



Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,
November 30,
2025
10:00 AM**

First 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, November 30, 2025 at 10:00am
The First 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 "Personent Hodie" arr. Lehenbauer

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.

OPENING HYMN "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

Unison, with spirit

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
 2. O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer Our spir - its by Thine
 3. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind All peo - ples in one

Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 ad - vent here; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,
 heart and mind; Bid en - vy, strife and dis - cord cease;

HARMONY

Un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -
 And death's dark shad - ows put to flight. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -
 Fill the whole world with heav - en's peace. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -

UNISON

man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!
 man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!
 man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el! A-MEN.

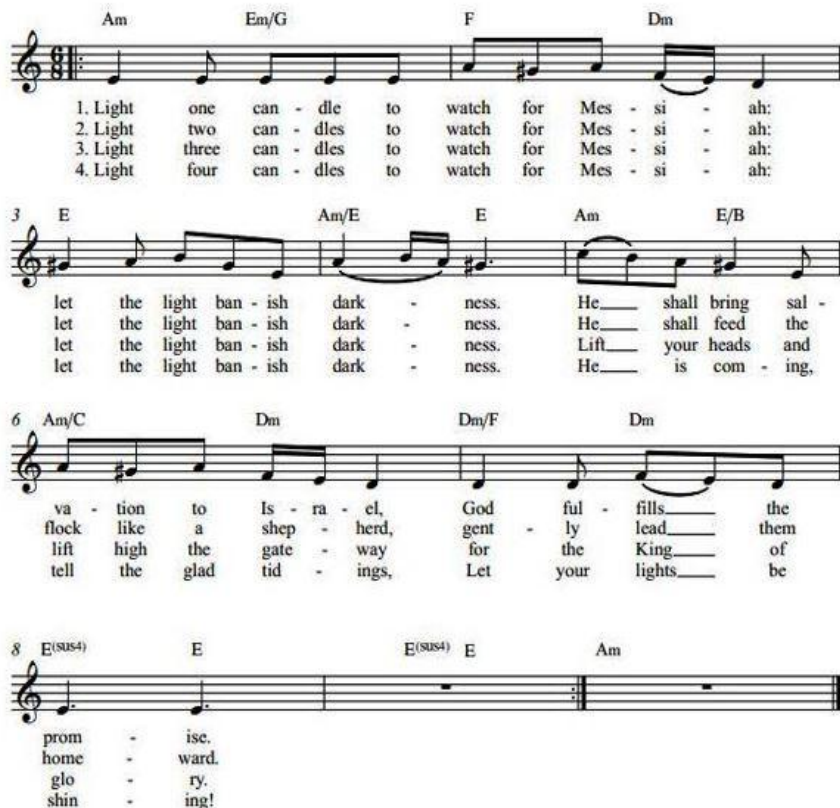
A WORD OF HOPE

Annie Noorts

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE *One Candle is Lit*

Lighting the candle of Hope today is Maura Dubinskas, along with parents Kristin Gulinski and Heather Dubinkas.

RESPONSE “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah” v.1



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, 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: The very fact that we are waiting is a confession that we are searching for hope, peace, joy and love. Let us pray together.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: In a world full of hopelessness, we sometimes forget that you are our hope, dear God. Consumed by the chaos of the world, we lean into helplessness instead of your loving embrace. We forget that you promised us hope for a future.

Stimulate our memory, dear God. Remind us of that hope you assured us of. Be with us as we cling to it in the midnight hours of waiting.
Amen.

Pause for quiet reflection

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: God responds to darkness with a light that pierces through despair.

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

“Gloria”

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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Barb Todd

Hebrew Scripture

Isaiah 2:1-5

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

CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE

Matthew 24:36-44

Please be seated.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn”

SERMON

“The Other End”

HYMN “Awake, Awake to Greet the New Morn”



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.

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

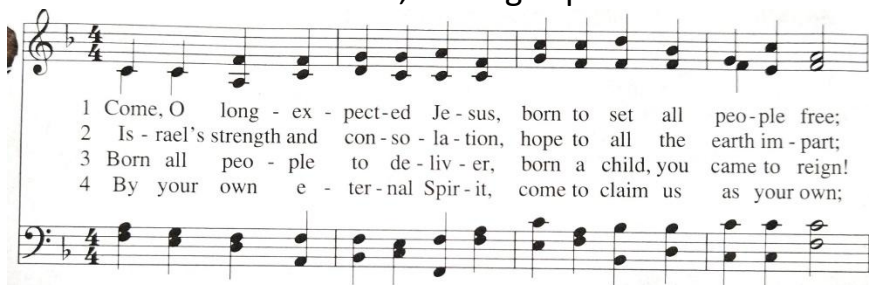
Sing to the tune of "All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night"

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.

