

# Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR  
**Sunday,  
September 8,  
2024  
10:00 AM**

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**Sixteenth  
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, September 8, 2024 at 10:00am**  
**Sixteenth 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** "Open My Eyes, That I May See"

by David Paxton

**THE RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Peter Svenson

*Will those who are able please stand up*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**P:** A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches,  
and favor is better than silver or gold.

**C:** **The rich and the poor meet together; the Lord is the  
maker of them all.**

**P:** Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity, and the  
rod of anger will fail.

**C:** **Those who are generous are blessed, for they share  
their bread with the poor.**

P: Do not rob the poor because they are poor, or crush the afflicted at the gate.

**C: For the Lord pleads their cause and despoils of life those who despoil them.**

P: Come, let us worship the One who calls us to justice, generosity, and love.

**C: With hearts open and hands ready to serve, we gather in the name of our God.**

## RESPONSE "I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord, SSB #4

The musical score is written on six staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "I will sing of the mercies of the Lord for - ev - cr. I will sing, I will sing. I will sing of the mercies of the Lord for - ev - er, I will sing of the mercies of the Lord. With my mouth will I make known thy faith - ful - ness. thy faith - ful - ness. With my mouth will I make known thy faith - ful - ness to all gen - er - a - tions." The score includes dynamic markings such as *Fine* and *D.C. al fine*.

I will sing of the mer - cies of the Lord for - ev - cr. I will  
sing, I will sing. I will sing of the mer - cies of the *Fine*  
Lord for - ev - er, I will sing of the mer - cies of the Lord.  
With my mouth will I make known thy  
faith - ful - ness. thy faith - ful - ness. With my mouth will I make  
*D.C. al fine*  
known thy faith - ful - ness to all gen - er - a - tions.

Text: Psalm 89:1

Music: FILLMORE, J. H. Fillmore

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

P: Please join me in prayer:

**A: Holy and just God, we confess that we have fallen short of your calling. We have sought after wealth and status, forgetting that a good name is worth more than riches, and favor more than silver or gold. Forgive us, O God, when we have turned a blind eye to the needs of the poor, when we have failed to recognize that you are the maker of us all. We confess that we have sometimes sown seeds of injustice, reaping the pain of others for our own gain. We have not always been generous with the blessings you have given us, choosing instead to hoard and protect what we have. Forgive us, O God, for the times we have neglected the oppressed, for not standing up against the injustices at the gates of our society. Merciful God, hear our confession. Guide us to live in a way that reflects your justice and love, sharing our bread with the hungry and lifting up those who are bowed down. Lead us into your ways of righteousness, O God. Make us instruments of your justice, compassion, and peace.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**P:** Hear the good news: The Lord, who is the maker of us all, does not abandon us in our failings. God hears the cries of the afflicted, pleads their cause, and calls us to return to the path of justice. In Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and empowered to live lives of generosity and love. Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

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

## HYMN

## "Open My Eyes That I May See"

Ab Eb7/Bb Eb7 Ab

1 O - pen my eyes, that I may see glimps - es of truth you have for me;  
 2 O - pen my ears, that I may hear voic - es of truth you send so clear;  
 3 O - pen my mouth, and let me bear glad - ly the warm truth ev - ery - where;

C7/G Fm C7/E Fm C7 Fm Bb7 Bb Gm/Bb Bb7 Eb

place in my hands the won - der - ful key that shall un - lock and set me free.  
 and while the mes - sage sounds in my ear, ev - ery - thing false will dis - ap - pear.  
 o - pen my heart, and let me pre - pare love with your chil - dren thus to share.

Ab Eb7/Bb Eb7 Ab

Si - lent - ly now, on bend - ed knee, read - y I wait your will to see;

Ab Ab7/C Db Eb7 Db/Eb Ab

o - pen my eyes, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!  
 o - pen my ears, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!  
 o - pen my heart, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!



*The congregation may be seated*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Peter Svenson

Old Testament: Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

Epistle: James 2:1-10, 14-17

**CHORAL ANTHEM**      “Let There Be Peace on Earth”

*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**

**CALL TO OFFERING**

**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**

**A: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heav’nly host;  
Praise God in wonder, joy, and love. Amen.**

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**A: Generous and Wise God, you give freely and we receive freely. Sow in us discernment, understanding, and wisdom to be good stewards of the bounty we receive and the resources we have earned. Let us treat them all as gifts to be shared so that none will be in want or need to live full and abundant lives. Amen!**

