



Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,
June 1, 2025
10:00 AM**

**Seventh Sunday of
Easter**





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, June 1, 2025 at 10:00am
Seventh Sunday of Easter

*During our sacred music, listen. Take in God's peace. Then ask yourself:
Who else needs this peace of God?*

PRELUDE

Selected

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peggy Reins

You may stand in body or spirit.

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: Come, beloved community, and listen to the story of transformation.

C: **We gather to hear of freedom, hope, and divine presence among us.**

P: As Paul and Silas, we are called to listen for God's voice in unexpected places — even in prisons of despair.

C: **We seek God's grace, which breaks open our hearts and opens doors of liberation.**

P: Let us rejoice that in Christ, every chain can be unbound, and every life can be renewed.

C: **We come with open hearts, ready to be moved by the Spirit's power to bring justice, mercy, and love.**

All: Come, let us worship the God who listens, heals, and sets us free!

GATHERING HYMN

“Gathered Here in the Mystery of this Hour”

Text and music: Phil Porter, 1990

The musical notation is written on two staves in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is a simple, flowing line. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff contains the first two phrases, and the second staff contains the next two phrases. The phrases are numbered 1 through 4.

1 Gath-ered here in the mys-tery of this hour, 2 gath-ered here in one strong

3 bod - y, 4 gath-ered here in the strug-ple and the power, Spir - it draw near.

This chant may be sung as a round.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

P: Jesus teaches us that true greatness is found in serving others and humbling ourselves. Yet, we confess that we often seek our own way, valuing power over humility, and comfort over compassion. Please join me in our prayer of confession:

All: Gracious God, we come before you with humble hearts, acknowledging that we are sometimes caught up in the pursuit of greatness and recognition. We confess that we, like the disciples, often struggle to understand what true greatness means in your kingdom. We confess that instead of serving others with humility, we sometimes seek to hold onto power, status, or control, forgetting that your way is one of love, service, and sacrifice. We put ourselves at the center, rather than you and

those you call us to serve. We confess our complicit silence when we see injustice, our reluctance to speak out against oppression, and our hesitance to step into uncomfortable places of need. Forgive us for the times we have prioritized our comfort over your call to care for the vulnerable. Lord Jesus, you teach us that greatness is found in humility and in serving the least among us. Yet, we often find ourselves divided by pride, fear, or indifference. Still, you meet us in our brokenness and remind us of your radical love and grace.

(Silence for personal reflection)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

P: Hear the good news:

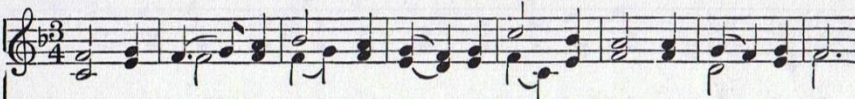
Christ came into the world to serve, to heal, and to save. His life, death, and resurrection demonstrate the power of humble love. In mercy, God forgives us, renews us, and calls us to follow in Christ's way.

C: Thanks be to God! We are forgiven, loved, and empowered to live in humility and love.


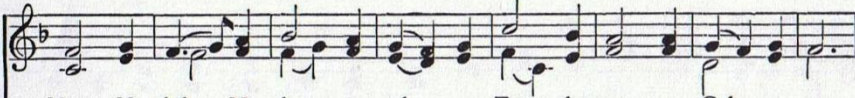
P: May the Spirit strengthen us to serve without seeking praise, to lift up the lowly, and to work for justice with compassion. Let us go forward renewed in grace and committed to following Christ's example in our daily lives.

All: Amen.


