



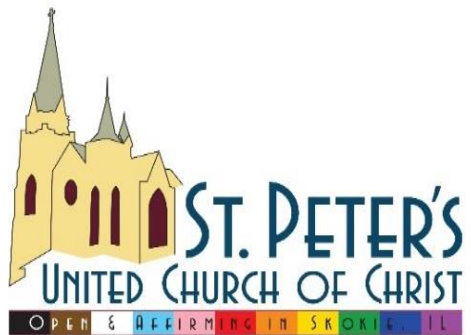
# Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,  
August 11,  
2024  
10:00 AM**

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**Twelfth  
Sunday after  
Pentecost**





# 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](mailto:office@stpeteruccskokie.org)

Office hours Mon-Fri 9am to 2pm

**Ben Westphal (Music Director):** [bcwestphal@gmail.com](mailto:bcwestphal@gmail.com)

**Facebook/Instagram/YouTube:** @stpeteruccskokie

**Website:** [www.stpeteruccskokie.org](http://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, August 11, 2024 at 10:00am**  
**Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**

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*Welcome to worship. The music before the service is intended as a time of silent prayer and preparation.*

**PRELUDE**                      "Gather Us In"                      arr. Rice

**THE RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**    Rita McMahon

*Will those who are able please stand up*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**P:** We have gathered from different places and different backgrounds.

**A:** **May those who are grieving find comfort.**

**P:** May those who have turned away from God find forgiveness.

**A:** **May those who are waiting find hope.**

**P:** May all find God's steadfast love and grace.

**A:** **Let us worship the One who gives us life!**

## RESPONSE

## "Gather Us In"

## SSB #19 (vv.1)



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark-ness  
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-t'ry, we are the old who  
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter, here we will take the  
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ish-ed a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings  
 yearn for your face; we have been sung through-out all of his-t'ry,  
 bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,  
 light years a-way— here in this place the new light is shin-ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.  
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.  
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.  
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en, gath-er us in, the  
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the  
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion, give us to eat the  
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en,  
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly,  
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion  
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.  
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.  
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.  
 fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen

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## **OPENING PRAYER**

**L: Jesus, bread of life, you give us life and nourish our spirits.**

**As your beloved children, help us walk in your ways, each and every day.**

**May we speak words of kindness to one another and open our hearts to share comfort and encouragement. May we offer and seek forgiveness.**

**Most of all, may we remember that your steadfast love extends to all of your beloved children. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**P: Please join me in prayer:**

**A: O Lord, we cry out to you!**

**We cry out for help:**

**when we turn away from you;**

**when we ignore the needs of our neighbors;**

**when we speak harsh words to those around us;**

**when we forget that we are your beloved children.**

**Draw us close and embrace us with your steadfast love**

**and your healing grace.**

**In your merciful name, we pray. Amen**

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**P: Beloved children of God, the Lord offers wholeness and new life to those who seek it.**

In the name of Christ, you are one with God!

Thanks be to God! Amen.

**A: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## HYMN

## “Gather Us In”

SSB #19 (vv.2-4)



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark-ness  
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-t'ry, we are the old who  
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter, here we will take the  
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-cn,



van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings  
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*The congregation may be seated*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Rita M.

1st Scripture

2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33

**MUSICAL MEDITATION** Selected

*Will those who are able please stand up*

**THE GOSPEL**

John 6:35, 41-51

**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**

**A: God is here, welcoming us just as we are.**

**In thanksgiving for all God has blessed us with, and in  
gratitude for all the ways God loves us, may we bring  
our offerings before God.**

**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.*

**RESPONSE**                      "We Are an Offering"                      **SSB# 11**

**A: We lift our voices**

**We lift our hands**

**We lift our lives up to You**

**We are an offering**

**Lord use our voices**

**Lord use our hands**

**Lord use our lives they are Yours**

**We are an offering**

**All that we have**

**All that we are**

**All that we hope to be**

**We give to You**

**We give to You**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**A: Gracious God, we bring these gifts to you, that you may bless them.**

