


Welcome

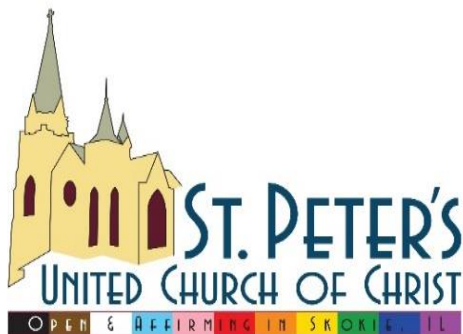
ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,
September 15,
2024
10:00 AM**

**Seventeenth
Sunday after
Pentecost**



The Lord Is My Shepherd
Psalm 23
This is one of King David's songs
about God:
The LORD is my shepherd,
He gives me everything I need,
He lets me lie down in fields
of grass. He leads me in
paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.





Welcome to Worship!

SUNDAYS @ 10:00AM

In-person Worship. Masks and distance recommended, not required

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

Laura Olson (Office Manager): office@stpeteruccskokie.org

Office hours Mon-Fri 9am to 2pm

Ben Westphal (Music Director): bcwestphal@gmail.com

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

OPENING PRAYER

A: Creator, we have come in response to your call to worship you. We have come to be in community with our neighbor. We have come onsite and online. We have come with quiet contemplation and boisterous joy. We have come in grief and with hope. We come to gather in your name, to honor your presence, and to give you praise. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

A: Loving God, we confess that you are a God of transformation and a solid rock. We strive to be like trees planted by the water, steadfast and unmovable at the same time that we embrace your continuing creative acts in the world and in our lives. We struggle at times to know when to remain firm and when to progress forward. Infuse us with your wisdom and discernment along with courage and grace to be fully who you have created us to be.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

P: Beloved, God knows the journey that has shaped you, honors the efforts you have undertaken, and sustains you when you extend yourself forward. The Righteous One is merciful and grace-filled. Creator delights in you. Be bold and encouraged for the Sovereign One believes in you and goes with you.

A: Thanks be to God! Amen.

HYMN

"How Great Thou Art"

arr. by GUSTAV S. KRAMER

Arr. by Stuart K. Hine

1. O Lord my God! When I in awe-some won-der Con-sid-er
 2. When through the woods and for-est glades I wan-der And hear the
 3. And when I think that God, His Son not spar-ing, Sent Him to
 4. When Christ shall come with shout of ac-cla-ma-tion And take me

all the worlds Thy hands have made, I see the stars, I hear the roll-ing
 birds sing sweet-ly in the trees; When I look down from loft-y mountain
 die, I scarce can take it in; That on the cross, my bur-den glad-ly
 home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum-ble ad-o-

REFRAIN

thun-der, Thy pow'r through-out the u-ni-verse dis-played,
 gran-deur And hear the brook and feel the gen-tle breeze; Then sings my
 bear-ing, He bled and died to take a-way my sin;
 ra-tion And there pro-claim, my God, how great Thou art!

soul, my Sav-iour God to Thee; How great Thou art, how great Thou art! Then sings my

soul, my Sav-iour God to Thee; How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

The congregation may be seated

MISSION MOMENT

Rev. Harriet Dart

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rich Schneider

Old Testament: Proverbs 1:20-33

Epistle: James 3:1-12

CHORAL ANTHEM “Be Thou My Vision”

Will those who are able please stand up

THE GOSPEL

Mark 7:24-37

RESPONSE “Hallelujah”

#495

The congregation may be seated

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

P: The Holy One creates, sustains, and renews with abundant generosity. Let us demonstrate our participation in the kingdom, our trust in God, and our stewardship of our resources through our giving to support our collective ministry.

OFFERTORY

If you donate electronically, feel free to place a yellow "Electronic Giving" card into the plate as it comes around so you can enjoy participating in the physical act of giving.

