Together, we can offer comfort, hope and warmth to our neighbors during their most challenging times.

Imagine the impact of your compassion. Each blanket and kit serves as a tangible expression of God's love—sharing warmth on a chilly night, relief in a crisis and a reminder that someone truly cares.



Join other generous donors and share tangible expressions of love with our neighbors in need:

\$10 Provides a CWS Blanket to someone in need.

\$25 Provides a CWS Blanket and a CWS Hygiene Kit, offering warmth and essential supplies.

\$60 Family Bundle! Provides blankets and hygiene kits for an entire family, ensuring that they have what they need during challenging times.



*Be the hands and feet of Christ in the world.
Donate to CWS Blankets today! Scan this QR
code to get started*



Scan Me!



CWS

cwsblankets.org



Join Others in Sharing *Love and Hope*

"Seeing families' faces light up as we hand them CWS Blankets and Hygiene Kits was unforgettable. These blankets and kits are more than supplies—they're gifts of hope."

—Tamara Skillern, Rise & Shine, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, TX

When you support CWS Blankets you:



***Provide Immediate
Solutions***



***Connect with Other
People of Faith***



***Follow Christ's
Example***

God of hope and promises, we pray by sharing these blankets and kits that God's love will be spread far and wide.

Donate today! Give cash, write a check payable to CWS Blankets or visit cwsblankets.org/donate

*"And when we take your gifts to those who need them,
they will thank God."*

—2 Corinthians 9:11



News in the Pews

We joyfully welcome all worshipers to this celebration of his reign—ushering us into the peace and justice of God's kingdom. Come, take your place among the gathered faithful, and offer your worship to the King of all.

Please consider donating to our Blanket Sunday collection! Sponsored by the Women's Guild, Church World Service brings blankets to folks in disasters to aid in giving comfort. More information on our insert.

Congratulations to our 3rd graders who received Bibles today! Thank you for taking time to help bless them.

Thank you to Phillip Johnson, who is playing our Offertory. Phillip is a retired hospital chaplain from NC, Philip is a lifelong church musician. He spends a month in Spring and Fall in Skokie to visit his child and their spouse. He greatly appreciates the church opening its doors to allow him to practice whenever he is in town.

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

It is our turn to donate and serve at A Just Harvest, Nov 29th from 11AM to 2:30PM. We are collecting donations totaling \$500 all this month. If you'd like to serve, contact Chad McCoy at chadwood.mccoy@gmail.com.

The Thanksgiving Interfaith Service is Nov. 25th at 7:30PM. The theme this year is Mental Health. Join us at Central United Methodist Church in Skokie (8237 Kenton Ave.) Don't forget to bring a food pantry donation.

Holiday dinner donations needed NOW at the Jewel! These dinners go to needy families in Skokie School District 69, as well as folks that come

to our door and use our mini-pantry. Go to the Jewel Foods at the Village Crossing Shopping center to donate at the service desk, (5667 Touhy, Niles) or if shopping, donate at the registers. If you have any questions contact me (Laura) in the office.

Advent candle lighting volunteers are needed! We will have a sign-up sheet in the Narthex on Sunday and it will be downstairs near the offices during the week. Pastor Brenda will give you more information closer to the event.

December 7th, the Niles Township Clergy Forum is having a special shopping day caravan to Little Village, who, since the recent attacks on immigrants have been decimated and need support. We will have more info as it becomes available, and you can also talk to Pastor Brenda.

Christmas Carol Sing December 14th at 3PM! Join us as we celebrate the holidays together in song. We will meet in the Sanctuary, and we hear the Women's Guild will be heading up appetizers after the event. Come join us and have some fun!

2026 Calendars are in! Copies will be available in the Narthex, the Lanford Fellowship Hall, and near the offices. Take one for a friend, too!

Poinsettia Orders are being taken now! Find a form in this bulletin or the November Announcer. Orders must be in by Dec. 7th. Thank you!

You can now donate via Zelle! Put finance@stpeteruccskokie.org in the address, and if you see the name Chad McCoy (our treasurer) come up, you're all set to donate!

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!

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.

Our People

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

- Kate Traub, niece of the Bailey's, who had Surgery Friday after a fall where she fractured her ankle.
 - Mark Taylor.
 - The Kuras family welcomed a baby girl Virginia! All are doing well.
 - Daughters of Ann Herren Jenny and Betsy, both recovering after surgeries last week.
Wendy, friend and colleague of Beth Sterba, who is fighting liver cancer.
 - Chad McCoy and his family.
 - Richard Hook who had a stroke.
 - Kathy Zipperer and her family.
 - Dorothy Panzke with a new health concern.
 - 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.
 - 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!