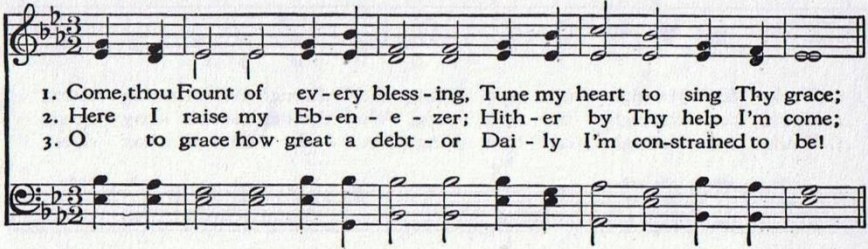
**May they bring comfort to those who mourn, help to those in need,  
and joy to all your beloved children. Amen.**



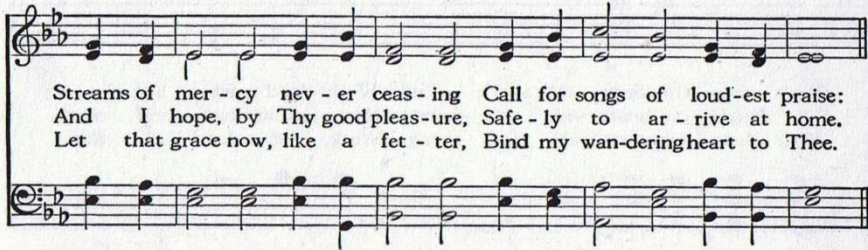
The congregation may be seated

## SERMON "Grieving Our Losses"

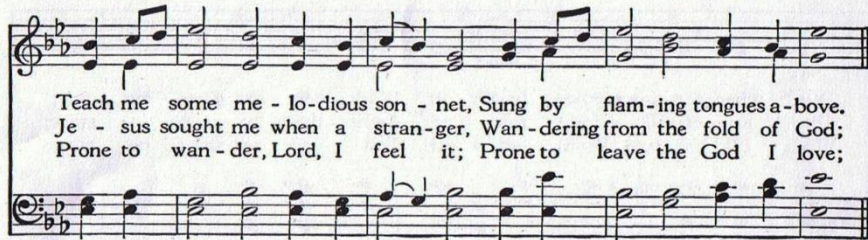
### HYMN "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" #476



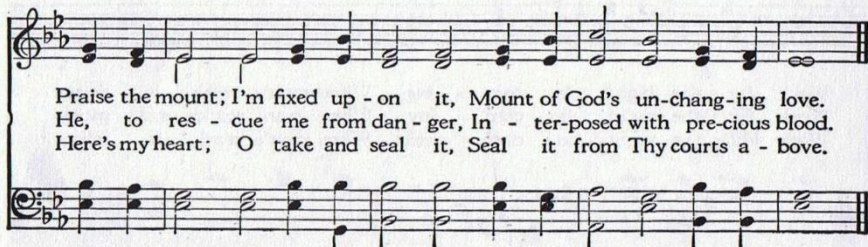
1. Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;  
 2. Here I raise my Eb-en - e - zer; Hith-er by Thy help I'm come;  
 3. O to grace how great a debt - or Dai - ly I'm con-strained to be!



Streams of mer - cy nev - er ceas - ing Call for songs of loud-est praise:  
 And I hope, by Thy good pleas-ure, Safe - ly to ar - rive at home.  
 Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, Bind my wan-dering heart to Thee.



Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, Sung by flam-ing tongues a - bove.  
 Je - sus sought me when a stran-ger, Wan - dering from the fold of God;  
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; Prone to leave the God I love;



Praise the mount; I'm fixed up - on it, Mount of God's un-chang-ing love.  
 He, to res - cue me from dan - ger, In - ter-posed with pre-cious blood.  
 Here's my heart; O take and seal it, Seal it from Thy courts a - bove.

