

# Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR  
**Sunday,**  
**November 10,**  
**2024**  
**10:00 AM**

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**Twenty-fifth**  
**Sunday after**  
**Pentecost**

**BE THE CHURCH**

*Protect the environment.*

Care for the poor.

Forgive often.

**Reject racism.**

**Fight for the powerless.**

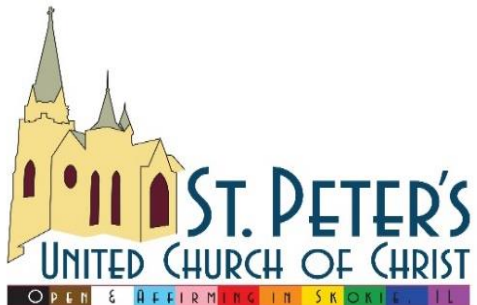
Share earthly and spiritual resources.

Embrace diversity.

Love God.

Enjoy this life.

UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST





# 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, November 10, 2024 at 10:00am**  
**Twenty-fifth 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** Selected

**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 127)*

P: Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.

**C: We gather to welcome God's presence in this place, knowing we cannot build alone.**

P: Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchmen stay awake in vain.

**C: We trust in God's guidance and protection, seeking peace for our communities and homes.**

P: It is in vain that we rise early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil.

**C: We release our worries and strive for rest, believing in the abundance and grace of God.**

P: God grants rest to those God loves.

A: **Together, we open our hearts to God's love, building a foundation of justice, compassion, and hope. Come, let us worship the One who leads us into peace. Amen.**

## OPENING RESPONSE

“Gathered Here in the Mystery of the Hour”

*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

P: Please join me in prayer:

A: **Loving Creator, we confess that we often try to build our lives on foundations of our own making, forgetting that unless you are the architect, our labor is in vain. We strive, we worry, we labor tirelessly, as if our worth depends on the work of our own hands. Forgive us for the ways we become consumed with achievement and lose sight of your call to rest, to let go, to trust in you. We confess that we sometimes build walls rather than bridges, seeking security for**

**ourselves without thought for others. Forgive us when we ignore the struggles of our neighbors, when we fail to see all of your children as beloved, when our priorities stray from the justice, peace, and compassion you desire for this world. Merciful God, remind us that you are the builder of true peace, that your love alone sustains us. Help us to let go of striving and accept your invitation to join in the work of love, justice, and grace. May we build our lives upon your foundation, seeking your wisdom, following your Spirit, and resting in your presence. Amen.**

*Silent Reflection*

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**P:** Beloved, hear the good news: God is our true foundation and builder, always present, always faithful. Even when we falter, God's love remains steadfast, inviting us back to rest in grace and to trust in divine mercy. In Christ, we are forgiven, renewed, and called again to build lives rooted in compassion and justice. Know this and be at peace: In God's love, we are held, forgiven, and made whole.

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

## HYMN

## "Come, Christians, Join to Sing"

1. Come, Chris - tians, join to sing Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!  
 2. Come, lift your hearts on high, Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!  
 3. Praise yet our Christ a - gain, Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

loud praise to Christ our King; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!  
 let prais - es fill the sky; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!  
 life shall not end the strain; Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

let all, with heart and voice, be - fore his throne re - joice;  
 he is our Guide and Friend; to us he'll con - de - scend;  
 on hea - ven's bliss - ful shore, his good - ness we'll a - dore,

praise is his gra - cious choice. Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!  
 his love shall nev - er end. Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!  
 sing - ing for - ev - er more, "Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!"

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*The congregation may be seated*

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION AND SCRIPTURE READING**

Jenn Schneider

Psalter:

Psalm 127

## **MUSICAL MEDITATION** Selected

## **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:** In the Creator, there is no lack of any good thing. When we consider our resources as part of God's abundance, we nurture generosity within us. Let us give to support the mutual needs of our faith community, the expansion of ministry, and the benefit of the world that God so loves.

