



>Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR
Sunday,
November 17,
2024
10:00 AM

Twenty-sixth
Sunday after
Pentecost

St. Peter's
United Church
of Christ

An Open
And Affirming
Congregation





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 17, 2024 at 10:00am
Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

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

PRELUDE

Selected

Daniella Rukin
Guest Pianist

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 16)*

P: Come, let us gather in the presence of the Divine, the One who fills us with joy and shows us the path of life.

C: We come seeking refuge in God, who holds us in steadfast love and grace.

P: The Holy One is our inheritance and our cup; in God, we find everything we need.

C: With hearts open and spirits at rest, we turn to God, who offers guidance and strength.

P: Let us celebrate, for we are never alone—God is with us, filling us with unending joy and peace.

C: In God’s presence, we find life. Let us worship with gladness and gratitude!

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

P: Please join me in prayer:

A: Gracious God, you are our refuge and strength, yet we confess that we often seek security and meaning elsewhere. Forgive us when we place our trust in fleeting things, when we cling to worry or pride, and lose sight of the path you have shown us.

You offer us fullness of joy and eternal peace, but we admit that we do not always choose to dwell in your presence. Forgive us, O God, for the ways we distance ourselves from you and from one another. Lead us back to the life-giving ways of love, justice, and compassion. Help us to release what holds us back and to trust in your steadfast love. In your mercy, restore us and renew us. Amen.

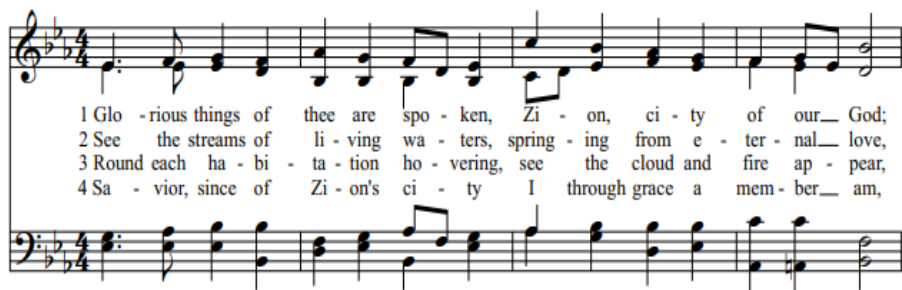
Silent Reflection

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

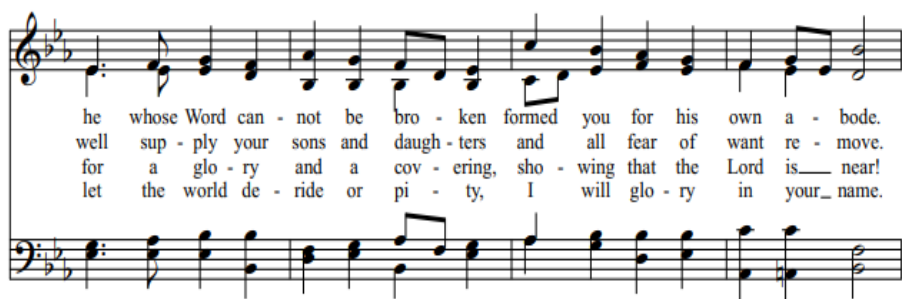
P: Friends, hear the good news: God is our constant guide, offering boundless grace and unending mercy. In the presence of the Holy One, there is fullness of joy and freedom from all that weighs us down. Thanks be to God, who forgives us, renews us, and calls us to walk in love. We are forgiven and made whole.

C: Thanks be to God! Amen.