**BENEDICTION****POSTLUDE**

“Nettleton”

arr. Metzinger

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

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**FOR WORSHIP TODAY**

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GUEST MINISTER

Rev. Terrence Gallagher

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Ben Westphal

DEACON

Beth Sterba

LIVESTREAM RECORDING

Jenn Schneider

NURSERY ATTENDANT

Annie Noorts

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# News in the Pews

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**“Taste and see that the Lord is good!” (Psalm 34:8). Welcome to worship, where all are invited to the feast by the Bread of Life himself.**

**Please welcome the Reverend Dr. Terrence Gallagher to the pulpit today!** Rev. Gallagher is an ordained minister in the UCC. After pursuing education as an engineer and a 30-year-long career as a chemical industrial manufacturing executive, Rev. Gallagher answered the Call to Ministry in 2007. He holds a Master of Divinity degree from the Ecumenical Theological Seminary in Detroit and a Doctor of Ministry degree from the Chicago Theological Seminary. He served as a local church pastor in Michigan for seven years and is the founder of [SustainingCreation.org](http://SustainingCreation.org) which guides faith groups on an extended journey to discern how God is calling them to respond to the Climate Crisis.

**Next Sunday Rev. Roger Dart will be leading our worship service.** Rev. Dart serves as the Disaster Response Coordinator for the Illinois Conference of the UCC which is an active member of the Illinois affiliate organization of national VOAD—Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster. IL VOAD’s mission is to strengthen the capabilities of organizations working together to respond to communities affected by disaster and Rev. Dart is leading that charge for the Illinois Conference. Rev. Dart will be delivering a message based on the Gospel of John.

**Join us later this month for our annual outdoor worship service!** Mark your calendars and plan to meet us in Lorel Park on **Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup>** for worship lead by Rev. Wayne MacPherson.

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**We need your rummage!** Summer is a great time to get to cleaning out those spots you've put off. You can bring your items to the office during office hours, but please call ahead to let us know you are coming. You can also drop off during sorting hours, especially if you need help unloading. We do NOT accept furniture or other bulky items like large electronics and exercise equipment.

**Now that August is here, we've added a day to our rummage sorting schedule!** Please join us on *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!

**Keep Our Sunday School Mission Project Going!** When Sunday School is in session our students and their families bring in monthly food donations for our mini pantry. Please keep the collection going during the summer. We will have bins available to receive donations next Sunday because we will be worshipping in Lorel Park the last Sunday of this month. You can also leave donations anytime in the collection area just inside the Laramie Avenue entrance. Thank you for your generous support!

**We are updating print, electronic media and signage around the church!** We are working to update our materials, but this won't happen overnight. A Communications Committee, chaired by Office Manager Laura Olson, is working on this. If you think something might have escaped the Committee's notice, please email Laura at [office@stpeteruccskokie.org](mailto:office@stpeteruccskokie.org).

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# Our People

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**Please keep St. Peter's extended family in your thoughts and prayers.** Marcia Hilliard had surgery on Thursday for what is thought to be a benign tumor. Please keep Marcia in your prayers for a speedy recovery. Jane Abramchik continues to recover at home aided by a team of home caregivers and her husband Paul. We are also praying for Jen's mom Dorene Schurman who is in hospice care in Ohio and Sharon Johnson's daughter, Donna, in treatment for cancer. In addition, we recently learned that former member, Paul Brzozowski, has been hospitalized for a major surgery. Others in our church family to keep close in our hearts include Larry Baumhardt, Ursula Dworak, Lois Jarmuth, Bob Seitman, and Jackie Johnson. **If you are aware of others to include in our shared prayers, please let a church officer, an Elder, or the office know!**

**Having birthdays** this week are Elliott Kerbel, Karen Rector, and Tom Schaller.

**According to the schedule**, barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector will be Jenn Schneider and the Nursery Attendant will be Kathy Zipperer.

