



# Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Tuesday,  
December 24,  
2024**

**7:00 PM**

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**Christmas Eve**





# 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**

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**St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Skokie**  
**Order of Worship for**  
**Tuesday, December 24, 2024 at 7:00 PM**  
**Christmas Eve**

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

**PRELUDE**                      “Christmas Joy”                      by P. Lehenbauer

**THE RINGING OF THE BELLS**

*Those who are able please stand*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

P: Come, all who seek light in the midst of darkness.

**C: We come, drawn by the promise of hope.**

P: Come, all who long for peace in a world of chaos.

**C: We come, believing that love is born anew tonight.**

P: Come, all who carry joy, sorrow, doubt, or faith.

**C: We come as we are, ready to receive the Christ-light.**

P: This is the night of holy mystery—when heaven touches earth, when Love takes on flesh, and when hope is born for all people.

**All: Let us worship the God who is with us,  
Emmanuel, the Light of the World.**

## OPENING RESPONSE “O Come All Ye Faithful”

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O  
 2 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
 3 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py mor - ning,

come ye, O come, ye to Beth - - le - hem;  
 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven, a - bove;  
 Je - sus, to thee, be all glo - - ry given;

Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;  
 glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;  
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

### Refrain

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord.

**OPENING PRAYER**

**A: Loving and Present God,**

**We gather tonight in awe and wonder, to remember the birth of a child, to honor a story that continues to shape us, and to proclaim that your light still shines, even in the world's darkest corners. As we hear the stories and sing the carols, stir our hearts to compassion and justice, and remind us that love made flesh is our truest calling. God of all people, you meet us here in the stillness and the song, in stories of ancient promise and present hope. On this holy night, we come as we are, open to the birth of your love among us. Kindle in us a light that cannot be extinguished, a light for justice, compassion, and peace. Amen.**

## HYMN "Joy to the World" (v 1 &amp; 4)

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re-ceive her King;  
 2. Joy to the earth, the Sa-vior reigns! Let men their songs em-ploy;  
 3. No more let sins and sor-rows grow, Nor thorns in-fest the ground;  
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the na-tions prove

Let ev-ry heart pre-pare Him room, And Heav'n and na-ture sing,  
 While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains Re-peat the sound-ing joy,  
 He comes to make His bless-ings flow Far as the curse is found,  
 The glo-ries of His right-eous-ness, And won-ders of His love,

And Heav'n and na-ture sing, And Heav'n, and Heav'n, and na-ture sing.  
 Re-peat the sound-ing joy, Re-peat, re-peat, the sound-ing joy.  
 Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as, the curse is found.  
 And won-ders of His love, And won-ders, won-ders, of His love.

*The congregation may take their seats*

## **THE SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS**

A Prophecy of the Messiah's Message

Luke 1:24-25, 57-58, 67-79

Read by Rich Schneider

## **THE STORY OF THE NATIVITY**

Luke 1: 39-56

The Magnificat

Read by Peggy Reins

Matthew 1:18-25

Joseph's Dream

Read by David Iannotti

Luke 2:1-7

The Journey and the Birth

Read by Barb Todd

## **ANTHEM**

"Still, Still, Still"

arr. Snyder

Luke 2:8-20

Of Shepherds and Angels

Read by Ben Westphal

## **THE OFFERING AND OFFERTORY**

*Will those who are able please rise to sing*

## HYMN: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" #102 (v. 1)

1. Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;  
 2. Christ, by high - est Heav'n a - dored; Christ the ev - er - last - ing Lord;  
 3. Hail the heav'n - ly Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Right - eous - ness!  
 4. Come, De - sire of na - tions, come, Fix in us Thy hum - ble home;  
 5. Ad - am's like - ness, Lord, ef - face, Stamp Thine im - age in its place:

Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners re - con - ciled!"  
 Late in time, be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
 Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.  
 Rise, the wo - man's con - qu'ring Seed, Bruise in us the ser - pent's head.  
 Se - cond Ad - - am from a - - bove, Re - in - state us in Thy love.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see; Hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty,  
 Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die.  
 Now dis - play Thy sav - ing po - wer, Ruin - ed na - ture now re - store;  
 Let us Thee, though lost, re - gain, Thee, the Life, the in - ner man:

With th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
 Pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Je - sus our Em - man - u - el.  
 Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them se - cond birth.  
 Now in my - stic un - ion join Thine to ours, and ours to Thine.  
 O, to all Thy - self im - part, Formed in each be - liev - ing heart.

