



Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,
November 24,
2024**

10:00 AM

**Twenty-seventh
Sunday after
Pentecost**

Totenfest





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

St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Skokie
Order of Worship for
Sunday, November 24, 2024 at 10:00am
Twenty-seventh Sunday after Pentecost
Totenfest

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

PRELUDE "Bicinium on For All the Saints" arr. J. Barr

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS Peggy Reins

Will those who are able please stand up

CALL TO WORSHIP *based on Psalm 93*

P: Come, let us gather, for the Holy One reigns with strength and majesty!

C: God's presence is steadfast, like the sea, strong and deep.

P: The world is established by divine love and justice; it cannot be shaken.

C: We are held in the power of this love, sustained by God's endless grace.

P: God's voice is mightier than the roaring waters, more powerful than the crashing waves.

C: **And in that voice, we find peace, hope, and strength.**

P: Holy and eternal is the One who reigns; God's truth and love endure forever.

All: **We come to worship in awe and gratitude, upheld by the One who is always faithful. Amen.**

OPENING RESPONSE

"Gathered Here in the Mystery of the Hour"

Sung through twice

Text and music: Phil Porter, 1990



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



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

This chant may be sung as a round.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

A: Loving and faithful God, we confess that we sometimes lose our way. We get caught up in our worries and doubts, letting the waves of life overwhelm us. Forgive us when we cling to fear instead of your steadfast love. Forgive us when we ignore the needs around us, thinking only of ourselves. Open our hearts to your grace. Restore in us the courage to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you. Renew our faith in your enduring presence. Help us to be vessels of peace, love, and justice in this world. In your boundless mercy, hold us close and lead us forward, that we may grow in love and compassion. Amen.

Silent Reflection

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

P: Friends, hear the good news: Our God, who reigns in majesty and compassion, hears our prayers and forgives us. God's love is mightier than our faults, more enduring than our fears. Through grace, we are made new, called once more to walk in love.

A: Thanks be to God, who holds us in unshakable love. Amen.

HYMN “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

F Dm C/E F C Dm Am B^b F B^b Edim/G Dm B^b C C⁷ F

1. Praise to the Lord, the Al - migh - ty, the King of cre - a - tion!
 2. Praise to the Lord, Who o'er all things so won - drous - ly reign - eth,
 3. Praise to the Lord, Who doth pros - per thy work and de - fend thee;
 4. Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me a - dore Him!

F Dm C F Dm Am B^b F B^b Edim/G Dm B^b C C⁷ F

O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and sal - va - tion!
 Shel - ters thee un - der His wings, yea, so gent - ly sus - tain - eth!
 Sure - ly His good - ness and mer - cy here dai - ly at - tend thee.
 All that hath life and breath come now with prais - es be - fore Him.

F C/E F B^b F B^b/D C/E F Gm F C

All ye who hear, now to His tem - ple draw near,
 Hast thou not seen how thy de - sires e'er have been
 Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do
 Let the A - men sound from His peo - ple a - gain,

F/A B^b Edim/G Dm Gm A Gm/B^b C F

Praise Him in glad a - do - ra - tion.
 Grant - ed in what He or - dain - eth?
 If with His love He be - friend thee.
 Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore Him.

Joachim Neander, 1680

Based on Psalm 103

Translated by Catherine Winkworth, 1863

LOBE DEN HERREN 14.14.4.7.8.

Stralsund Gesangbuch, 1665

The congregation may be seated

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION AND SCRIPTURE READING

Karen Christianson

Psalter: Psalm 93

New Testament: Revelation 1:4b-8

MUSICAL MEDITATION “In Memoriam” by Jeanne Cotter

Will those who are able please stand up

GOSPEL John 18:33-39a

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

OFFERTORY

If you donate electronically, feel free to place an "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

The musical score is written in 3/4 time and consists of nine staves. The lyrics are: 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. We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to You, we are an offering, we are an offering.