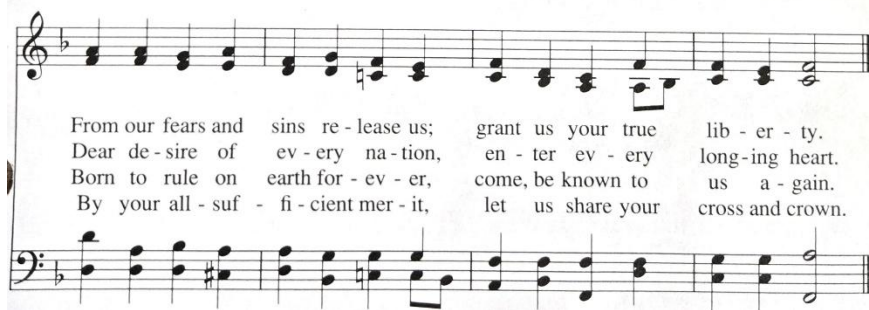
PRAYER OF DEDICATION

A: God of hope and wonder, even surrounded by
confusion and trouble we look for you. Take these
gifts and use them for acts of justice, peace, mercy,
and hope. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN “Come, O Long Expected Jesus”



1 Come, O long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set all peo-ple free;
 2 Is - rael's strength and con-so - la - tion, hope to all the earth im - part;
 3 Born all peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, you came to reign!
 4 By your own e - ter - nal Spir - it, come to claim us as your own;



From our fears and sins re - lease us; grant us your true lib - er - ty.
 Dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, en - ter ev - ery long-ing heart.
 Born to rule on earth for - ev - er, come, be known to us a - gain.
 By your all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, let us share your cross and crown.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Wachet Auf” arr. Callahan

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

Today's liturgy is adapted from:

From <<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/are-we-there-yet/first-sunday-of-advent-year-a-planning-notes>>

and Sidney D. Fowler, minister for worship, liturgy, and spiritual formation, and Arthur Clyde, minister for worship, music, and liturgical arts, with the Worship and Education Ministry Team of Local Church Ministries in Cleveland, Ohio.

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

INTERIM MINISTER	Rev. Brenda Barnes Jamieson
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Jenn Schneider
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Rich Schneider
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Denise Hopp

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

This last Sunday in November is also the first Sunday of Advent. We are delighted that you have come to worship. Let us now begin to spiritually prepare ourselves for the celebration of Christ's birth.

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

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Advent decorations Saturday.

Please join us after worship downstairs in Lanford Fellowship Hall for a special Coffee Hour honoring Advent, hosted by the Board of Christian Education.

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.

Baby Shower for Jesus! Starting today 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!

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.

Christmas 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 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.

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. Please indicate under memo/notes where the funds should go, i.e. weekly offering, poinsettia order, etc.

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.
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 Sandy Guenther, Louie Lopez and Peggy Reins McCoy. **Happy Anniversary** to Nancy & Phil Lindroth and Judy and Jim Williford.

According to the schedule and barring any switches, next Sunday’s Lector will be Carolyn Van Til, and Kathy Zipperer 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.

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

Called to Gift (November 30, 2025)

First Sunday of Advent

Purple

Matthew 24:36-44

The season of Advent has begun. Four weeks till the birth of Christ. Four weeks of journeying to Bethlehem. Four weeks of lighting candles around the Advent wreath.

I love this season that begs for us to turn our back on the commercial frenzy of the holiday so that we can embrace the spiritual practices of slowing down and, as Matthew's Gospel tells us, learn to be "watchful" for we do not know when the Son of Man will return.

I will admit that I am an advocate for Advent. But no matter how hard I try to do the holidays differently than those around me, I get sucked into the busyness. And if there is one thing that I really dislike the most about this time of year, it's the gift giving.

Now before I am labeled a Grinch — or worst yet, a Scrooge — let me explain. My anxiety with Christmas gifts stems from the fact that I never have any idea what to get those I love. I envy those who know just what trinket would make their spouse, friend, or child smile.

Last year, I was especially drawing a blank as to what to get my father. Then two days before December 25, I remembered the jar of homemade mincemeat I had in my cupboard. I then remembered how much my father loved mincemeat pies.

I had an epiphany. I would make him a pie. The choice of this gift felt so right. I was excited to prepare it, imagining the joy on his face when I gave it to him. And the day I gave it to him, his expression of joy was better than I imagined.

I realized then that being a good gift giver is all about being attentive to others — to borrow from Matthew, being “watchful” — and truly learning how to listen.

Gift giving isn’t hard when you realize gifts are all around you.

There’s a term in the Church that I happen to love, especially this time of year when we might be struggling with our Christmas shopping lists. It’s “called to gift.” At first glance, it might seem grammatically incorrect. Called to do what? Gift?

But “called to gift” reminds us to take the spiritual gifts we have been given by God and share them with others. We are called to gift the world with the light that shone that holy night. We are called to gift strangers with adoration just like the Magi bestowed upon Jesus. We are called to gift our loved ones with the same song of peace and good will that the angels sang announcing the babe’s birth.

What are you being “called to gift” this season?

God, as the season of Advent begins, we remember how out of great love for us you gave us Jesus. That is the most amazing gift we have ever received. Help us now to share that gift of love with others. Help us to become amazing gift givers of your Spirit, Word and Truth. 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 2:1-5

2 The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

² In days to come

the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

³ Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵ O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the Lord!

Psalms 122

¹ I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the Lord!"

² Our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

³ Jerusalem—built as a city
that is bound firmly together.

⁴ To it the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord,
as was decreed for Israel,
to give thanks to the name of the Lord.

⁵ For there the thrones for judgment were set up,
the thrones of the house of David.

⁶ Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:

“May they prosper who love you.

⁷ Peace be within your walls

and security within your towers.”

⁸ For the sake of my relatives and friends

I will say, “Peace be within you.”

⁹ For the sake of the house of the Lord our God,

I will seek your good.

Matthew 24:36-44

³⁶ “But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son,^[a] but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day^[b] your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.