

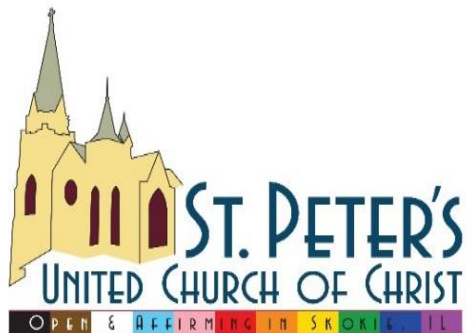


# Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR  
**Sunday,**  
**September 22,**  
**2024**  
**10:00 AM**

---

**Eighteenth**  
**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**



# OPENING RESPONSE "Sing Hallelujah to the Lord"

SSB #1

*Descant*

Sing hal-le-lu-jah to the Lord.

*Unison*

Sing hal-le-lu-jah to the Lord. Sing hal-le-

This system contains three staves of music. The top staff is a descant in G major, 2/2 time, starting with a whole rest followed by a melodic line. The middle and bottom staves are unison parts for the congregation, with lyrics 'Sing hal-le-lu-jah to the Lord.' and 'Sing hal-le-' respectively.

Sing hal-le-lu-jah, hal-le-lu-

lu-jah to the Lord. Sing hal-le-lu-jah, sing hal-le-

This system continues the unison part with three staves. The lyrics are 'Sing hal-le-lu-jah, hal-le-lu-' on the top staff, 'lu-jah to the Lord. Sing hal-le-lu-jah, sing hal-le-' on the middle staff, and the bottom staff continues the accompaniment.

jah; sing hal-le-lu-jah to the Lord.

lu-jah. Sing hal-le-lu-jah to the Lord.

This system concludes the piece with three staves. The lyrics are 'jah; sing hal-le-lu-jah to the Lord.' on the top staff, 'lu-jah. Sing hal-le-lu-jah to the Lord.' on the middle staff, and the bottom staff continues the accompaniment. The system ends with a double bar line and first/second endings.

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

P: Please join me in prayer:

**A: Gracious and loving God, we confess that we have not always walked in your ways. We have turned from the needs of our neighbors, and failed to care for the earth, your creation. We have clung to what is comfortable and avoided the call to do justice and love mercy. Forgive us for the times we have remained silent in the face of injustice, for the ways we have contributed to systems that harm rather than heal, and for the moments we have failed to love others as you love us. Transform our hearts, O God, that we may seek your kingdom on earth with courage, compassion, and hope.**

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

P: Hear the good news: God's love is unconditional, and God's grace is abundant. Even when we falter, God's mercy renews us, and God's Spirit leads us on. In Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and made whole. Know that you are forgiven and freed to live in love, justice, and peace.

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

## HYMN "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" SSB #35

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;  
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;  
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;  
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove  
 we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,  
 all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!  
 thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love,  
 and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.  
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, alt.  
 Music: ST. DENIO, Welsh traditional; arr. John Roberts, 1807–1876

*The congregation may be seated*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Beth Sterba

Psalter Reading: Psalm 1

Epistle: James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

**MUSICAL MEDITATION** “Great is Thy Faithfulness”

*Will those who are able please stand up*

**THE GOSPEL**

Mark 9:30-37

**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 a yellow “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

**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: Glorious God, may these gifts bring glory to you and  
grace to your world. May our lives and our ministry  
reflect your love, and may we spread your message  
of love throughout the world. Amen.**

*The congregation may be seated*

**SERMON****“A Different Kind of Greatness”**



*Will those who are able please stand up*

## HYMN "Great is Thy Faithfulness"

Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther; there is no shad-ow of  
Sum-mer and win-ter, and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon, and stars in their  
Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, thine own dear pres-ence to

turn-ing with thee. Thou chang-est not; thy com-pas-sions they fail not.  
cours-es a-bove join with all na-ture in man-i-fold wit-ness,  
cheer and to guide, strength for to-day and bright hope for to-mor-row:

As thou hast been thou for-ev-er wilt be. Great is thy faith-ful-ness!  
to thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy, and love,  
bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!

Great is thy faith-ful-ness Morn-ing by morn-ing, new mer-cies I see. All I have  
need-ed thy hand hath pro-vid-ed. Great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord un-to me!