The congregation may be seated

SERMON "Christ's Truth"

LIGHTING THE TOTENFEST CANDLES

Ron Schurke Ken Itter
Candles by Others The Candle for Others

LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE *from The Rabbi's Manual*

P: In the rising of the sun and in its going down,

C: We remember them.,

P: In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter,

C: We remember them.

P: In the opening of buds and in the rebirth of spring,

C: We remember them.

P: In the blueness of the sky and the in the warmth of the
summer,

C: We remember them.

P: In the rustling of leaves and in the beauty of autumn,

C: We remember them.

P: In the beginning of the year and when it ends,

C: We remember them.

P: When we are weary and in need of strength,

C: We remember them.

P: When we are lost and sick at heart,

C: We remember them.

P: When we have joys we yearn to share,

C: We remember them.

P: So long as we live, they too, in a way, shall live,

For they are now a part of us, as we remember them...

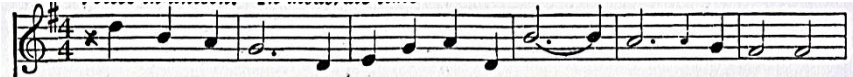
A moment of silence

Will those who are able please stand up

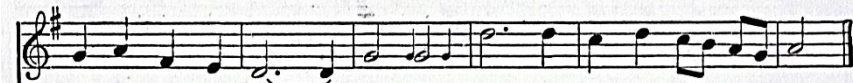
HYMN

"For All the Saints"

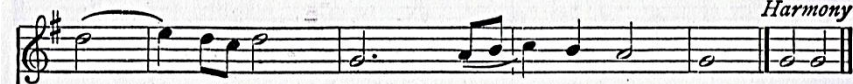
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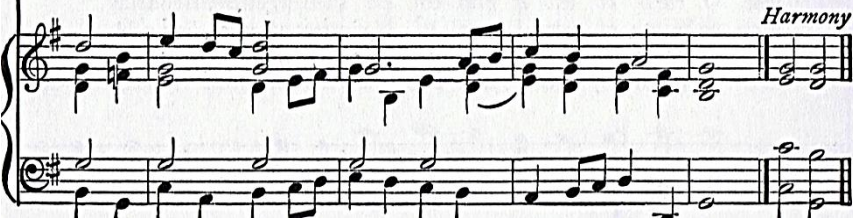
1. For all the saints who from their la-bors rest, Who Thee by faith be -
 2. Thou wast their Rock, their For-tress, and their Might; Thou, Lord, their Cap-tain
 3. O may Thy sol-diers, faith-ful, true, and bold, Fight as the saints who
 4. O blest com-mun-ion, fel-low-ship di-vine! We fee-bly strug-gle,
 5. From earth's wide bounds, from o-cean's far-thest coast, Through gates of pearl streams



fore the world con-fessed, Thy Name, O Je-sus, be for-ev-er blest.
 in the well-fought fight; Thou, in the dark-ness drear, their one true Light.
 no-bly fought of old, And win with them the vic-tor's crown of gold.
 they in glo-ry shine; Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.
 in the count-less host, Sing-ing to Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost,



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! A-MEN.



CHARGE

P: Open your eyes to see the glimpses of God's truth that surround us in creation and in our interactions with the world around us. Open your ears to the voices of God's truth that we hear in the world. Shut out the voices that claim to speak for God but do not speak from God's heart. Open your mouths to declare God's truth, based on love, mercy, and forgiveness. Live out God's truth in your lives, in your actions with each other, in your works of justice and compassion, all done while loving God and loving your neighbor.

BENEDICTION

P: Jesus said, "If You abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." Go, abide in the love of Christ, live out Christ's truth, and be set free to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly in Christ's way. Amen.

POSTLUDE

"Sine Nomine"

arr. Lehenbauer

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	Pastor Wayne MacPherson
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Barb Bailey
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Beth Sterba
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Mike Ryan

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 1st 2024.* 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

Welcome to worship as we celebrate God's goodness and love here.