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"



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## THE CHRIST CANDLE IS LIT

P: Christmas is a time of wonder – the wonder of Jesus; God-with-us; the Promised One, the Light of the world, the Holy One of God.

On this holy night, we light the Christ candle and we wonder:

**C: Is Jesus really here?**

P: We light this Christ-candle and we wonder:

**C: Jesus is really here!**

P: We light this Christ-candle and we know . . .

**C: God is with us, the Promised One has come,  
The Light of the world breaks through the shadows,  
The Holy One of God brings peace, hope, love and  
joy.**

## HYMN

## "The First Noel"

#118 (vv. 1, 2)

1. The first No - el the an - gel did say Was to cer - tain poor shep - herds  
 2. They look - ed up and saw a star Shin - ing in the east,  
 3. And by the light of that same star Three Wise Men came  
 4. This star drew nigh to the north - west, Ov - er Beth - le - hem  
 5. Then did they know as - sur - - ed - ly With - - in that house

in fields as they lay; In fields where they lay tend - ing their sheep,  
 be - yond them far; And to the earth it gave great light,  
 from coun - - try far; To seek for a King was their in - - tent,  
 it took its rest; And there it did both stop and stay,  
 the King did lie; One en - - tered it them for to see,

On a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.  
 And so it con - - tin - ued both day and night.  
 And to fol - low the star wher - - ev - - er it went.  
 Right ov - er the place where Je - - - sus lay.  
 And found the Babe in pov - - - er - - ty.

No - el, No - el, No - el, No - el, Born is the King of Is - - ra - el.

HOMILY

“Christmas Journeys”

Will the congregation please rise and sing

HYMN “Angels We Have Heard on High” #105 (vv. 1, 3)

1. An - gels we have heard on high, Sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,  
 2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?  
 3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;

And the moun - tains in re - ply Ech - o - ing their brave de - light.  
 What great bright - ness did you see? What glad ti - dings did you hear?  
 Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

REFRAIN

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o, Glo - - - - -

- - - - - ri - a . . . in ex - cel - sis De - o. A - MEN.

## **THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

Exhortation and Invitation

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Consecration

The Words of Institution

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**

## **THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

*For those of us in person, the ushers will receive light from the Christ Candle and come up the center aisle. The ushers will light the candle of the person nearest the center aisle. Then you pass it on down your pew. How? When you light the candle of the person next to you, keep your candle straight up. To light your candle, tip your unlit candle into the untipped flame offered to you. For those of you joining us virtually, you are invited to light your own candle, and then sing along. When all candles are lit, the lights will begin to fade out. Lights will slowly rise during the Postlude.*

*Will the congregation please rise and sing*

## HYMN:

## "Silent Night"

#101

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright  
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight;  
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light  
 4 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light;

'round yon vir - gin moth - er and child! Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and  
 glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav - en - ly hosts sing "Al - le - lu -  
 ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing  
 with the an - gels let us sing Al - le - lu - ia to our

mild, sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 ia: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born!"  
 grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.  
 King: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born.

**BENEDICTION**

P: As you leave this sacred space, may the light of Christ guide your path, the love of God hold you close, and the spirit of peace empower you to share joy with the world. Go now in wonder, in hope, and in the promise that Love is born among us.

**C: Amen!**

**THE RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**POSTLUDE**      “Joy to the World!”      by Callahan

*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**

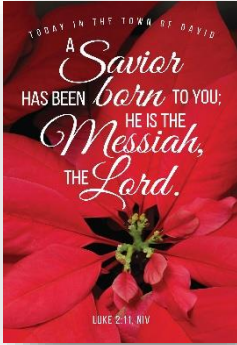
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MINISTER	Rev. Wayne MacPherson
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Jenn Schneider
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Beth Sterba

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**IN HONOR AND IN MEMORY  
POINSETTIAS 2024**



