



Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,
December 7,
2025
10:00 AM**

**Second Sunday of
Advent**





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

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, December 7, 2025 at 10:00am
The Second Sunday of Advent

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 "Prepare the Royal Highway" arr. Costello

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peggy Reins

You may stand in body or spirit.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God's Spirit has led us here.

All: And where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is HOPE.

One: God's Spirit has led us here.

**All: And where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is
PEACE.**

One: The Spirit prepares the way for God-With-Us.

ALL: O Come, O Come Emmanuel!

OPENING HYMN “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

**A: O come, Desire of Nations, bind
all people in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife and quarrels cease;
fill the whole world with heaven’s peace.
Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

A WORD OF PEACE

Ann Herren

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE *Two candles are lit.*

Lighting the candle of Peace today is Michael Chavez, along with parent Aaron Chavez.

RESPONSE “Light Two Candles to Watch for Messiah”

v.2

Am Em/G F Dm

1. Light one can - dle to watch for Mes - si - ah:
 2. Light two can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah:
 3. Light three can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah:
 4. Light four can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah:

3 E Am/E E Am E/B

let the light ban - ish dark - ness. He___ shall bring sal -
 let the light ban - ish dark - ness. He___ shall feed the
 let the light ban - ish dark - ness. Lift___ your heads and
 let the light ban - ish dark - ness. He___ is com - ing,

6 Am/C Dm Dm/F Dm

va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills___ the
 flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead___ them
 lift high the gate - way for the King___ of
 tell the glad tid - ings, Let your lights___ be

8 E(sus4) E E(sus4) E Am

prom - ise.
 home - ward.
 glo - ry.
 shin - ing!

CALL TO CONFESSION

One: During this time of hope and promise, we prepare our hearts and minds by confessing our mistakes and hurtful actions, by clearing away all the clutter blocking out the light of God. Let us pray together.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Creator God, who knows us to our very core,
who can see where we ache and where we
delight,
who sings lullabies to the tender places in our
hearts,
help us find the peace
that speaks to our unnamed fears,
the peace that softens the argument
and lets us bend to a greater truth.
Help us make peace with what is real in our lives
even when we want to deny it.
And let us be the bringers of your peace, even
when we are in the thick of it.
Help us take in your Spirit before we react.
We ask this in the spirit of expansive Love.
Amen.

Pause for quiet reflection

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Long ago, God promised a coming day of peace, when all will know that we are forgiven, we are loved, we are being made whole.

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: Thanks be to God!

All: **Amen!**

SUNG RESPONSE “Gloria”

A: **Glo-o-o-o-o-o-ria, in excelsis Deo,
Glo-o-o-o-o-o-ria, in excelsis Deo.**

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.

HYMN "Awake, Awake to Greet the New Morn" v 1-2



1. A - wake! a - wake, and greet the new morn, For
 2. To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
 3. In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, When
 4. Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, Though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing, Sing out your joy, for
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, His hum - ble song is
 all the world is de - spair - ing, As morn - ing light so
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, The ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, Be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
 qui - et and near, Yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
 qui - et and free, So warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
 crown you with light, Be strong and lov - ing and fear - less;



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, To bring all hearts to -
 Mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul And hymns of lov - ing
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, The lame shall leap in
 Love be our song and love our prayer, And love, our end - less



geth - er, He o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door And
 kind - ness, The thun - der of his an - thems roll To
 won - der, The weak be raised a - bove the strong, And
 sto - ry, May God fill ev - 'ry day we share, And



lives now in - side us for ev - er.
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Carolyn Van Til

Hebrew Scripture

Isaiah 11:1-10

*You may wish to stand for the reading of the Gospel.***CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE**

Matthew 3:1-12

*Please be seated.***HYMN** “Awake, Awake to Greet the New Morn” v 3-4**SERMON** “A Vision of Peace”**CHOIR ANTHEM** “A Shoot Shall Come Forth”

by Richard Horn

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.**

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: What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

If I were a wise man, I would do my part;

yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

A: Holy God, we know that what we regard as excess, others may need, and all that we need, others may regard as excess. May we recognize that when all share, all are enriched. In joyful thanksgiving, we offer our gifts. Amen.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: May the Advent God give you hope.

All: May God grant you peace.