Please extend a warm St. Peter's welcome back to Pastor Wayne MacPherson - Pastor Wayne has served four congregations in the Chicago Metropolitan Association, two as Pastor and two as Interim Pastor. In addition, he worked nine years as a member of the staff of the Chicago Metropolitan Association and the Illinois Conference.

2024 Advent Devotionals are here, with our traditional Advent letter. This year we are also offering devotionals for kids. You'll find them in the Narthex, please take one home!

Cookies, Hot Cocoa and winter accessories for The Night Ministry are being collected now! Bring your donations to worship on Sunday or during the week. Items can be left on the table in the lobby. Home baked cookies should be donated closer to the packing date of Sunday, **December 8th** after worship.

Poinsettia Orders are being taken now until December 1st, so please get your orders in. Order forms are included in this and next week's bulletins. Thanks!

The Thanksgiving Interfaith Service hosted by the Niles Township Clergy Forum will be Tuesday, **November 26th** at 7:30PM. We are still waiting on a location as of this writing.

The Holiday Meal program is on again, and we'd like to ask for *your help with donating to Jewel Foods at Village Crossing in Niles to help pay for the dinners.* Donations are being collected at the registers, and all proceeds pay for the Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners we hand out to those needy folks in our community that come to our

pantry or doors, the needy families in District 68, UCAN and others that reach out to us. **If you have any questions or know someone who could use a dinner for 4-6 people, contact Laura in the office. Thank you so much for your generosity!**

A Just Harvest Service is this month and we appreciate any donations! Donations are used to purchase ingredients for the meal on the day we serve. Checks payable to St. Peter's UCC with AJH in the memo, or you can donate through Vanco under directed giving. Thank you!

The Women's Guild annual Holiday Party and Cookie Walk is asking for a head count for the number of women attending. The event will be on Wednesday, **December 11th** at 11:30 AM. Please let Sue Bailey (847) 638-6894 or Marlene Russell (224) 440-6427 know if you can come by December 4th. Thank you!

Hanging of the Greens- Monday, **November 25th** at 7:00PM please join us to decorate the sanctuary. We'll also be gathering to prepare for the Flute Concert, that information will be announced soon.

The office will be closed Thursday, November 28th in observance of Thanksgiving Day.

The Livestream Team Needs Your Help! The livestream setup is very easy to run, and scheduling is very flexible but we are really in need right now. Please contact Jen directly if you can join this important part of our ministry – we hear all the time that people ARE watching our livestream, and we want to be sure it's available every Sunday for those folks.

Next Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent! Rev. Wayne MacPherson returns to our pulpit.

Our People

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

- Marica Hilliard has surgery scheduled for November 29th.
- Continued prayers of healing for Diane Hickman, friend of Rich & Jen Schneider, who was hit by a car while on her bike. She has multiple broken bones and brain trauma.
- Ann Herren's two daughters; Betsy Herren in Oregon, has begun radiation treatment for breast cancer. Jenny Herren Gatesman, recently also diagnosed with breast cancer.
- Sharon Johnson's daughter Donna is doing very well after having surgery but continues her battle with Lymphoma, which can be controlled but not cured.
- 15-year-old family friend of Denise Hopp is currently suffering from self-harm.
- Cancer has returned for Susan Garcia's Aunt Janice, whom we've prayed for previously.
- Ricky Riley, who will be undergoing heart surgery in February.
- 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.
- Paul Brzozowski had his first MRI after surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation for brain cancer.
- Annie and Gerry Noorts's cousin Scott Richter is now cancer free. Susie Richter has started chemo and is doing well. Also, their friend Bunny Thompson started chemo for lung cancer and has been very sick from the chemo. Eddy Thompson has been in and out of the hospital as he is fighting multiple myeloma. At this point, even catching a cold sends him to the hospital.
- Those affected by the devastation of Hurricane Helene and Milton and other disaster victims.

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!*

This week we wish a Happy birthday to Linda Mau, Felix Roy Svenson and Emily Brzozowski. **Happy Anniversary** to Roberta & Henry Muhrer.