---

## CHARGE

P: Beloved, go forth as agents of peace and justice, embodying the wisdom that flows from love and compassion. Let your actions be rooted in humility, knowing that true strength is found in lifting up others. Resist the urge for power and self-interest, for where these thrive, so do injustice and division. Instead, seek the way of peace, creating communities where all can flourish, and in all things, stay open to the transforming presence of God in your life and the world around you.

## BENEDICTION

P: May the Spirit of love lead you into deeper compassion for all people, especially the marginalized and oppressed. Resist the forces of hate and fear, knowing that in God's love, justice and peace prevail. As you draw near to the Divine, may you be empowered to live boldly, work for justice, and create spaces of belonging. Go now in peace, with hearts wide open to the movement of God's Spirit. Amen.

## POSTLUDE

“Trumpet Tune”

by Stanley

*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	Rev. Wayne MacPherson
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Barb Bailey
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Beth Sterba
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Rita McMahon

---

---

# News in the Pews

---

Welcome to worship in the name of God — Father, Son and Holy Spirit — who created you, saved you and makes you holy. Amen.  
Thank you to all our volunteers involved in worship today!

**We welcome back Rev. Wayne MacPherson this Sunday for another guiding message for our times!** Pastor Wayne has served four congregations in the Chicago Metropolitan Association, two as Pastor and two as Interim Pastor. His service as a supply pastor includes preaching at around twenty congregations across the Chicago Metropolitan and Fox Valley Associations of the Illinois Conference of the UCC. Pastor Wayne will be back leading morning worship on October 20th. He will also lead our Pet Blessing at 3pm that same day.

**The Church Council is meeting at 12:45pm today via Zoom.** Please contact Peggy Reins if you plan to attend and need the Zoom link to join the meeting. As always, our Church Council meetings are open to all.

**Please come help for this final push! Rummage sorting days** are *Monday morning from 10am to noon, Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:30pm and Friday from 10am to 2pm.* Most likely someone will be here every day until the sale as we are a little over a week away.

**The Rummage Sale will Friday and Saturday, September 27th and 28th this year!**

**Rummage Volunteers needed!** The rummage sale is less than a week away. To do this right, we need a lot of helpers on the days of the sale. The official shifts are 9-12PM and 12-3PM each day. In the morning, most of us arrive at 8 - 8:30AM to get a bagel, a donut and a cup of coffee and to get our name tags and aprons on. Lunch is also provided to all workers, so those who work the afternoon shift can come early for lunch. On Friday we also need helpers 3:00-5:00PM to straighten things up so the Saturday shoppers aren't walking into a mess. On

---

---

Saturday the cleanup is minimal, we are usually able to leave 3:30-4:00. If you have friends who can help, please bring them along! Please contact Annie Noorts via email to let her know you can help: [annie.noorts@gmail.com](mailto:annie.noorts@gmail.com), or call (847) 772-2717.

**Baked Goods needed!** Of course we'll also need lots of goodies to sell the days of the sale. Items should be individually wrapped to sell. For questions or to let us know you can bake, contact Barb Todd at (847) 965-0345.

**After the Rummage Sale** - After the Rummage Sale, we always open the doors to individuals and organizations in need. They are invited to come and take whatever items they or their clients can use. Please feel free to invite anyone you know who is in need or serves those in need to come after the sale to get items they need at no cost to them or their organization. Annie has invited those who came in the past to come at **3:00PM on Saturday, 9-28 when we close the sale, or on Monday, 9/30 11AM-1PM**. Please let Annie know if you invite anyone so we know who to expect. After these folks have picked up what they want, we will be packing everything up and hauling things to Goodwill and Salvation Army.

**Please join us next Sunday, September 29th, for the return of the duo of the Revs. Harriet and Roger Dart!** Rev. Roger Dart will deliver a mission moment on the fascinating world of disaster relief ministry and our role in it. He will speak about how the UCC, the Illinois Conference, and local churches are responding to disasters of increasing scale and frequency. Rev. Harriet Dart will deliver a sermon on the theme of Community.

**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. Any questions please let Wendy know.

---

---

# Our People

---

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

- Cancer has returned for Susan Garcia's Aunt Janice, whom we've prayed for previously. She will be having surgery in October.
- Sharon Johnson, who will be having surgery in October.
- Ricky Riley, who will be undergoing heart surgery.
- Betsy Herren, daughter of Ann, in Oregon. She is in treatment for breast cancer.
- Marcia Hilliard continues to improve at home. She returns to the hospital on October 7th for another, and hopefully her last, 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!**

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

---

---

**Celebrating birthdays this week are** Mandy Steegmueller and Beth Sterba. **Celebrating their anniversary this week are** Angela and Harrison Kuras and Kathy and Jeffery Issel.