*The congregation may be seated*

**SERMON**                      “Telling Our Truth”

## THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

**Exhortation and Invitation**

**Sursum Corda:**

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C: *And also with you.***

**P:** Lift up your hearts!

**C: *We lift them up to the Lord!***

**P:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: *It is right to give God thanks and praise.***

**Prayer of Thanksgiving and Consecration**

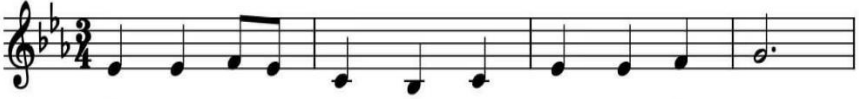
**Participation**

## **CLOSING PRAYER AND 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.**

*Will those who are able please stand up*

## HYMN "She Came to Jesus"



1. She came to Je - sus from out - side the fold—
2. Claim - ing a bless - ing, a touch of God's grace,
3. God, you still bless those who seek you in prayer.



Ca - naan - ite wo - man! Per - sis - tent and bold!  
 She knew God's love was not bound - ed by place.  
 You wel - come dream - ers who faith - ful - ly dare.



Look - ing to Je - sus, she wan - ted to see  
 Je - sus, you lis - tened, de - ba - ted— then healed—  
 In Christ, now ris - en, your mer - cy ex - tends:



One who would help her and set her child free.  
 For in her ask - ing, her faith was re - vealed.  
 Those on the out - side are wel - comed as friends.

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**CHARGE**

P: As we go forth from this place, let us remember the faith of the Syrophenician woman who, in her boldness, sought healing and inclusion. May we, too, be bold in our love, crossing boundaries and tearing down walls that separate us from one another. Let us be like Jesus, who opened the ears of the deaf and loosened the tongues of the mute. May we open our hearts to those in need, speaking words of compassion, justice, and grace. Go out into the world to listen, to speak, and to act with the radical love of Christ.

**BENEDICTION**

P: May the God who opens ears and eyes, who softens hearts and loosens tongues, bless you and keep you. May the Spirit empower you to speak for the voiceless and to hear the cries of the oppressed. And may the peace of Christ, which surpasses all understanding, guide you today and always. Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord. Amen.

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**POSTLUDE**

"Slane"

arr. Callahan

*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	Rev. Wayne MacPherson
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Beth Sterba
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Jennifer Schneider
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Heidi Tarzian

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# News in the Pews

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**What a glorious day as we return to [or share in] a full program schedule! Welcome [back] to worship, Christian education and fellowship today!**

**Thank you to all our volunteers involved in worship today, and our returning Christian Education team!**

**Please join us after worship for a special Sunday School Rally Day Coffee Hour, hosted by the Board of Christian Education.**

**Please welcome Rev. Wayne MacPherson back to our pulpit today!** Pastor Wayne is 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. Pastor Wayne will be back October 20<sup>th</sup> and will also lead our Pet Blessing!

**Rummage collection continues.** Our last day for donations is September 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Come help us sort 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!** A sign-up sheet will be posted soon for

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volunteers the days of the sale. Please come help! Baked goods will also be needed closer to the sale.

**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.

**Please join us next Sunday, September 15th, for the dynamic duo, the Revs. Roger and Harriet Dart!** Rev. Roger Dart will be our worship leader, speaking on the message, "Called to Follow." Rev. Harriet Dart will provide an inspiring mission moment, highlighting one of the many ways she has been part of the church renewal and justice work of the Chicago Metropolitan Association and the Illinois Conference of the UCC.

**We had a visit from Skokie's newly appointed fire safety inspector.** Please be aware that fire extinguishers throughout the building must never be blocked and easily accessible. Also, even when only one person is in the building, the exit lights must be turned on. Lastly, access to exit doors, stairwells, etc. must never be blocked in any way. Please keep this in mind when donating and sorting rummage. We'll be working on some other minor fire safety "housekeeping" with the Trustees so that we are ready for a huge and safe Rummage and Bake Sale, and future events!

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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:**

-Ricky Riley, who will be undergoing heart surgery.

- Betsy Herren, daughter of Ann, in Oregon. She is in treatment for breast cancer.

- Marcia Hilliard received the good news that the tumor removed from her pancreas was benign. However, another health setback has her back in the hospital. As of this writing, she is improving and waiting on further medical advice about a course of treatment that might include antibiotics or another surgery.

-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.

-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!**

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**According to the schedule** and barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector will be Rich Schneider, and our Nursery Attendant will be Carolyn Van Til.

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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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**About Communion:** All Christians and seekers after God are invited in to partake of the Lord's Supper here regardless of denominational background. We practice open Communion. We do, however, ask our own St. Peter's U.C.C. young folk to first go through the Communicants Class (6th grade). The servers will bring the bread to you in the pews (there are gluten free wafers in protective plastic) and we will partake at the Pastor's prompting. Then the servers will bring the fruit of the vine; grape juice is in one half of the tray; wine is in the other designated half. Again we partake at the Pastor's prompting, and the cups go into the cup racks connected to the pews.