According to the schedule and barring any switches, the first Sunday of Advent's Lector will be Andre Gloeckner, and our Nursery Attendant will be Kathy Zipperer.

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 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. 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!



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

MISSION MOMENTS

A Wise Reign (11/24/2024)

Reign of Christ | 27th Sunday after Pentecost

GREEN

John 18:33-37

Today is Christ the King Sunday, a festival on church calendars that brings our attention once again to the why God sent his Son to us — to reign with righteousness, justice, peace and love.

It's a day we hear Jesus in John's Gospel telling Pilate, an earthly ruler, that the kingdom that Jesus has come to establish is not from here. It is beyond policies, agendas and elections. Perhaps that is why the use of the word "kin-dom" rather than "kingdom" is better suited for our time, as it emphasizes a reign where we are indeed kin, a family called to care for one another.

The celebration of Christ the King Sunday, though, is not an ancient church festival like Epiphany or Pentecost.

Christ the King Sunday was created by Pope Pius XI in 1925 to address the rise of communism and fascism that was taking place in Europe. He had envisioned his papacy to be "the reestablishment of the Kingdom of Christ by the peace of Christ,"

and sought ways to lead people back to loving God first in a world that was being divided by politics.

Almost a century later, it is not hard to imagine the fears felt in the uncertain and volatile world of 1925. In many ways, they are the same. What will tomorrow bring for my family? Will my children be safe? When will the fighting end? Will there be jobs? Food? Housing?

Our world is still filled with power grabs and political loyalties that pit families, friends and congregations against one another. The Reign of Christ seems so distant. The reign of love so elusive. The reign of peace so impossible.

Yet here we are. Christ the King Sunday 2024. Where have we placed our trust for a hopeful tomorrow? If that trust is in the hands of mere mortals, we are in trouble. But if that trust is in God who reigns now and forever, then we just might have a chance in seeing peace in our lifetime.

In The Lord's Prayer there's a line recited that says, "thy kingdom come." What if today we stop right there and ask ourselves what is this kingdom we are praying for? Have we given it any thought to what it really looks like? How is this kingdom asking us to change how we live — how we use your resources to help others?

Jesus' kingdom is not from here. It is a kingdom foretold by the prophet Isaiah as one where the poor hear good news, the brokenhearted are comforted and prisoners are set free. It is a kingdom where all are welcome, and no one is without.

God, You so loved the world that You gave us Your Son who is our Lord, Savior, Redeemer and King. May today we catch the vision of Christ's reign here in our time, and may our words and deeds help to usher in thy kingdom. Amen.

Scriptures for Sunday, November 24, 2024

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

Holy Spirit of Wisdom, open our hearts and minds to your truth. Help us to see with compassion, to listen with humility, and to grow in love and understanding. May these sacred words challenge and inspire us, leading us ever closer to mercy, justice, and peace. Amen.

Our first scripture reading is Psalm 93

¹The Lord is king, he is robed in majesty; the Lord is robed, he is girded with strength. He has established the world; it shall never be moved;²your throne is established from of old; you are from everlasting. ³The floods have lifted up, O Lord, the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their roaring. ⁴More majestic than the thunders of mighty waters, more majestic than the waves of the sea, majestic on high is the Lord! ⁵Your decrees are very sure; holiness befits your house, O Lord, forevermore.

This ends our reading from the Psalter. Our second reading is Revelation 1:4b-8

This concludes our reading from the Revelation. Our worship continues with a musical meditation.

(The reader may sit down)

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel. Our Gospel lesson is John 18:33-39a.

³³ Then Pilate entered the headquarters* again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' ³⁴Jesus answered, 'Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?' ³⁵Pilate replied, 'I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?' ³⁶Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.' ³⁷Pilate asked him, 'So you are a king?' Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.' ³⁸Pilate asked him, 'What is truth?'

This ends our scripture readings for this morning's service. May God grant us a wise and generous understanding of this God's holy word.