

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,
October 6, 2024
10:00 AM**

**Twentieth
Sunday after
Pentecost**

Welcome





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, October 6, 2024 at 10:00am
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

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

PRELUDE “For the Beauty of the Earth” arr. Line

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS Peggy Reins

Will those who are able please stand up

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: In the wilderness, the people of Israel grumbled,
uncertain of where their next meal would come from.

**C: We, too, know what it is to feel fear, to wonder
where help will come from, and to doubt whether
we are heard.**

P: But God heard their cries, offering manna from
heaven and quail to satisfy their hunger.

- C: God hears our cries today, offering not only physical sustenance but also the bread of hope, justice, and compassion.**
- P: In the desert, God called the people into trust, a trust that the provision would come daily.
- C: We come to this place seeking to trust in God's abundance, knowing that together we can create a world of enough for all.**
- P: As we gather in community, let us remember: God provides for our needs, and calls us to provide for one another.
- C: Let us open our hearts to the Spirit, ready to receive and to share the gifts of grace and love.**

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 for the Pastor, starting with a whole rest and then a series of eighth notes. The middle and bottom staves are for the Unison, 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 musical score with three staves. The top staff has lyrics 'Sing hal-le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -'. The middle staff has lyrics 'lu - jah to the Lord. Sing hal - le - lu - jah, sing hal - le -'. The bottom staff provides the bass line accompaniment.

1 2
jah; sing hal-le - lu-jah to the Lord.

1 2
lu - jah. Sing hal - le - lu - jah to the Lord.

This system concludes the piece with three staves. It features first and second endings for both the vocal parts and the bass line. The lyrics 'jah; sing hal-le - lu-jah to the Lord.' and 'lu - jah. Sing hal - le - lu - jah to the Lord.' are placed under the respective staves.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

P: Let us come before God with open hearts, confessing the ways we fall short, yet trusting in the grace that meets us here.

A: Loving God, we confess that we do not always trust in Your provision. Like the Israelites in the wilderness, we grumble when life feels uncertain, forgetting Your constant presence with us. We hoard what we have, believing there is not enough to go around. We close our hearts to our neighbors, worried about our own survival. Forgive us for our fear, our lack of faith, and our failure to care for those in need. Help us to remember Your abundance and to live as people of generosity, trust, and love.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

P: Hear the good news: Even in the wilderness, God provided for the people. Even in our doubts and failures, God remains faithful. There is always enough grace.

God hears our confessions and answers with mercy. In Christ, we are forgiven, renewed, and freed to live in the spirit of God's abundance.

C: Thanks be to God. Amen.

HYMN “If You Will Only Let God Guide You”

1. If you will on - ly let God guide you, And hope in
 2. On - ly be still, and wait His lei - sure, In cheer - ful
 3. Sing, pray, and swerve not from His ways, But do your

Him thro' all your ways, What - ev - er comes, He'll stand be - side you,
 hope, with heart con - tent To take what - e'er the Fa - ther's plea - sure
 part in con - science true; Trust His rich prom - is - es of grace,

To bear you thro' the e - vil days; Who trusts in God's un -
 And all dis - cern - ing love have sent; Nor doubt our in - most
 So shall they be ful - filled in you; God hears the call of

chang - ing love Builds on the Rock that can - not move.
 wants are known To Him who chose that us for His own.
 those in need, The souls that trust in Him in - deed.

The congregation may be seated

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION AND SCRIPTURE READING

Ann Herren

Exodus 16: 2-4,9-15

CHORAL ANTHEM “All the Earth Raise Up A Song”

The congregation may be seated

PASTORAL AND SILENT PRAYERS

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

We lift our voi - ces, — we lift our hands, — we lift our
 lives — up to You, we are an of - fer - ing; — Lord, use our
 voi - ces, — Lord, use our hands, — Lord, use our
 lives, — they are Yours, we are an of - fer - ing. —
 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
 voi - ces, — we lift our hands, — we lift our
 lives — up to You, we are an of - fer - ing, — we are an of - fer - ing. —

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 “How Many Miracles Does It Take?”

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 “Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”



- 1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:
- 2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,
- 3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
 teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
 gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!

Refrain



Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Music: I.NSTEAD. Jamaican folk tune, adapt. Dorcen Potter, 1925–1980

CHARGE

P: As we go from this place, remember that God has provided for you in the wilderness, just as God provided manna for the Israelites.

C: We will trust in God’s abundance, even when the path ahead seems uncertain.

P: Go now, carrying the spirit of that abundance into a world that often fears scarcity. Share what you have, care for one another, and build communities of justice, compassion, and hope.

C: We will live as people of grace, offering our hands and hearts to the work of love.

POSTLUDE “Lobe den Herren” 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.

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| GUEST MINISTER | Rev. Dr. Carol Ann Munro |
| MUSIC DIRECTOR | Ben Westphal |
| DEACON | Jenn Schneider |
| LIVESTREAM RECORDING | Peter Svenson |
| NURSERY ATTENDANT | Kathy Zipperer |

Handcrafted Wreaths and Decorations

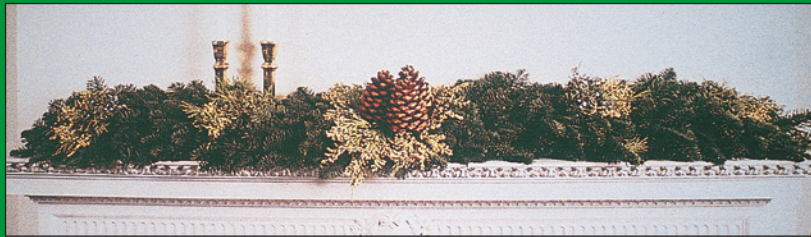


**24" Balsam Wreath
with Velvet Ribbon**

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

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 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: | | |
| Item Description | Price | Quantity |
| 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 (\$) | | |

News in the Pews

“You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, ... God’s special possession.” Welcome to worship, where we are invited to “declare the praises of him who called [us] out of darkness into his wonderful light” (1 Peter 2:9, NIV).