**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.

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## **MISSION MOMENTS**

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**Be Opened (9/8/2024)**

**GREEN**

**16th Sunday after Pentecost**

**Mark 7:24-37**

Can you imagine your life being changed for the better with just a gentle touch, a loving word or even a compassionate smile?

The people we encounter in Mark's Gospel can. Their stories, packed into what is the shortest of the four gospels, tell of how the Son of God brings healing and hope to all he meets.

Rich, poor, men, women, children, sinners, outcasts — it doesn't matter who you are. There's nothing Jesus can't do to turn our lives around. But for that to happen, we must ask: Are we opened to the Divine impossible possibilities?

Mark brings us today a perfect illustration of new life in the healing of the deaf and mute man. In the story, Jesus starts by placing his fingers in the deaf man's ears. Jesus is acknowledging nonverbally his understanding of what the problem is. It's a loving act that puts the man at ease. He then spits on his fingers and touches the deaf man's tongue. Yes, a cringy moment for our modern sensibilities, but spit was believed to have healing qualities in ancient times. The final

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step in this healing comes with Jesus' sigh, "Ephphatha!" — which is Aramaic for "be opened." And with that, a man whose life was closed from the community because of his disability, opens to belonging and acceptance.

The word "Ephphatha" only appears eight times in the New Testament, almost always with stories of healing. It is a word, though, that we should add to our spiritual vocabularies, as the reminder to "be opened" is an important one in the healing of whatever needs to be healed in our lives.

Too often doubt and cynicism take over our lives, closing us off to the that healing of body, mind and spirit. Yet Jesus sees our situations and sighs, "Be opened!" For what has being closed to God's possibilities done for us?

In the Catholic tradition there is an optional baptismal rite that parents can request as part of the sacrament where the priest says a prayer as he touches the infant's ears and then mouth. The prayer is for the child to hear God's voice and to speak of God's grace as they grow. As you might have already guessed, it is known as the Ephphatha Rite.

Take a moment this day to touch your ears and then your mouth, praying to hear the Divine speaking to you and for the grace to speak words of love.

*Caring Healer, may today we "be opened" to the many ways you are renewing, reviving and restoring us. May we hear Your Son's loving word spoken to us now and always, "Ephphatha!" Amen.*

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**September 8, 2024**

**PRAYER for ILLUMINATION**

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

Almighty God, in you are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Open our eyes that we may see the wonders of your Word; and give us grace that we may clearly understand and freely choose the way of your wisdom; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Our first reading is ...**

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, & 22-23.

**22** A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches,  
and favor is better than silver or gold.

<sup>2</sup> The rich and the poor have this in common:  
the LORD is the maker of them all.

<sup>8</sup> Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity,  
and the rod of anger will fail.

<sup>9</sup> Those who are generous are blessed,  
for they share their bread with the poor.

22 Do not rob the poor because they are poor  
or crush the afflicted at the gate,

<sup>23</sup> for the LORD pleads their cause  
and despoils of life those who despoil them.

**This ends our first reading. Our next reading is ...**

James 2:1-10, 14-17

**2** My brothers and sisters, do not claim the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ of glory while showing partiality. <sup>2</sup> For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, <sup>3</sup> and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here in a good place, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit by my footstool," <sup>4</sup> have you not made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? <sup>5</sup> Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? <sup>6</sup> But you have dishonored the poor person. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they

who drag you into the courts? <sup>7</sup> Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

<sup>8</sup> If you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well. <sup>9</sup> But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. <sup>10</sup> For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

<sup>14</sup> What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but does not have works? Surely that faith cannot save, can it? <sup>15</sup> If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food <sup>16</sup> and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? <sup>17</sup> So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

**This ends our second reading. Our worship continues with a CHORAL ANTHEM**

(reader can sit down)

**Thank you, Choir**

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

Mark 7: 24-37

<sup>24</sup> From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre.<sup>Ⓜ</sup> He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, <sup>25</sup> but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. <sup>26</sup> Now the woman was a gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. <sup>27</sup> He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." <sup>28</sup> But she answered him, "Sir,<sup>Ⓜ</sup> even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." <sup>29</sup> Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." <sup>30</sup> And when she went home, she found the child lying on the bed and the demon gone.

<sup>31</sup> Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went by way of Sidon toward the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. <sup>32</sup> They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech, and they begged him to lay his hand on him. <sup>33</sup> He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. <sup>34</sup> Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." <sup>35</sup> And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. <sup>36</sup> Then Jesus<sup>Ⓜ</sup> ordered them to tell no one, but the more he

ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. <sup>37</sup> They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

**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.**