**Maria & Randy Altmayer**  
In Memory of Thomas  
Altmayer

**Sue & Barbara Bailey**  
In Memory of Our Loved  
Ones

**Linda Haig**

In Honor of my great granddaughter Nora,  
grandchildren Ariana, Olivia, Joseph,  
Liberty, beloved family & friends; Susan  
Garcia Family and Rev. Richard & Beth  
Lanford

**Sharon Johnson**

In Memory of Susan and John

**Lana and Don Kahn**

In Memory of Roy & June Peterson and all of  
our beloved Family that are not with us  
today

**Pastor Wayne MacPherson**

In Memory of my Parents Eva and Lloyd  
MacPherson





**Peggy & Chad McCoy**

In Honor of Mother JoAnn McCoy, in  
Memory of Father John McCoy

**Annie Noorts**

In Memory of my Parents Joan & Georg Stahl

**Judy Paige**

In Memory of Loved Ones

**Harold Ruesch's daughters and their  
families**

In Memory of Ruesch Family Loved Ones

**Marlene Russell**

In Honor of Friends and Family

**Theresa Stielow, Martha Mazur and Susan  
Schmidt**

In Memory of our Parents, Harold and  
Jacqueline Ruesch





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# News in the Pews

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**We kneel at your manger, dear Christ Child. Nothing is more important than this.**

**We're so pleased to have Rev. Wayne MacPherson lead worship tonight.** 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.

**Thank you to** our lectors, our choir, our livestreaming team, Communion Elders, Deacons, and volunteers behind the scenes. Thank you, especially to Ben Westphal our Music Director, and Office Administrator Laura Olson for the extra work they put in during Advent and tonight's service!

**About Communion:** We invite all believers, regardless of denominational background, to join in the Lord's Supper. The servers will bring the elements to you in the pews. Please hold the elements until all are served. We will then partake together at the Pastor's prompting as a sign of Christian unity.



**Baby Shower for Jesus!** The Sunday School's mission program is back this year. Donations should be placed under the Christmas tree in the sanctuary. A full list of items is in our Announcer and Weekly Update emails. Please, no clothing, blankets or toys. Items will be collected through December.

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**Softgoods Clothing Drive in January!** Start cleaning out those closets & storage spaces, we're looking for soft goods. Items such as 👕 clothing, 🛏 bedding, linens, towels, 👟 shoes, 🧢 hats, belts, 👜 purses, 🧸 stuffed toys- we'll take them all as Savers pays by the pound. Start the new year off right and help us raise funds. Thanks so much for your consideration!

**Sign up for ☕ Coffee Hour!** We are getting back to regular coffee hours on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month but need folks to sign-up to host. Hosting is basically bringing some coffee cake, etc. to share, making coffee and light clean-up. We are also working on new ways to sign-up (including online) soon; contact the office in the meantime if you'd be willing to host or cohost and we'll find you someone to assist if needed.

**The Annual Meeting** of St. Peter's United Church of Christ will be January 26<sup>th</sup> after worship.

**2025 📅 Calendars are still available to take home.** You can find copies in the Narthex, Lanford Fellowship Hall, or outside the offices and lobby area.

**Please join us** next Sunday for a very special service of carols, poetry, and scripture, with guest pianist Katrina Sudman.

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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:**

- Parents of Anna Riley, prayers for healing and strength.
- Ricky Riley's heart surgery has been scheduled for February 7th, 2025.
- Ann Herren's two daughters; Betsy Herren is doing well having finished her radiation treatment. Jennifer will be having surgery for breast cancer, date TBD.
- 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 suffering from self-harm.
- Cancer has returned for Susan Garcia's Aunt Janice, whom we've prayed for previously.
- Jane Abramchik continues to recover at home aided by a team of home caregivers and her husband Paul.
- Paul Brzozowski's recent MRI was encouraging but his treatment for brain cancer is continuing.
- Annie has asked for continuing prayers for the many people struggling with cancer.
- 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 and Bob Seitman.

***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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**This week we wish a Happy birthday to** Michael Chavez, Payton McDonald, Carol Iannotti, Carol Hook, Laura Olson and Beverly Mau.

**According to the schedule** and barring any switches Sunday's Nursery Attendant will be Rita McMahon.

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### **CHURCH LEADERSHIP**

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PRESIDENT	Peggy Reins
VICE-PRESIDENT	
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.** 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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