One: Let us lift our hearts to God who offers
righteousness to all.

**All: We open our hearts to the One who loves
justice.**

One: Children of God, rejoice in the One who call us to
Live in harmony with everyone.

All: Amen and Amen! We give our thanks to God!

One: Let us pray . . .

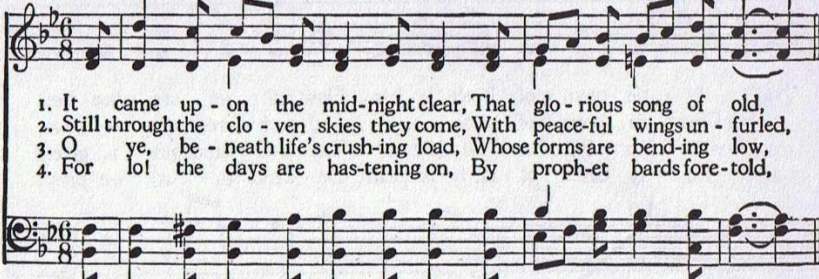
Words of Institution and Consecration

Sharing of Bread and Cup

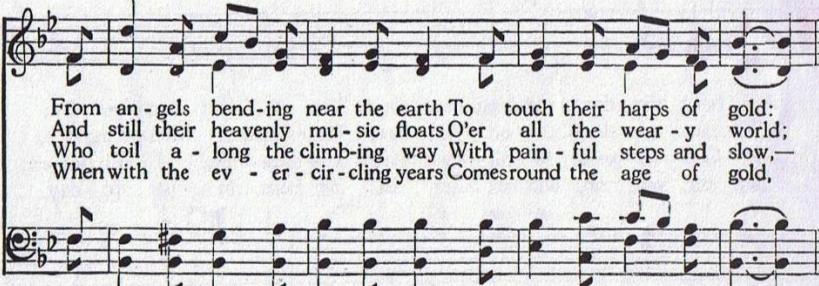
Prayer of Gratitude

**A: God, as you have welcomed us in these moments,
let us go to embrace each person we meet. As Jesus
has been our servant of hope and grace, let us go to
serve the most vulnerable around us. As your Spirit
of hope has filled us, let us go to empty ourselves of
joy and peace for all. Amen.**

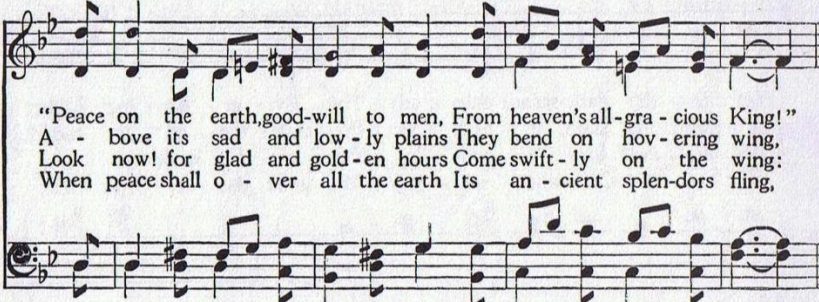
CLOSING HYMN "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"



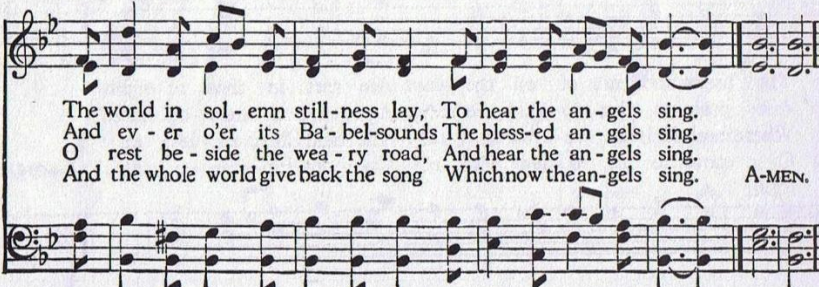
1. It came up - on the mid - night clear, That glo - rious song of old,
 2. Still through the clo - ven skies they come, With peace - ful wings un - furled,
 3. O ye, be - neath life's crush - ing load, Whose forms are bend - ing low,
 4. For lo! the days are has - tening on, By proph - et bards fore - told,