HYMN "I Will Sing of the Wondrous Story"



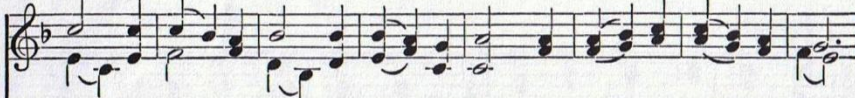
1. I will sing the won-drous sto - ry Of the Christ who died for me,
 2. I was lost, but Je - sus found me, Found the sheep that went a - stray;
 3. I was bruised, but Je - sus healed me; Faint was I from many a fall;
 4. Days of dark - ness still come o'er me, Sor-row's paths I of - ten tread,

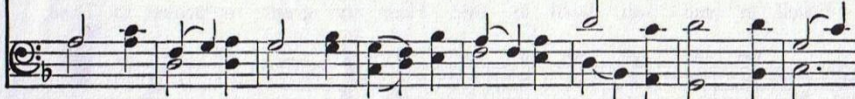
How He left His home in glo - ry For the cross on Cal - va - ry.
 Threw His lov - ing arms a - round me, Drew me back in - to His way.
 Sight was gone, and fears pos - sessed me, But He freed me from them all.
 But the Sav - iour still is with me, By His hand I'm safe - ly led.



REFRAIN



Yes, I'll sing the won-drous sto - ry Of the Christ who died for me,




Sing it with the saints in glo - ry, Gath - ered by the crys - tal sea.



The congregation may be seated

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION AND SCRIPTURE READING

Karen Christianson

EPISTLE LESSON

Acts 16: 16-34

CHORAL ANTHEM

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

You may wish to stand, in body or in spirit.

GOSPEL Reading

Mark 9:35-42

You may be seated

PASTORAL PRAYER, 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.

RESPONSE “Halle, Halle, Halle,” sung twice

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le - lu - ja, hal - le - lu - ja.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION *Unison*

A: Gracious and Generous God,

We come before you with grateful hearts, acknowledging the gifts and blessings you have bestowed upon us. As we offer our resources today, may they reflect our love for you and our commitment to serve others. Bless these gifts, that they may be used to further your work of justice, compassion, and hope in our community and beyond. Help us to be wise stewards of all you have entrusted to us, and inspire us to give not just from our abundance, but from our hearts. In gratitude, we dedicate this offering to your service. Amen.

You may be seated.

SERMON

"Allies"

Bishop Tim Wolfe

CLOSING HYMN "You Shall Go Out with Joy"

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;
 the moun-tains and the hills will break forth be -
 fore you; there'll be shouts of joy, and all the
 trees of the field will clap, will clap their hands.
 And all the trees of the field will clap their hands;
 the trees of the field will clap their hands;
 the trees of the field will clap their hands
 while you go out with joy.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Selected

We pause to reflect during the Postlude as we prepare to follow God out into the world.

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

Before his death Jesus prayed that all his followers “may be one” (John 17). We gather as the one body of Christ to worship and grow. Welcome.


We extend our gratitude to all our volunteers; without their help, this service would not be possible.

Thank you to Bishop Tim Wolfe filling in for Brenda this morning. Tim, a son of Pentecostal pastors, likes to tell people he “miraculously managed to come out of the closet with his faith intact.” Since 2023 he has served as the Bishop of the Fellowship of Affirming Ministries’ Midwest Region, leading a group across 9 states. Tim holds a bachelor’s degree in Psychology from Northwestern and Master of Divinity from Chicago Theological Seminary. In his free time, he works with organizations like the Poor People’s Campaign, Lighthouse Foundation, Chicago Coalition of Welcoming Churches and the Children’s Defense Fund. All with the loving support of his partner of 34 years and their cat, Milo.

We will celebrate Holy Communion next Sunday, which is also Pentecost Sunday.

Rummage sorting set-up help needed! Today after worship we are going to set up tables in the gym. All helpers are welcome, appreciated and much needed! Rummage sorting will start shortly after that (we'll update you on days and times). Donations are welcome starting June 1st and can be put in the gym, look for signage as to where to put your items. Thanks so much!

New pre-worship gathering - Community and personal growth come together in meaningful conversation. While Sunday School and choir take a summer vacation, we can be open to other things. Church members and friends will meet before worship to talk about one of the UCC's daily devotional readings from the past week. The daily devotionals offer brief, inspiring stories and messages based on the Bible, written by the God Is Still Speaking Writers' Group. We will gather at 9:15am in Lanford Fellowship Hall for a short opening prayer and finish by 9:45am. Leaders will rotate, with members taking turns selecting a daily reading and launching the conversation. Anyone can lead, everyone is welcome to join. To get started, sign up for the Daily Devotional here: <https://www.ucc.org/daily-devotional/>. Then, plan to join us before worship on June 8. May we find blessing in the joy of reading and coming together in community!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Undy  500 ☒ last month! Also, **thank you to those who volunteered at A Just Harvest yesterday**, those who donated funds and those who shopped, to make our turn to serve successful!

