

Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

Sunday,

May 17, 2026

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!

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
8013 Laramie Ave., Skokie, IL 60077
Order of Worship for
The Sixth Sunday of Easter
Sunday, May 17, 2026 at 10:00am**

Meditation during our sacred music:

*Listen. Be attentive. Feel God's Spirit connect all of us gathered here,
those with us online and in spirit, and those who cannot be present today.*

PRELUDE "Come, Christians, Join to Sing"
arr. Mark Hayes

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS Peggy Reins

You may stand in body or spirit.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Easter people, Christ has completed the work of salvation, reconciling us to God so that we may know eternal life.

All: Through Christ, we are made one with God.

One: In life, death, and Resurrection, Christ guides us into eternal life with God here and now.

All: Through Christ, we are made one in God.

One: Through prayer and teaching, healing and serving, Christ draws us together as the people of God, diverse members of the one body.

All: Through Christ, we are made one with God and one another.

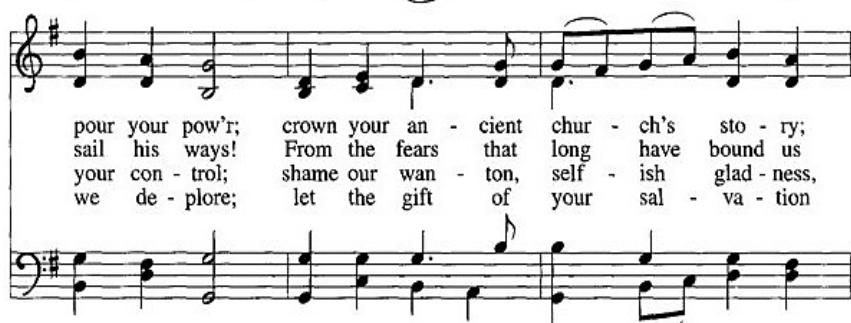
One: So, come, let us worship God who saves us into eternal life with God and one another!

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

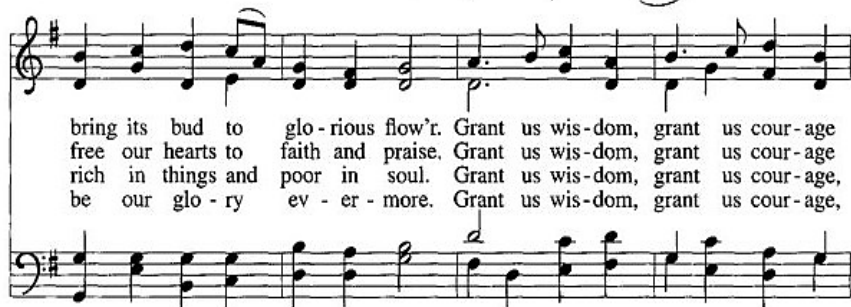
GATHERING HYMN "God of Grace and God of Glory"



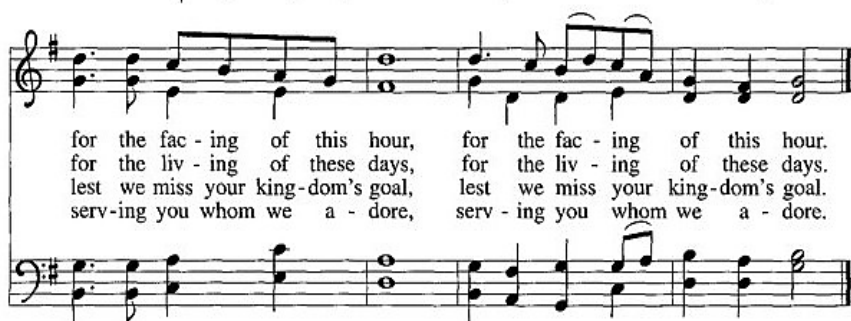
1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
 2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
 your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
 we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion



bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

You may be seated.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

**A: Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit
you have made us one with your saints
in heaven and on earth.
Help us to see your presence
burning in the hearts of others;
grant that we may be united
in a fellowship of love and prayer;
give us the courage to pick up our cross
and respond to the needs of the world,
give us the stamina to follow you,
to be your hands and heart in the world;
enable us to witness to your grace and mercy.
We pray through the love of our Risen Christ. Amen.**

Pause for quiet prayer

WORDS OF GRACE

One: Friends, believe the Good News. We are created to live in community, to share with each other, to repair relationships and to bring healing to the world.

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! Hallelujah!

PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you all!

All: 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, Halle”
Halle, Halle, Hallelujah! Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!
Halle, Halle, Hallelujah! Hallelujah, Hallelujah!

The congregation may be seated.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Mark Loach

Historical Scripture:

Acts 1:6:14

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

GOSPEL LESSON:

John 17:1-11

Please be seated.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Selected

SERMON

“On the Cusp”

HYMN "We All Are One in Mission"

1 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,
 2 We all are called for ser - vice to wit - ness in God's name.
 3 Now let us be u - nit - ed and let our song be heard.

our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.
 Our min - is - tries are dif - ferent; our pur - pose is the same:
 Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing word.