Will those who are able please stand up

RESPONSE

“We are An Offering”

SSB #11



We lift our voi - ces, — we lift our hands, — we lift our



lives — up to You, we are an of - fer - ing; — Lord, use our



voi - ces, — Lord, use our hands, — Lord, use our



lives, — they are Yours, we are an of - fer - ing. —



All that we have, — all that we are, —



all that we hope to be we give to You, we



give to You. — We lift our



voi - ces, — we lift our hands, — we lift our



lives — up to You, we are an of - fer - ing, — we are an of - fer - ing. —

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

A: Generous God, may these gifts honor your name and your generous Spirit alive within us. We thank you for the opportunity and privilege of contributing to your kingdom and our world.

PULPIT HYMN

"Be Thou My Vision"

Unison

1. Be Thou my Vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2. Be Thou my Wis - dom, and Thou my true Word;
 3. Rich - es I heed not, nor man's emp - ty praise,
 4. High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art—
 I ev - er with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
 Thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
 May I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!

Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 Thou my great Fa - ther, I Thy true son;
 Thou and Thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

Wak - ing or sleep - ing, Thy pres - ence my light.
 Thou in me dwell - ing, and I with Thee one.
 High King of heav - en, my Treas - ure Thou art.
 Still be my Vi - sion, O Rul - er of all. A - men.

P = Pastor

C = Congregation

A = All

The congregation may be seated

SERMON

“Called to Follow”

Will those who are able please stand up

HYMN "Woke Up This Morning"

1 I woke up this morn-ing with my mind stayed on
 2 Sing-ing and pray-ing with my mind stayed on

Hal-le - lu - jah,

Je - sus, Woke up this morn-ing with my mind stayed on Je - sus,
 Je - sus, Sing-ing and pray-ing with my mind stayed on Je - sus,

Woke up this morn-ing with my mind stayed on Je - sus,
 Sing-ing and pray-ing with my mind stayed on Je - sus,

Hal-le-lu - jah,

Hal-le - lu, hal-le - lu, hal-le - lu - jah.

Hal-le, hal-le - lu - jah.

BENEDICTION

P: May you reflect the goodness of God in the land of the living.

May you appreciate the beauty of God’s creation.
And may you know and be known in every encounter.

Rest in the identity of the Holy One as you go in the peace of your identity. Amen.

POSTLUDE “In Celebration” by Carlson

The music after the service is intended as a time of reflection. The Pastor will be pleased to greet you at the Sanctuary doors as soon as the postlude has concluded, and our livestream has stopped.

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

GUEST MINISTER	Rev. Roger Dart
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Maria Altmayer
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Jennifer Schneider
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Carolyn Van Til

News in the Pews

God told Moses to raise a bronze serpent on a pole so people who were sick could look at it and be healed (Numbers 21:4-9). Likewise, we look to Christ, raised up on a cross, and our souls are healed. Welcome to worship.

Thank you to all our volunteers involved in worship today!

Today is the last day to donate rummage to our 2024 sale.

Welcome to Rev.'s Harriet and Roger Dart this morning! Rev. Roger Dart is a familiar face, having served as guest preacher very recently. He serves as the Disaster Response Coordinator for the Illinois Conference of the UCC which is an active member of Illinois Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster. Harriet Dart is an ordained minister who, with her husband Roger, is active in the Chicago Metropolitan Association and the Illinois Conference of the UCC. Rev. Harriet Dart loves music and women's ministries. She has been active in the Conference's Thriving Pastors in Revitalizing Congregations (TPIRC) initiative.

The Deadline for the October 2024 Announcer is tomorrow, September 16th. Please get those articles into the office email, thanks so much!

Please come help for this final push! Rummage sorting days are *Monday morning from 10am to noon, Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:30pm and Friday from 10am to 2pm.* No experience necessary to help, just take things out of boxes and put them in places. Stay for as long as you are able, newcomers welcome!

The Rummage Sale will Friday and Saturday, September 27th and 28th this year!