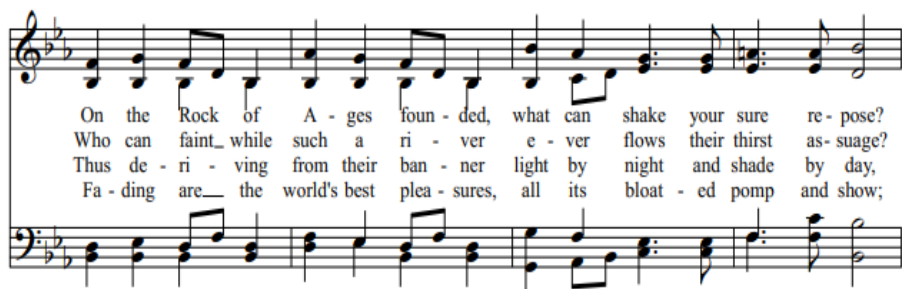
HYMN “Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken”



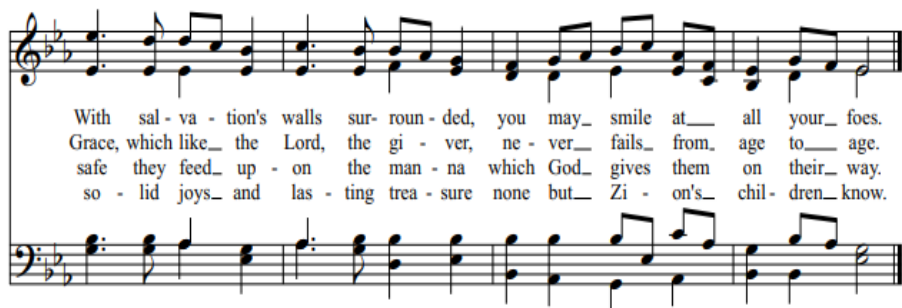
1 Glo - rious things of thee are spo - ken, Zi - on, ci - ty of our_ God;
 2 See the streams of li - ving wa - ters, spring - ing from e - ter - nal_ love,
 3 Round each ha - bi - ta - tion ho - vering, see the cloud and fire ap - pear,
 4 Sa - vior, since of Zi - on's ci - ty I through grace a mem - ber_ am,



he whose Word can - not be bro - ken formed you for his own a - bode.
 well sup - ply your sons and daugh - ters and all fear of want re - move.
 for a glo - ry and a cov - ering, sho - wing that the Lord is_ near!
 let the world de - ride or pi - ty, I will glo - ry in your_ name.



On the Rock of A - ges foun - ded, what can shake your sure re - pose?
 Who can faint_ while such a ri - ver e - ver flows their thirst as - suage?
 Thus de - ri - ving from their ban - ner light by night and shade by day,
 Fa - ding are_ the world's best plea - sures, all its bloat - ed pomp and show;



With sal - va - tion's walls sur - roun - ded, you may_ smile at_ all your_ foes.
 Grace, which like_ the Lord, the gi - ver, ne - ver_ fails_ from_ age to_ age.
 safe they feed_ up - on the man - na which God_ gives them on their_ way.
 so - lid joys_ and las - ting trea - sure none but_ Zi - on's_ chil - dren_ know.

The congregation may be seated

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION AND SCRIPTURE READING

Barb Todd

Psalter:

Psalm 16

MUSICAL MEDITATION Selected

Daniella Rukin

Guest Pianist

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

♪♪ Sung ♪♪

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: Loving God, we bring these gifts to you with grateful hearts, knowing that all we have comes from your abundant grace. Bless these offerings, that they may be used to bring hope, justice, and compassion to our world and may our giving be a reflection of your love. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen

The congregation may be seated

SERMON

“Pathway to Purpose”

Will those who are able please stand up

HYMN

“Be Thou My Vision”

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise;
 4 High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

naught be all else to me, save that thou art—
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's sun!

thou my best thought, — by day or by night;
 Thou my great Fa - ther; thine own may I be,
 thou and thou on - ly first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 thou in me dwell - ing and I one with thee.
 high King of heav - en, my treas - ure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Chord markings: B^b, A^b, B^b, A^b, E^b, C^m, A^b, B^b, E^b, C^m, A^b, F^m, E^b

CHARGE

P: Go now into the world with hearts open and spirits renewed, trusting in God who is our refuge and guide. Let gratitude and joy be the path you walk, as you seek justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with the Holy One who journeys beside you.