Graduate or big event in the family? Let the office know so we can celebrate with you! office@stpeteruccskokie.org. Thanks!

Rummage Sale donations – we will publicly be accepting donations starting the first week of June. Now's a great time to clean out your closets, basements, attics, and garages. We accept just about anything except furniture and old TVs or old computers.

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:

- Rolf, father of work friend of Jen, for healing and a speedy recovery after falling off a ladder, suffering a concussion and a break of his sacrum in 3 places.
- Nicole McGinnis, childhood friend of Laura's who is fighting rare stage 4 cancer.
- David, uncle of Chad McCoy, as he undergoes kidney dialysis treatments.
- Prayers for healing for Ginger Kalensky and Dorothy Panzke.
- Robert Elliot, brother-in-law of Anna Riley, diagnosed with cancer stage 2.
- Prayers for Julius and all immigrants, refugees and displaced people.
- Judy Paige who is having knee therapy for the third time.
- Sharon Johnson's daughter Donna continues her battle with Lymphoma, which can be controlled but not cured.
- Susan Garcia's Aunt Janice battling cancer.
- Jane Abramchik continues to recover at home aided by a team of home caregivers and her husband Paul.
- 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 Happy Birthday to Barb Todd, Ben Rees, Edmund Oliver Christianson, Katy Schuhrke, Baggio Salvatierra and Colin Medaglia. **Happy Anniversary** to Gena and Dayle Zelenka.

According to the schedule and barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector will be Ann Herren, and our Nursery Attendant will be Rita McMahon.

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.

Our mini-food pantry is a daily mission this church does for the community of Skokie. If you are able, please 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

Disciples Together (5/25/2025)

Sixth Sunday after Easter

WHITE

Acts 16:9-15

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing ... such is the opening line to the treasured Dutch hymn that was translated into English in the late 1890s.

Since then, U.S. congregations have traditionally sung these words during the season of Thanksgiving, as it captures so beautifully the image of scattered and busy families gathering around a warm and welcoming table to break bread together.

There's perhaps no better way to strengthen the bonds of humanity with this fractured world than by slowing down and sitting down to a table to share a meal with another.

Yet studies show that those meaningful meals have fallen by the wayside. Gone are the Sunday roasts that filled grandma's kitchen with heavenly smells. Gone are the suppers where families sat down and talked to one another rather than texting others. Gone are many of the beloved church dinners as the saints who cooked and cleaned are now serving at the heavenly banquet with cheerful and glad hearts.

One of the key components of following Jesus is that we are not meant to go through this life alone. We were meant to be disciples together. Jesus illustrated this for us when early in the training of his disciples he sent them out in pairs to heal in his name. And he showed us the power there was in the sharing of the common cup. Something that Paul continued to do as he traveled sharing the news of Jesus.

It was outside of a city gate, we are told, that Paul went to the river to pray. He attracted the attention of a group of women who, after conversations with the apostle, were then baptized in the river. One of the women, Lydia, a dealer of purple cloth which was an expensive and a much-coveted item, invited Paul to stay at her home to share a meal and talk some more.

When was the last time we were intentional about inviting someone to join us for a time of fellowship — the new widow, the divorced parent or the single person who often feels forgotten amid all the couples?

In Dietrich Bonhoeffer's book, "Life Together," the German theologian noted that there is an amazing blessing of "being able to gather with other believers." As many, he observed, walk a lonely road "in the isolation of infirmity and age." Bonhoeffer then added, "it is grace, nothing but grace, that we are allowed to live in community."

My friends, we are called to be disciples together always remembering that it is nothing but grace that allows the blessed community that we all need to be formed.

Life-giving God, may we become disciples of love, reaching out to the lost and the lonely. May we slow down and set our tables once again, inviting all to share more than a meal, but to share in the sustaining beauty of community. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.