---

### 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 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.

**Our mini-food pantry is a daily mission this church does for the community of Skokie.** The Niles Township Food Pantry tells us ours is the most successful in the area. But we can't keep it going without regular donations. 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

---

**First in Caring (9/22/2024)**

**GREEN**

**18th Sunday after Pentecost**

**Mark 9:30-37**

It's so easy for us to pick on the disciples for bickering about who is the greatest, especially after Jesus told them for a second time that the Son of God will be handed over, tried and put to death. Yes, but ... which one of us is the greatest?

We can pick on them or we can take a step back and see how many times in our desire for greatness — measured by the riches, power and prestige the world offers — we miss the life Jesus is calling us to.

When Jesus discovers that this is what his followers were arguing about behind his back, he calls a time out. He then picks up a child for a quick sermon illustration. See this little one? Greatness doesn't come from what you can achieve or gain. Greatness comes from what you do to help the helpless and the vulnerable. Jesus then adds, "anyone who want to be first, must be last."

---

---

Our Savior's words go against everything we are taught in life, where first place is coveted and grabbing the prize is the goal. In 1983, Harvard Divinity School appointed Henri J.M. Nouwen, a Dutch priest, theologian and author, to the position of Professor of Divinity. After only one academic year, Nouwen surprised his Ivy League colleagues by resigning from the prestigious position so that he could serve as chaplain for the L'Arche Daybreak community in Toronto — a place where disabled adults and their caregivers lived together.

But it was at L'Arche that Nouwen met a young man, Adam, who could neither speak nor move without assistance. Nouwen would later reflect that it was his time at L'Arche, and especially Adam, that gave his life purpose.

"The people I live with sometimes have a very hard time believing they are chosen," wrote Nouwen. "They suffer, not so much from their mental handicap, but from the feeling of being not wanted, not desired."

Nouwen stepped away from the world's greatness and by doing so illustrated the power of divine greatness.

"Who among us is the greatest?" It is the one who creates a more loving and welcoming place for the Adams of the world.

*Loving God, may today we discover, in serving others, that last place is a glorious position to be in, for it is there your kin-dom work is done.*

*Amen.*

---



# Scriptures for Sunday, September 22, 2024

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

God, source of all light, by your Word you give light to the soul. Pour out on us the spirit of wisdom and understanding that our hearts and minds may be opened.

**This morning we begin with a reading of Psalm 1.**

<sup>1</sup> Happy are those  
    who do not follow the advice of the wicked  
or take the path that sinners tread  
    or sit in the seat of scoffers,

<sup>2</sup> but their delight is in the law of the LORD,  
    and on his law they meditate day and night.

<sup>3</sup> They are like trees  
    planted by streams of water,  
which yield their fruit in its season,  
    and their leaves do not wither.

In all that they do, they prosper.

<sup>4</sup> The wicked are not so  
    but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

<sup>5</sup> Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment  
    nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous,

<sup>6</sup> for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,  
    but the way of the wicked will perish.

**This ends the reading from the Psalter. Our epistle reading is James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a.**

<sup>13</sup> Who is wise and knowledgeable among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. <sup>14</sup> But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be arrogant and lie about the truth. <sup>15</sup> This is not wisdom that comes down from above but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. <sup>16</sup> For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. <sup>17</sup> But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. <sup>18</sup> And the fruit of righteousness<sup>[a]</sup> is sown in peace by those who make peace. **4** Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings

that are at war within you? <sup>2</sup>You want something and do not have it, so you commit murder. And you covet<sup>[b]</sup> something and cannot obtain it, so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup>You ask and do not receive because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.

**This ends the reading of our epistle lesson. Our worship continues with a musical meditation.**

**Thank you, Ben. For those who are able, please stand for the reading of the Gospel. This morning's Gospel lesson is Mark 9:30-37.**

<sup>30</sup>They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it, <sup>31</sup>for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." <sup>32</sup>But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him. <sup>33</sup>Then they came to Capernaum, and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" <sup>34</sup>But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup>He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." <sup>36</sup>Then he took a little child and put it among them, and taking it in his arms he said to them, <sup>37</sup>"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

**This concludes our gospel lesson for this morning's service. May God grant us a wise and generous understanding of this God's holy word.**