From an - gels bend - ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold:
 And still their heavenly mu - sic floats O'er all the wear - y world;
 Who toil a - long the climb - ing way With pain - ful steps and slow,
 When with the ev - er - cir - cling years Comes round the age of gold,



"Peace on the earth, good - will to men, From heaven's all - gra - cious King!"
 A - bove its sad and low - ly plains They bend on hov - ering wing,
 Look now! for glad and gold - en hours Come swift - ly on the wing:
 When peace shall o - ver all the earth Its an - cient splen - dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay, To hear the an - gels sing.
 And ev - er o'er its Ba - bel - sounds The bless - ed an - gels sing.
 O rest be - side the wea - ry road, And hear the an - gels sing.
 And the whole world give back the song Which now the an - gels sing. A - MEN.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Rejoice, Rejoice!” arr. Lehenbauerer

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

Today’s liturgy is adapted from:

Phil Porter, worshipwords.co/uk/advent/peace/prayer

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

INTERIM MINISTER	Rev. Brenda Barnes Jamieson
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Jenn Schneider
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Greg Dennis
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Kathy Zipperer



AN OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

8013 Laramie Ave. Skokie, IL 60077 | 847.673.8166 | www.stpeteruccskokie.org

November 2025

Dear St. Peter's Members and Friends,

Please accept our gratitude for your ongoing support, prayers, presence and generosity during this period of transition at St. Peter's. We continue to be a vibrant worshipping presence in our community with mission projects that help others beyond our walls. It is in times such as these, that having St. Peter's UCC is more important than ever.

Being able to give is both a blessing and an awesome opportunity to be a witness to God's love. Your regular contributions to St. Peter's combine to form the main source of financial support for the salaries of our church staff, mission and outreach, and building maintenance. We have supported our many community partners this year: The Night Ministry, Military Outreach USA, A Just Harvest, Niles Township Food Pantry, The Douglas Center, Refugee One, C.A.R.E. and more.

As we look ahead, the following projects will be worked on next year. Front steps will be repaired and the brick walls supporting them replaced. The flooring in our Sunday school wing will need to be updated. The heating and cooling systems continue to surprise us with necessary and costly repairs.

As you think about your 2025 year-end giving, we ask that you consider making an extra gift to St. Peter's. You might also think about including St. Peter's in your estate planning to become a legacy donor.

May this coming Advent season be a blessing to you and your family, and may God bless and guide you in your giving!

Faithfully,
The Board of Finance

Mail check to:
St. Peter's UCC
8013 Laramie Ave
Skokie, IL. 60077

Donations may be made safely via Zelle using the email, finance@stpeteruccskokie.org



You can also donate electronically safely via PayPal or Vanco on our web site
<https://www.stpeteruccskokie.org/donate>

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			

News in the Pews

On this second Sunday of Advent, we eagerly welcome all who have joined with us in anticipation of the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ. May this time of worship be encouraging and inspirational to all.

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

Poinsettia Orders are due today! These beautiful flowers will be used to decorate the sanctuary and can be taken home after Christmas Eve worship. Dedicate your flowers in honor/memory of those you love or have lost. Find your form in this bulletin and place in the offering with your payment.

This year, we want two sets of volunteers to assist us with our Advent candles each week. 1. candle lighters and partner/family/friend(s) who will read our candle lighting liturgy; and 2. a worshipper to talk about their personal reflections on the theme of the week (hope, peace, love, joy). If you are interested in either role, please see the sign-up sheets at church, or let Brenda or Laura know.

Today, 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. Talk to Pastor Brenda after worship if you'd like to join us.

Women's Guild annual Holiday Party and Cookie Walk is this Wednesday, December 10, 2025 at 11:30AM in Lanford Fellowship Hall. Bring cookies for the cookie walk, if you are able. All women of the church are invited and welcome!!

The Women's Guild is participating in the Pinta Project at their meeting this Wednesday. We will be signing and sending out Christmas cards to people in the LGBTQ+ community who have expressed interest in receiving them. This includes individuals and families, kids, teenagers, college

students, etc. Please join us to help us with this wonderful project. If you have any questions reach out to Annie North.

Advent devotionals! Our Advent devotional for 2025, "Soon and Very Soon" is now available by PDF or printed out. If you are interested in either a PDF or a printed version, email me at office@stpeteruccskokie.org. There will be a few printed copies in the Narthex on Sunday and by the offices as well.