## **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.*

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*Will those who are able please stand up*

**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.**

**We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to You, we are an offering, we are an offering.**

### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**A: Gracious God, just as you are the source of every good gift, we bring these offerings as a sign of our trust and gratitude. We dedicate them to you, knowing that our work is in vain unless it is rooted in your purpose and love. Use these gifts, and use us, to build your kingdom here on earth—a world of justice, peace, and compassion for all. Bless this offering, we pray that it may serve your will, and help us to remember that, in giving, we become part of the work you are building among us. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.**

*The congregation may be seated*

**SERMON**                      “Built to Last”



## HYMN “Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing”

1 Lord, dis - miss us with thy bless - ing; fill our hearts with  
 2 Thanks we give and a - dor - a - tion for thy Gos - pel's  
 3 so that when thy love shall call us, Sa - vior, from the

joy and peace; let us each, thy love pos - sess - ing,  
 joy - ful sound: may the fruits of thy sal - va - tion  
 world a - way, fear of death shall not ap - pall us,

tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace: O re - fresh us,  
 in our hearts and lives a - bound: ev - er faith - ful,  
 glad thy sum - mons to o - bey. May we ev - er,

O re - fresh us trav - eling through this wil - der - ness.  
 ev - er faith - ful to thy truth may we be found;  
 may we ev - er reign with thee in end - less day.

**CHARGE**

**P: Go forth, knowing that unless the Lord builds the house, our labor is in vain. Trust in God as the true foundation of your life, and seek to build with love, justice, and compassion. Rest in the assurance that God’s Spirit goes before you, guiding your hands, your heart, and your path.**

**BENEDICTION**

**P: May the peace of Christ, which surpasses all understanding, fill your heart and sustain your spirit. May the love of God be the firm foundation on which you build each day. And may the Holy Spirit empower you to serve with joy, courage, and grace. Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord. Amen.**

**POSTLUDE**      Selected

*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.*

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**FOR WORSHIP TODAY**

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GUEST MINISTER	Minster Renita Ward
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Jenn Schneider
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Peter Svenson/Greg Dennis
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Rita McMahan

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# CHRISTMAS WREATHS AND MORE!

We are taking orders for fresh pine Christmas wreaths and decorations from Northern Wisconsin to adorn your home or to be placed at a cemetery.

**The standard 24 inch diameter wreath, with red velvet bow and pine cones is \$18.00.**

Cemetery stands are included at no additional charge.

Proceeds from this fundraiser help to decorate the church for Christmas with the remainder going to the General Operating Fund.

We will place wreaths on graves at the St. Peter's UCC Cemetery, if you desire.

All orders **must be placed** by **Friday Nov 15th.**

**Pickup will be at the St. Peter's Laramie entrance on Saturday Dec 7th from 1 - 2 pm or after worship in the Lanford Fellowship Hall on Sunday Dec 8th.**

To place an order, please:

- **fill in the form and place in collection plate with payment.**
- **fill in the form and mail it with payment** to St Peter's.
- or, **email your order form to [office@stpeteruccskokie.org](mailto:office@stpeteruccskokie.org)** and send payment separately via mail or use PayPal.

Please make checks payable to:  
St. Peter's UCC.

Name		
Address		
I will pick up my order up at church		
Please place on cemetery for:		
<b>Item Description</b>	<b>Price</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
24" Single Face Balsam Wreath w/ Velvet Ribbon for Home or Cemetery	\$18.00	
Cemetery Stands	included w/ cemetery placement	
30" Single Face Balsam	\$30.00	
36" Double Face Balsam	\$53.00	
40" Single Face Balsam	\$45.00	
4' Noble Mix Mantlepiece/ Centerpiece	\$45.00	
12" Noble Candle Wreath (Candle not included)	\$21.00	
12" Holiday Yule Log	\$21.00	
32" Evergreen Planter	\$31.00	
42" Evergreen Planter	\$51.00	
Fire Starter Basket	\$21.00	
Balsam Door Swag	\$16.00	
20" Premium Noble Fir Mix Wreath	\$26.00	
24" Boxed Decorator Wreath	\$41.00	
25' Balsam Garland	\$33.00	
Total Amount (\$)		