BENEDICTION

P: May God, who is our constant companion, fill you with unshakable peace. May Christ's love surround you and uplift you. And may the Spirit lead you into the fullness of joy, now and always. Go in peace, to love and serve. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Selected

Daniella Rukin
Guest Pianist

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

Minster Renita Ward

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Ben Westphal

DEACON

Maria Altmayer

LIVESTREAM RECORDING

Peter S./Silas

NURSERY ATTENDANT

Annie Noorts

News in the Pews

Welcome. The writer of Hebrews urges us to “not stop gathering together with other believers” but “encourage each other even more” (10:25, God’s Word Translation). So let us worship.

Please extend a warm St. Peter's welcome back to Minister Renita Ward - Minister and Attorney Renita Ward is an advocate, teacher, mediator, and preacher. She is a Member in Discernment with the CMA of our Illinois Conference of the UCC, and member of Trinity UCC - Chicago.

Please welcome guest pianist Daniella Rukin filling in for Ben this morning. Daniella works as a musician and actor in the Chicago area and is a Lincolnwood native and graduated from nearby Niles West High School. She performs around Chicago, and can often be seen in local plays, and playing the piano for weddings, cocktail parties, and corporate events. We’re glad to have her!

Church Council meets after worship today!

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

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!

December Announcer articles are due next Monday! Please get those articles into Laura via email or drop off.

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 Thanksgiving Interfaith Service hosted by the Niles Township Clergy Forum will be Tuesday, **November 26th** at 7:30PM. The location is TBD and we will let you know as soon as we do.

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 Totenfest, and 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 was 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 Christine Svenson, Heidi Tarzian, Isabelle Banoyo, Dorothy Stielow, Pat Mauer Erdman and Bill Cain.

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

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

Praise the Holy One

(11/17/2024)

26th Sunday after Pentecost

GREEN

1 Samuel 1:4-20

Are you weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care, precious Savior still our refuge, take it to the Lord in prayer.

Joseph M. Scriven knew what it was like to be cumbered with a load of care. Early on, Scriven had to drop out of military school due to poor health. Then, in 1844, on the eve of this wedding his fiancé drowned. After moving to Canada, Scriven found — and lost — love again. His fiancé died this time after a short illness.

Yet through it all, Scriven kept believing that there was a Heavenly Ear listening to his cries. In 1855, he expressed that belief in the ever-popular hymn, “What a Friend We Have in Jesus.”

Scriven’s reminder to take our sorrow-riddled sighs and desperation-filled whys to God is one we need today. We live in a time where we no longer know how to wait for anything — let alone God’s answer to prayer. We live in an on-demand society expecting God to be an on-demand God.

God, though, never forgets us. It might seem like God keeps us waiting in our sorrow, questions and trials, but God's timing is not like ours. In the waiting, we need to draw closely to God and remain persistent with our prayers.

Hannah is the poster child for being persistent. Although her load of care — her infertility — was breaking her heart, she kept asking God to “open her womb.” Hannah's husband, Elkanah, was kind to her, but Peninnah, the other wife, loved to flaunt her fertility in front of Hannah.

Years of societal shame, marital failure and personal grief, would have taken its toll on any person of faith. Hannah, though, kept praying.

In the end, Hannah's prayers were heard. She conceived a son and, as promised, to show her praise to the Lord, she gives the child to the service of the priest, Eli.

What are the unanswered prayers you are carrying this day? How long have you been lifting them to God? Whatever you do, don't stop praying. For you just can't see how close you really are to receiving God's answer.

Dear God, grant us the persistence we need this day to keep on praying, knowing that You are not only listening but that You are working on the most beautiful answer to our deepest desires. Thank you for the answered prayers that we know will come — in your perfect timing. Amen.

Scripture for Sunday, November 17, 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 is Psalm 16.

- ¹ Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.
- ² I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord;
I have no good apart from you."^[a]
- ³ As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble ones
in whom is all my delight.
- ⁴ Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows;^[b]
their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out
or take their names upon my lips.
- ⁵ The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup;
you hold my lot.
- ⁶ The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
I have a goodly heritage.
- ⁷ I bless the LORD, who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.
- ⁸ I keep the LORD always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.
- ⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;
my body also rests secure.
- ¹⁰ For you do not give me up to Sheol
or let your faithful one see the Pit.
- ¹¹ You show me the path of life.
In your presence there is fullness of joy;
in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

This ends our scripture readings 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 by our guest pianist, Daniella Rukin.