A sin - gle, great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove
 to touch the lives of oth - ers by God's sur - pris - ing grace,
 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,

to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.
 so ev - ery folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.
 our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

The Congregation may be seated

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Today it is our great privilege to welcome new members into the life and ministry of St. Peter's United Church of Christ: Kristin Gulinski, Heather and Maura Dubinkis; Paul and Marilyn Froelich; Aaron and Michael Chavez; Paul Abramchek and George Ishu.

Invitation, Introductions, Sentences of Scripture

***Affirmation of Faith** *by all*

One: Do you believe in God?

All: I believe in God.

One: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

All: I believe in Jesus Christ.

One: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit.

All: I believe in the Holy Spirit.

Address:

By your baptism you were made one with us
in the body of Christ, the church.

Today we rejoice in your pilgrimage of faith
which has brought you to this time and place.

We give thanks for every community of faith
that has been your spiritual home,
and we celebrate your presence
in this household of faith.

Questions About Participation

Do you promise to participate in the life and mission of this family of God's people, sharing regularly in the worship of God and enlisting in the work of this local church as it serves this community and the world?

I promise, with the help of God.

Welcome and Reception

One: Let us, the members of St. Peter's United Church of Christ, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

All: **We welcome you with joy
in the common life of this church.
We promise you our friendship and our prayer
as we share in the hopes and labors
of the church of Jesus Christ.
By the power of the Holy Spirit
may we continue to grow together
in God's knowledge and love
and be witnesses of our risen Savior.**

GREETINGS OF CHRISTIAN LOVE

PASTORAL AND SILENT PRAYERS**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 "Fairest Lord Jesus" arr. Joel Raney
*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

**All: Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
praise God, all creatures, here below!
Alleluia, Alleluia!
Praise God above, you heavenly host,
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost!
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

A: Creator God, you bless our lives with relationships that both inspire and challenge us. We offer these gifts so that we might continue to build relationships with one another and with your whole creation. Bless these gifts that they may bring wholeness and life abundance to all your people. Amen.

HYMN OF COMMITMENT

“Blessed Be the Tie that Binds”

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;
 2. Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;
 3. We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
 4. When we are called to part, it gives us in - ward pain;

the fel - low - ship of kin - dred minds is like to that a - bove.
 our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
 and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear,
 but we shall still be joined in heart and hope to meet a - gain.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Selected

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

Today's liturgy is adapted from:

Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, October 2025.

Terri, posted on RevGalBlogPals.

<http://revgalblogpals.blogspot.ca/2008/08/take-up-your-cross.html>

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

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



**Strengthen
the Church**



SENT FORTH IN
LOVE

Creating ministerial excellence

Your gifts to Strengthen the Church help support the work of the Ministerial Excellence, Support, and Authorization (MESA) team at the National Ministries of the United Church of Christ. This team supports the critical implementation of denominational polity for authorized ministry, especially equipping the Committees on Ministry that determine authorization of those persons who hold or are pursuing ministerial standing.

What does this mean?

In 2025, the MESA team hosted 23 Zoom trainings for Committees on Ministry (COMs) on the following topics, including:

- COM orientations for new and continuing COM members, particularly in how to offer hospitality to ministers and Members in Discernment;

- Specialized work on Fitness Reviews;
- The Endorsement Process for professional and governmental chaplaincy;
- Among other one-off trainings

In addition, MESA hosted

- Boundary Awareness Trainings focused on retired clergy and ministers serving in specialized settings such as hospital or university chaplaincy;
- Specialized learning for Members in Discernment;
- Regularly recurring online affinity groups for Campus Chaplains, Spiritual Support for Members in Discernment, Military Chaplains, Members in Discernment in Cross-Cultural Contexts, and VA chaplains;
- Targeted trainings with Conference staff focused on the search and call process, ongoing resource development, and working with ecumenically ordained ministers.

Learn more at www.ucc.org/mesa. Your gifts to Strengthen the Church build up strong leaders across our church.

Thank you for your generosity!

The Strengthen the Church Offering furthers the work of our Conference and National Ministries as we work together to strengthen and renew existing congregations, fund leadership development, and provide exciting new programs for youth and young adults. The offering is divided between your Conference and the National Ministries.

Learn more at www.ucc.org/stc



News in the Pews

We warmly greet all who have come to worship God. Your presence will enhance our worship experience and our fellowship together. Sincere thanks to each of you for your participation in the service and our time of sharing afterward. Blessings!

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

We'd like to congratulate all our new members joining today, we're lucky you've chosen St. Peter's UCC! Please join us downstairs after worship for a celebratory coffee hour.

Special thank you to Philip and Peggy Johnson, filling in for Ben today!

Our food pantry is dwindling again, donations are needed! Thank you to everyone who continues to donate, it's really appreciated!