Rummage Volunteers needed! The rummage sale is just over two weeks away. To do this right, we need a lot of helpers on the days of the sale. The official shifts are 9-12PM and 12-3PM each day. In the morning, most of us arrive at 8 - 8:30AM to get a bagel, a donut and a cup of coffee and to get our name tags and aprons on. Lunch is also provided to all workers, so those who work the afternoon shift can come early for lunch. On Friday we also need helpers 3:00-5:00PM to straighten things up so the Saturday shoppers aren't walking into a mess. On Saturday the cleanup is minimal, we are usually able to leave 3:30-4:00. If you have friends who can help, please bring them along! Please contact Annie Noorts via email to let her know you can help: annie.noorts@gmail.com, or call (847) 772-2717.

Baked Goods needed! Of course we'll also need lots of goodies to sell the days of the sale. Items should be individually wrapped to sell. For questions or to let us know you can bake, contact Barb Todd at (847) 965-0345.

Rev. Wayne Macpherson returns to the pulpit next Sunday. Then, in this month of five Sundays, we welcome back the Revs. Dart. We will have an inspired message from Rev Harriet. Rev. Roger will give us a mission moment about the changing nature of disaster response ministry due to the increased frequency of large-scale disasters.

The Annual Pet Blessing with C.A.R.E. is scheduled for October 20th at 3PM.

The Fall Craft Show this year will be on Saturday November 2nd from 10-3. If you are interested in a table please let either Wendy Svenson (847) 528-4545 or Annie Noorts (847) 772-2717 know so we can mark you down. As you know we have limited space so before we send out applications the end of June to our other crafter's we want to be sure you have a spot. Any questions please let Wendy know.

Service Prayers for the Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost Year B was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay who serves as Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.

Our People

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

- Ricky Riley, who will be undergoing heart surgery.
- Betsy Herren, daughter of Ann, in Oregon. She is in treatment for breast cancer.
- Marcia Hilliard is finally back home after returning to the hospital. She is on antibiotics and another surgery will be scheduled sometime this fall.
- Jane Abramchik continues to recover at home aided by a team of home caregivers and her husband Paul.
- Jen Schneider's mom Dorene Schurman, who is in hospice care in Ohio.
- Sharon Johnson's daughter, Donna, in treatment for cancer.
- Paul Brzozowski will or has begun additional treatments after having brain surgery last month.
- Sharon Johnson, who will be having surgery in October.
- Annie and Gerry Noorts's cousin Scott Richter is going through chemo for throat cancer. His wife Susie Richter was also just diagnosed with breast cancer. Also, their friends Bunny and Eddy Thompson are both fighting cancer.

Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

Others in our church family to keep close in our hearts include Larry Baumhardt, Ursula Dworak, Lois Jarmuth, Bob Seitman, and Jackie Johnson. Thinking of the family in the passing of Julie Jernberg's father-in-law.

If you are aware of others to include in our shared prayers, please let a church officer, an Elder, or the office know!

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

Celebrating birthdays this week are Errol Mitchell, Dylan Kahn, Megan Caras and Ryan Puckett. **Celebrating their anniversary this week** is Jackie & Dave (Meyer) Rosenthal.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

PRESIDENT	Peggy Reins
VICE-PRESIDENT	Ann Herren
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 any and all offerings to the church.

No amount is too small! So many thanks to everyone who's been keeping us going with your donations! See inside the bulletin's front cover for details on how to donate.

Our mini-food pantry is a daily mission this church does for the community of Skokie. The Niles Township Food Pantry tells us ours is the most successful in the area. But we can't keep it going without regular donations. If you are able, please bring food to help us keep it going. Food can be left on the shelves by the office doors, or in the narthex. Thank you so much!

Scriptures for Sunday, September 15, 2024

Please join me in spirit of prayer as we offer up our Prayer of Illumination.

“Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit, illumine the sacred page, we pray, that our minds may be open to receive your Word, our hearts taught to love it, and our wills strengthened to obey it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen”

Our Old Testament Lesson from Proverbs 1:20-33.

Wisdom cries out in the street;

in the squares she raises her voice.

²¹ At the busiest corner she cries out;

at the entrance of the city gates she speaks:

²² “How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple?

How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing

and fools hate knowledge?