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## CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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PRESIDENT	Peggy Reins
VICE-PRESIDENT	Ann Herren
TREASURER	Chad McCoy
SECRETARY	Annie Noorts
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Maria Altmayer

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## Regular Reminders!

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**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.

**Pantry Donations** – our generous donation from Jewel Foods is just about gone - we need more donations!

**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.

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UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

## MISSION MOMENTS

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**August 11, 2024**

**Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**

**“Shaping Community”**

**Ephesians 4:25-5:2**

In the passage from Ephesians today, Paul calls the members of the church in Ephesus to build and shape their community. Because God is still speaking today, prophets continue to urge the church to intentionally build and shape the communities they are called to.

If you are interested in reading a more recent twist on how to build the body of Christ, take a look at Pilgrim Press’s *Building Up a New World: Congregational Organizing for Transformative Impact* by Anne Dunlap and Vahisha Hasan.

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The book asserts that “the church is an organizing body. No matter how big or small the membership roll, no matter a rural or urban location, churches around the world and across generations organize people:

- to educate in Sunday school or at public lectures;
- to feed at potluck luncheons and soup kitchens;
- to comfort through funerals, visitation, and refugee resettlement;
- to uplift with worship, public witness, and policy advocacy.

There's not a congregation that doesn't organize!

But how to organize—effectively and justly for the transformation of the world—remains a frequently asked question. Audre Lorde wrote, “The master's tools will never dismantle the master's house,” therefore community-organizing tools from diverse and marginalized groups are essential for the work of liberation.

Congregations will be invaluablely equipped through the stories, practical wisdom, and diverse perspectives of *Building Up a New World*, with chapters such as:

- Organizing Congregations for Impact
- Building a Just Economy
- Resisting White Nationalism
- From Potluck to Policy Reform
- and many more.”

You can order this and many other books on leadership, congregational change, and community building from the Pilgrim Press. <https://www.thepilgrimpress.com/>

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**DATE: Aug 11, 2024 - READER**

**PRAYER for ILLUMINATION**

**Please join me in the spirit of prayer. Let us pray.**

Since we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from your mouth, make us hunger for this heavenly food, that it may nourish us today in the ways of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, the bread of heaven. **Amen.**

**Our first reading is ...**

2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33

The king ordered Joab and Abishai and Ittai, saying, "Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom." And all the people heard when the king gave orders to all the commanders concerning Absalom. So the army went out into the field against Israel, and the battle was fought in the forest of Ephraim. The men of Israel were defeated there by the servants of David, and the slaughter there was great on that day, twenty thousand men. The battle spread over the face of all the country, and the forest claimed more victims that day than the sword. Absalom happened to meet the servants of David. Absalom was riding on his mule, and the mule went under the thick branches of a great oak. His head caught fast in the oak, and he was left hanging between heaven and earth, while the mule that was under him went on. And ten young men, Joab's armor-bearers, surrounded Absalom and struck him and killed him.

Then the Cushite came and said, "Good tidings for my lord the king! For the LORD has vindicated you this day, delivering you from the power of all who rose up against you." The king said to the Cushite, "Is it well with the young man Absalom?" The Cushite answered, "May the enemies of my lord the king and all who rise up to do you harm be like that young man."

The king was deeply moved and went up to the chamber over the gate and wept, and as he went he said, "O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!"

**This ends our first reading. Our worship continues with a  
MUSICAL MEDITATION**  
(reader can sit down)

**Thank you, Ben**

**Will those who are able please stand up for the reading of THE GOSPEL**

John 6:35, 41-51

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." They were saying, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?"

Jesus answered them, "Do not complain among yourselves. No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me, and I will raise that person up on the last day. It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever, and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

**This ends our reading of the Scriptures for this morning's service. May God grant us a wise and generous understanding of this God's Holy Word.**