Please be sure to check out the changes in the garden by the sign on Oakton. The old, overgrown bushes have been removed. A new pollinator garden with mostly native plants will be put in that area in the next few weeks. It will take some time for it to completely fill in. We can't wait to watch it grow! What can you do to help? Right now money is needed to pay for the compost and plants that are needed. We're thinking \$1,500 will cover the initial costs. If you are able to donate

toward this effort, please be sure to note "garden" on your donation. Watch for future requests for volunteers. If you have any questions, speak to Carolyn Kuechler. She is leading this effort to make this a beautiful area for years to come.

The UNDY 500 is back all of May! The "Undy 500" is a collection we do every year for The Night Ministry, who serves Chicago's most needy. All of May we will be collecting Men and Women's BRAND-NEW underwear in COLORS ONLY. All sizes are needed including PLUS sizes. We will have spots in the sanctuary and Lanford Hall for your donations. Thank you so much!

A Just Harvest service is this month! We are collecting donations totaling \$500 for the cost of the meal and asking for volunteers to serve. Join us **Sat. May 30th from 11:30AM-2:30PM** at the kitchen. Contact Chad McCoy if you'd like to serve. Donations can be given in the offering, office or through your electronic giving. Thank you!

Pentecost is May 24th! You are welcome to wear red. May 24th is also our focus Sunday for the "Strengthen the Church" offering. Give if you are able.

Confirmation Sunday - During worship on June 7th please join us as we will celebrate the confirmation of Drew and Jake Ryan! Congratulations to them and their families!

Please let us know about any Graduations or other special events you'd like to share! We'll include those in our upcoming May and June Announcers.

Our People

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

- Matt Anthony, nephew of Marlene Russell, who has incurable cancer.
- Mark Taylor.
- Wendy, friend and colleague of Beth Sterba, who is fighting liver cancer.
- Annie's friend Renee is fighting a long term, rare illness.
- Nicole McGinnis, childhood friend of Laura's who is fighting stage 4 cancer.
- 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 and Lois Jarmuth.

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 Annie Noorts, Gail Hoellerich and Diane Meggs. **Happy Anniversary** to Mark and Ann Aler. God's blessings to you on your special day!

According to the schedule and barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector is Peter Svenson, our Nursery attendant is Heidi Tarzian. Thank you so much for your service!

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

PRESIDENT	Peggy Reins
VICE-PRESIDENT	Karen Christianson
TREASURER	Carolyn Kuechler (interim)
SECRETARY	Jenn Schneider
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Maria Altmayer (interim)

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.

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."

Donations to our mini-food pantry are always needed and greatly appreciated! Donations can be left in the narthex or downstairs by the offices on the designated shelves. Thank you!



MISSION MOMENTS

Spirit of Witness

May 17, 2026

Seventh Sunday of Easter

White

John 17:1-11

Eastertide is coming to an end. But before we usher in the power of the Holy Spirit at the celebration of Pentecost next week, I pause to pray. For you. Yes, you.

I have even stepped away from writing this to light a candle, thanking God for the hearts that would be touched by words that often seem a feeble attempt in capturing how amazing, awesome, and perplexingly mysterious our God is.

I thanked God for you, dear readers. I thanked God for each soul awakening to the Easter promise of new life. I thanked God that while we never have or never will see one another in person, we can still call each other siblings in Christ, connected by our thirst for not only knowing God, but for understanding God if only a little bit better.

Eastertide's 50 days are wrapping up and that means Jesus is about to leave his friends for good this time to ascend into Heaven. But before he goes, he talks to them, and he prays.

John 17 is known by scholars as the "high priestly prayer," where Jesus first prays for himself, thanking God for all that God has done through him, and then prays for others. I love that Jesus

begins with himself in mind. It is a reminder that it is not selfish to pray for ourselves.

As a pastor, I have heard many people brush aside their worries, uttering something like “enough about me, my problems a nothing compared to others.” That is so not true. Your worries, your fears and your problems matter to God. As the old hymn attests, many times “it’s me, it’s me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer.”

After praying for himself, Jesus then prays for his friends, thanking God for them and asking for continued strength and protection for their days ahead.

I wonder how many times after Jesus finally left his earthly life that his friends remembered how, through the power of prayer, Jesus continues to be right there by their sides? How many times do we remember that when feeling lonely and needing our Friend and Savior in our life, that all we have to do is pray?

And what is prayer? It is simply talking to the one you love. Prayer is also sitting silently with the one you love the most as God doesn’t need our words. All God wants is our hearts.

And so, I find myself on this Sunday as Eastertide comes to an end, sitting here saying a prayer of thanks for each one of you reading these words right now. And I pray you feel those prayers.

Heavenly God, we know that You are not far off, but very close to us. You are always surrounding us with love and protection. We thank Jesus for his example of prayer, too. May this day we find ourselves praying more frequently and praying more boldly, remembering that prayer does change all things. 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.)

Acts 1:6-14

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. ¹³When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

John 17:1-11

17 After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all people,[a] to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, ⁸ for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹ I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹ And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.