# Handcrafted Wreaths and Decorations



**24" Balsam Wreath  
with Velvet Ribbon**

Single Face Balsam Outdoor  
Wreath 24", 30", 40"  
Double Face Balsam 36"



**Noble Fir Mixed Wreath 20"**  
Indoor/Outdoor



**4' Mantelpiece/Centerpiece**

**Place your order by Friday November 15th.**  
(Contact Rich Schneider or call 847.673.8166)

**Pickup will be on Saturday Dec 7th from 1 - 2 pm or  
at St. Peter's after worship on Sunday Dec 8th.**

24" Single Face Balsam	\$18.00
Cemetery Stand	included
30" Single Face Balsam	\$30.00
36" Double Face Balsam	\$53.00
40" Single Face Balsam	\$45.00
4' Noble Mix Mantelpiece / Centerpiece	\$45.00
12" Candle Ring Wreath (No Candle)	\$21.00
12" Holiday Yule Log	\$21.00
32" Evergreen Planter	\$31.00
42" Evergreen Planter	\$51.00
Fire Starter Basket	\$21.00
Balsam Door Swag	\$16.00
20" Premium Noble Fir Mix Wreath	\$26.00
24" Boxed Decorator Wreath	\$41.00
25' Balsam Garland	\$33.00



**32" Evergreen Planter  
42"+ Evergreen Planter**



**12" Candle Ring Wreath  
WITHOUT Candle**



**24" Boxed  
Decorator Wreath**



**Holiday Yule Log 12"**



**25' Balsam Fir Garland**



**Firestarter Basket**



**Balsam Swag**

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# News in the Pews

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**Family of Christ, welcome to worship! May you sense Jesus' presence and be strengthened in his love.**

**Please extend a warm St. Peter's welcome back to Minister Renita Ward** - Minister and Attorney Renita Ward is passionate for Jesus Christ. This fuels her ministry and professional efforts of living out Christ's model as an advocate, teacher, mediator, and preacher. She is a Member in Discernment with the Chicago Metropolitan Association of our Illinois Conference of the UCC, and member of Trinity UCC - Chicago.

**There will be a brief meeting of the Church Council requiring a quorum of six Council members.**

**Please join us downstairs after worship** for coffee, tea, and conversation. Thank you, Chad and Maria, for providing refreshments. May we appreciate time for fellowship!

**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!**

**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

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lobby. Home baked cookies should be donated closer to the packing date of Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> after worship.

**The Livestream Team Needs Your Help!** The livestream setup is very easy to run, and we can be flexible – schedule you for specific Sundays instead of once a month - 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.

**Our next time to serve at A Just Harvest Community Kitchen** is Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup>. Donations help to purchase the ingredients for the meal on that day. Thank you if you’ve already donated. Please make checks payable to St. Peter’s UCC and put AJH in the memo, or you can donate through Vanco under directed giving. A special thank you to the Ryan–van Til family for volunteering to help serve the meal.

**Wreath orders are due next Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, so please turn yours in today.** Please see the insert for details and order form.

**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 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 AM. Please let Sue Bailey (847) 638-6894 or Marlene Russell (224) 440-6427 know if you can come by December 4<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!

**A Note About Monday, November 11** - It started as Armistice Day, marking the declaration of the end of hostilities on the "eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month" in 1918. Today we know it as Veterans Day. Let us mark the day by remembering military veterans, past and present, who have served our country.

**Next Sunday Minister Renita Ward** returns to our pulpit. Please join us for her message, “Pathway to Purpose.”

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# Our People

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

- 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, and Jenny Herren Gatesman, recently also diagnosed with breast cancer.
- Sharon Johnson's daughter, Donnais doing very well after having surgery. She's continuing her battle with Lymphoma, which can be controlled but not cured.
- Marcia Hilliard as she recovers from her surgery this month and prepares for another surgery.
- 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 has his first MRI next week after surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation for brain cancer.
- Annie and Gerry Noorts's cousin Scott Richter completed his chemo. His wife Susie Richter, who has breast cancer, had surgery and will be starting treatment soon. Also, their friends Bunny and Eddy Thompson are both fighting cancer.
- Those affected by the devastation of Hurricane Helene and Milton and other disaster victims.