We welcome back Rev. Dr. Carol Ann Munro to our pulpit.

Rev. Dr. Carol Ann Munro is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. She has served as a parish pastor, hospital chaplain, development officer, retreat leader and spiritual director. Her primary areas of focus for her ministry have been 12-step spirituality, adult faith formation and biblical literacy.

We’re taking Wreath Orders now! Please see the insert for details and order form. Orders are due Friday, November 15th.

Rummage Update and Clean up – Thank you to everyone who came out Friday and helped clean up our successful sale! Grand totals to come, but our initial sales from the weekend were over \$17,000. We have books leftover that need to be taken to Half-Price Books in Skokie. Boxes are stacked in the lobby area. We ask you take a box (or two) at a time as they pay less for bigger quantities. Please give the monies to Laura in the office, and thanks so much for your help!

The Annual Pet Blessing with C.A.R.E. is scheduled for October 20th at 3PM. All pets are welcome, (on a leash or in a carrier please) and for your \$5 donation the Rev. Wayne MacPherson will be leading a special pet themed service and blessing all our loved ones. Refreshments for both humans and pets will be served, and we'll have our pet raffle as well. C.A.R.E. will be on hand with adoptable animals and short leashes. All proceeds from this event and raffle will be split 50/50 with C.A.R.E. Please come!

The Fall Craft Show and Bake Sale this year will be on Saturday November 2nd from 10-3. We'll have over 40 vendors selling handmade and computer-made items to help you get a jump on your holiday shopping. **HELP NEEDED:** bakers for the sale and help early that morning at 7:30 AM to help the crafters unload. We also have a few tables left if you are interested in a table! Please contact Wendy Svenson (847) 528-4545 or Annie Noorts (847) 772-2717 to volunteer or if you'd like to apply for a table.

The fall meeting of the Chicago Metropolitan Association of our Illinois Conference of the UCC was yesterday, October 5th from 4-6:30pm via Zoom. This virtual-only meeting focused on a few important Association and Conference business items including the new constitution and bylaws proposed for the Association and an update on the Camp Forward initiative concerning the Association's Outdoor Ministries and the Tower Hill and Pilgrim Park church camps. Our Church President Peggy Reins participated in the meeting as the voting representative for our local church.

Next Sunday we will welcome Rev. Carol Ann Munro back to our pulpit for a message on healing and faith.

Our People

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

- Those affected by the devastation of Hurricane Helene.
- 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. She will be having surgery in October.
- Sharon Johnson had a successful surgery and is recovering at home.
- 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 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.

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. **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 Beth Sterba, and our Nursery Attendant will be Laurie Mitchell.

Celebrating birthdays this week are Winfield Meggs, Gabriel Banoyo and Jillian Caras. **Celebrating their anniversary this week** are Laura & Paul Medaglia.

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!



MISSION MOMENTS

October 2024 Years B/C

Enfolding Love (10/6/2024)

GREEN

20th Sunday after Pentecost. Mark 10:2-16

Many times we find ourselves skipping over the topic of divorce that we have in the first part of Mark 10:2-16, in favor of the more polite dinner conversation of Jesus blessing the children.

Divorce is never easy to discuss. It's deeply personal with complexities unique to each couple. Yet many still weigh in with their opinions, just as they did in Jesus' day.

Here, it's the religious legal experts — the Pharisees — who bring the topic to Jesus, hoping to catch the rising star of the Galilee in a false statement. They ask straight out, "Is divorce lawful?"

At the time, there were two main teachings about divorce circulating among the Jews. There was the teaching of Hillel, a liberal rabbi, and then there was the more conservative rabbi, Shammai. The Pharisees wanted to know which camp Jesus was in. Neither.

Jesus was in the God camp, reminding them — and us — that life is complicated and messy. It is only God who knows each tangled heart intimately.

Jesus proceeds to answer their question by asking one of his own, “What did Moses say?” The Pharisees acknowledge that Moses allowed a certificate of dismissal.

And there you go. Moses allowed — not God, Jesus points out. It was never the plan for God’s beloveds to experience the heartache of separation.

In a perfect world, there would be a love so strong that the ties that bind would never break. But we don’t live in a perfect world. We live in a fallen one where God has given us free will to make decisions. Thankfully, God’s redeeming love has the power to repair the brokenness in our lives.

Let’s now go beyond married couples. What about the “divorces” — the breakups and breakdowns — among siblings, co-workers, church members and dear friends?

What if we realize that our fragile hearts are always at risk of the “hardening” that Jesus spoke of which led Moses to allow certificates of dismissal among God’s children?

What if this day we made a vow to all humanity to keep our hearts forever opened, allowing the space for the Spirit to come and heal the hurts, forgive the betrayals and grant the patience needed in our trying moments?

What if the pressing question isn’t about the lawfulness of divorce, but more about the condition of our hearts?

Loving God, we pray for Your enfolding love to come into our lives — revive relationships that are languishing, mend families who are torn, and grant peace and understanding for those whose partnerships have ended. May our hearts soften and beat in sync with Yours. Amen.

Scripture for Sunday, October 6, 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.

Our scripture reading today is Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15

²The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and ate our fill of bread, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not.

⁹Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites: 'Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.' " ¹⁰And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. ¹¹The LORD spoke to Moses, ¹²"I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.' "

¹³In the evening quails came up and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?"^[a] For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat.

This ends our scripture reading 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.