Happy Birthday this week to Chad McCoy, Christine Svenson, Heidi Tarzian and Pat Mauer Erdman.

According to the schedule and barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector will be Peggy Reins, 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.

Private Signs: You will notice certain rooms around the church have been designated as "private." If ICE should ever come to our building, they will not be allowed to enter any room marked "private."



MISSION MOMENTS

Take Heart (10/27/2024)

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

GREEN

Mark 10:46-52

Poor Bartimaeus. Blind and begging on the side of road just waiting for a kind soul to drop a coin or piece of bread into his wanting hands — perhaps even acknowledge his plight with an empathetic, “Take heart.”

But no one does.

Bartimaeus sits on what is most likely the infamous Jericho road, as Mark shares that Jesus was on the road leaving Jericho when he encounters the blind beggar.

It’s not a safe place to be. It is an 18-mile stretch of dirt, stone and danger. It was this thoroughway connecting Jerusalem and Jericho where a Good Samaritan tended to a traveler beaten and left for dead. Perhaps it is fitting for Bartimaeus to be there, as he himself has been left for dead as one of society’s forgotten ones.

Today, though, the Divine “take heart” speaks to Bartimaeus in the way of a growing commotion on the road. The shouts of the name “Jesus” reaches his ears. He knows the story of this man Jesus. He is the who makes the deaf hear and the crippled walk.

Could today be Bartimaeus’ turn to be made whole?

Jostled about, Bartimaeus adds to the ruckus, waving his arms and shouting, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

Others sneer at the beggar, commanding him to be quiet. Their seeing eyes are blind to the fact that even Bartimaeus is worthy of Jesus’ healing mercies.

Bartimaeus shouts more loudly. Amid the many voices, Jesus hears that of the blind beggar, as his words are laced with faith. Bartimaeus is called out of the crowd and healed by Jesus.

The day will come, if it hasn’t already, where we will find ourselves like Bartimaeus, sitting alone on a road no one wants to be on. We will find ourselves sinking into a pit of despair over some crisis or challenge that we just can’t see a way out of.

But Bartimaeus whispers to us, “Take heart!” Never lose courage — even in the darkest night of the soul. Reach for Jesus. Cry out his holy name.

Don’t let a cynical world silence your cries. Don’t let your own doubts in the Faithful One mock that tiny mustard seed of faith you are desperately holding onto.

Be persistent. Be loud. Be like Bartimaeus. Shout with all your might, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” And wait for your miracle to begin.

Gracious and Loving God, thank you for always being by our sides in our times of need. Continue to strengthen our voices so that our cries of help are loud and filled with faith. Help us to trust in Your mercies and remember that You are always making a way forward for us. Amen.

Isaiah 65:17-25

¹⁷ For I am about to create new heavens
and a new earth;
the former things shall not be remembered
or come to mind.

¹⁸ But be glad and rejoice forever
in what I am creating,
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy
and its people as a delight.

¹⁹ I will rejoice in Jerusalem
and delight in my people;
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it
or the cry of distress.

²⁰ No more shall there be in it
an infant who lives but a few days
or an old person who does not live out a lifetime,
for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth,
and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.

²¹ They shall build houses and inhabit them;
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

²² They shall not build and another inhabit;
they shall not plant and another eat,
for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

²³ They shall not labor in vain
or bear children for calamity,^[a]
for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord—
and their descendants as well.

²⁴ Before they call I will answer,
while they are yet speaking I will hear.

²⁵ The wolf and the lamb shall feed together;
the lion shall eat straw like the ox,
but the serpent—its food shall be dust!
They shall not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
says the Lord.

Psalms 98:4-9

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

⁵ Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody.
⁶ With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.
⁷ Let the sea roar and all that fills it,
the world and those who live in it.
⁸ Let the floods clap their hands;
let the hills sing together for joy
⁹ at the presence of the Lord, for he is coming
to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

Luke 21:5-19

⁵ When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, ⁶ “As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.”

⁷ They asked him, “Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?” ⁸ And he said, “Beware that you are not led astray, for many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’^[a] and, ‘The time is near!’^[b] Do not go after them.

⁹ “When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified, for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.” ¹⁰ Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; ¹¹ there will be great earthquakes and in various places famines and plagues, and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

¹² “But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. ¹³ This will give you an opportunity to testify. ¹⁴ So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance, ¹⁵ for I will give you words^[c] and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶ You will be betrayed even by parents and siblings, by relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷ You will be hated by all because of my name. ¹⁸ But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹ By your endurance you will gain your souls.