*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

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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** Justin Balling, Peter Svenson, Ann Herren, Alexandra Paige, Bruce Mau and Chad McCoy. **Celebrating their anniversary this week are** Marcia Hilliard and Andre Gloekner, and Beth and John Sterba. God's blessings to all!

**According to the schedule** and barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector will be Barb Todd, and our Nursery Attendant will be Annie Noorts.

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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.

**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!

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## MISSION MOMENTS

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### **Risk and Restoration (11/10/2024)**

### **25th Sunday after Pentecost**

### **GREEN**

### **Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17**

A seminary student was struggling to prepare a youth Bible study on how Ruth, a widowed Moabite gleaning fields in Bethlehem, cozies up one night to the owner of the land, Boaz, on the threshing room floor in the dark of night. Yikes!

The pastor-in-training had no idea what to do with a text that seemed so racy for teens. And there lies the problem. Many times, ancient texts like this are read through modern lenses that sully a story pure with hope and redemption.

Ruth's and Boaz's story isn't R-rated. It's more H-rated. "H" for the Hebrew word "hesed," which is defined as a love that is merciful, steadfast, loyal and charitable. It is a story of love that transcends the physical. It is a story of love that illustrates God's love towards us.

When read through the lens of hesed, we see Boaz's charitable love that permitted Ruth to glean his fields. We see the caring love of Naomi when she tells her daughter-in-law to wash and anoint herself and then present herself to Boaz.

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This isn't advice on how to snag a husband. Rather, the act of washing and anointing symbolized that the time of mourning was over. Out of love and concern, Naomi is telling Ruth it's time to live again. It's time to think about securing a more sustainable future. Remember, widows in the ancient times were vulnerable. Marriage was viewed as security.

Ruth listens to her mother-in-law and goes to the granary at night to see Boaz, thus, putting her reputation on the line. The granary was a man's place. Reputable women didn't go there alone nor at night. There on the threshing room floor, Boaz, who is a kinsman of Naomi's, gets past his initial shock of this young woman before him and looks upon her with eyes full of merciful love. Ruth's risk was worth taking. They marry and have a son, Obed.

It's amazing to think what a love that is merciful, steadfast, loyal and charitable can do in our lives. It is awe-inspiring to see just how a risk-taking love led to not only the restoration of Ruth's and Naomi's lives, but the restoration of all humankind. For in the genealogical opening of the Gospel of Matthew, among all the "begots," there is the name of Ruth and her son as the noteworthy ancestors of Jesus the Christ.

And that's the Bible study the seminary student presented to the teens that day, as together they explored the story of Ruth, Naomi and Boaz, through the ancient lens of hesed — God's powerful and restoring love.

*Merciful God, may today we be open to the transformative power of Your love — love that is charitable, kind, loyal and steadfast. May this love restore Your world. Amen.*

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# Scripture for Sunday, November 10, 2024

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

*Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.*

**Our scripture reading today is Psalm 127.**

<sup>1-2</sup> If GOD doesn't build the house,  
the builders only build shacks.  
If GOD doesn't guard the city,  
the night watchman might as well nap.  
It's useless to rise early and go to bed late,  
and work your worried fingers to the bone.  
Don't you know he enjoys  
giving rest to those he loves?

<sup>3-5</sup> Don't you see that children are GOD's best gift?  
the fruit of the womb his generous legacy?  
Like a warrior's fistful of arrows  
are the children of a vigorous youth.  
Oh, how blessed are you parents,  
with your quivers full of children!  
Your enemies don't stand a chance against you;  
you'll sweep them right off your doorstep.

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

**Our worship continues with a musical meditation.**