²³ Give heed to my reproof;

I will pour out my thoughts to you;

I will make my words known to you.

²⁴ Because I have called and you refused,

have stretched out my hand and no one heeded,

²⁵ and because you have ignored all my counsel

and would have none of my reproof,

²⁶ I also will laugh at your calamity;

I will mock when panic strikes you,

²⁷ when panic strikes you like a storm

and your calamity comes like a whirlwind,

when distress and anguish come upon you.

²⁸ Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer;

they will seek me diligently but will not find me.

²⁹ Because they hated knowledge

and did not choose the fear of the LORD,

³⁰ would have none of my counsel

and despised all my reproof,

³¹ therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way
and be sated with their own devices.

³² For waywardness kills the simple,
and the complacency of fools destroys them;

³³ but those who listen to me will be secure
and will live at ease without dread of disaster.”

This ends the reading of the Old Testament Lesson. Our epistle reading is James 3:1-12.

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will face stricter judgment. ² For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is mature,^[a] able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. ³ If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. ⁴ Or look at ships: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵ So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a such a small fire! ⁶ And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of life, and is itself set on fire by hell.^[b] ⁷ For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, ⁸ but no one can tame the tongue—a restless^[c] evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹ With it we bless the Lord^[d] and Father, and with it we curse people, made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰ From the same mouth comes a blessing and a curse. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. ¹¹ Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? ¹² Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

This ends the reading of our epistle lesson. Our worship continues with an anthem sung by our choir.

Thank you, Choir. For those who are able, please stand for the reading of the Gospel. This morning's Gospel lesson is Mark 8:27-38.

²⁷ Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi, and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” ²⁸ And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” ²⁹ He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.”^[a] ³⁰ And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹ Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes and be killed and after three days rise again. ³² He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴ He called the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "If any wish to come^[b] after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel,^[c] will save it. ³⁶ For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷ Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸ Those who are ashamed of me and of my words^[d] in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

This concludes our gospel lesson for this morning's service. May God grant us a wise and generous understanding of this God's holy word.



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

MISSION MOMENTS

Who Are You, Jesus? (9/15/2024)

GREEN

17th Sunday after Pentecost

Mark 8:27-38

“Who do people say I am?”

Jesus is certainly brave in asking this question. Think about it. Would you really want to hear how someone perceived you? We all have an image we think we are putting out to the universe that is often perceived differently by others.

But Jesus, who is preparing his followers for his impending death — wants to see if the ragtag bunch is understanding the cost that comes with picking up the cross.

Of course, Peter, the one who leaps before looking, jumps right in with the bold proclamation, “You are the Messiah.”

Good job, Peter. Even though you still don’t quite understand what you just said. That will come — in time.

Your turn now. Who do you say Jesus is?

Before you give the Sunday school answer you were taught years ago, stop. Really give it some thought. Who would you say Jesus is for you right now? Your answer might just reveal where you are on your faith journey.

A pastor once asked a group of second graders the “Who is Jesus?” question. Their answers were of course adorable. Jesus is my teddy bear. Jesus is my cookie monster. Jesus is my best pal. Jesus is my boo-boo healer. A few years later, the pastor asked that same group of children, now teens preparing for confirmation, the same question. Who do you say Jesus is?

This time, the answers were not so adorable. Rather, they were raw and revealing. Jesus is my safe place. Jesus is my sponsor. Jesus is my secret keeper. Jesus is the parent I wished I had.

The reality is that there will be many different Jesus’ who walk alongside us, being for us the unwavering love and hope needed as we change, grow and move on to new stages in life either willingly or unwillingly. And that is the beauty of our Lord’s question. It reminds us that through it all, he is always exactly what we need.

Yes, Jesus is our Messiah. He is our Lord and Savior. He is also our Safe Place, our Secret Keeper, our Heartbreak Healer ...

Once again, it’s your turn now. Spend some time in prayer, pondering Jesus’ question that he asks of you: “Who do you say I am?”

Jesus, you are my _____, and I thank you for your unwavering love and care in each stage of my life. Amen.