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!

Baby Shower for Jesus! Our Sunday School program is sponsoring collecting baby items for the Niles Township Food pantry to give to their needy families. Items like baby food formula, diapers, lotions, cheerios, fruit cups, fruit snacks, juice and milk boxes and pudding cups are all great items to donate. You can place your items in the sanctuary under the tree on Sundays, or on the table outside the gym during the week. Thank you so much for your help!

Christmas dinner donations needed NOW at the Jewel! 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 can't make it, you can give the donation to Heidi Tarzian, hctarzian@gmail.com, who works there, and she'll donate it. If you have any questions, contact me (Laura) in the office.

Thinking about joining the church? We will be holding classes in January. If you might be interested, please tell Brenda, Laura or another church leader.

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!

You can now donate via Zelle! Put finance@stpeteruccskokie.org in the address. Please indicate under memo/notes where the funds should go, i.e. weekly offering, poinsettia order, etc.

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, recovering from surgery.
 - 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.
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 Drew Ryan, Erik Christianson and Jon Mau Gemignani.

According to the schedule and barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector will be David Iannotti, and Laurie Mitchell is on Nursery duty after a switch. 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.

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

Vision of Peace

December 7, 2025

Second Sunday of Advent

PURPLE

Isaiah 11:1-10

The year was 1481. Switzerland was on the verge of a civil war — again. Forty years earlier, the Old Zürich War raged over succession issues. For a country whose name is synonymous with “neutrality,” such factions seem unfathomable. Human nature, though, is predictable and conflicts are inevitable. This time, though, there would be no bloodstained alpine meadows. Instead, a child of God would emerge to broker peace among the divided villages.

Nicholas of Flüe was his name. He was a man of the mountains who bid farewell to his wife and 10 children two decades earlier to devote his life to God. He left with just a cloak on his back and no shoes. Legend has it that Nicholas, who would later be called “Brother Klaus,” sustained himself with the elements of the Eucharist, eating bread and wine for the remainder of his life.

When unrest came to the country, Nicholas, a former soldier who had seen his share of carnage, knew he had to speak for peace. History does not record what he said, but opposing parties miraculously came together. What was documented was how

church bells pealed triumphantly that Christmas of 1481, ringing continuously for four days.

It's a beautiful story to have on this second Sunday of Advent — one that echoes the vision of peace Isaiah brings to us, where all get along and no one is harmed. There are cows feeding with bears, an infant plays near a cobra's den, and a child puts its hand in the viper's nest. The message is clear: On God's holy mountain there will be no destruction to anyone or anything.

That holy mountain is still, though, a vision. Just ask Switzerland about its warring history. Yet that doesn't mean we let go of hope. Rather, as God sent the prophets to speak of peace, we are being called to speak to our communities of a better way to live together. We are to be the brokers of peace who, like Nicholas, hold steadfast to the belief that "peace cannot be destroyed, but discord can" and that true peace is "always in God, for God is peace." It was this thinking that led to Nicholas' canonization by Pope Pius XXII in 1947, making him Switzerland's only saint.

The Christmas bells rang with the good news of peace on Earth in Switzerland in 1481 thanks to a soldier-turned-hermit-turned-saint who believed Isaiah's vision was possible. Imagine the peace we could bring into the world today if we too believed.

God of Advent waiting, help us become brokers of peace. Soften our hearts and make tender our words so that love is heard rather than hate and discourse. 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.)

Isaiah 11:1-10

11 A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow^[a] out of his roots.

²The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

³His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see
or decide by what his ears hear,

⁴but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed^[b] together,
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations
shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Psalms 72:1-7, 18, 19

¹Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to a king's son.

²May he judge your people with righteousness
and your poor with justice.

³May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.

⁴ May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the needy,
and crush the oppressor.
⁵ May he live^[a] while the sun endures
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.
⁶ May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth.
⁷ In his days may righteousness flourish
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.
¹⁸ Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.
¹⁹ Blessed be his glorious name forever;
may his glory fill the whole earth.
Amen and Amen.

Matthew 3:1-12

3 In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”^[a] **3** This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’”
⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.
⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his^[b] baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.
¹¹ “I baptize you with^[c] water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with^[d] the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”