

# Welcome

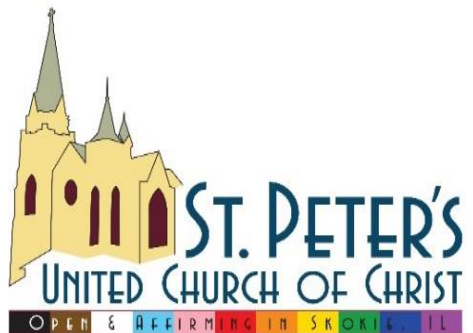
ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,  
August 18,  
2024**

**10:00 AM**

---

**Thirteenth  
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, August 18, 2024 at 10:00am  
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

---

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

**PRELUDE** "The Spirit that Dwells Within" by David Paxton

**THE RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Jenn Schneider

*Will those who are able please stand up*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**P:** Praise the Holy One! Give thanks to God in the congregation.

**C:** **God's works delight us, inspire us, challenge us, and uphold us.**

**P:** Praise the Holy One! Give thanks to God in the congregation.

**C:** **Righteousness endures forever. The covenant is everlasting.**

**P:** Praise the Holy One! Give thanks to God in the congregation.

**C:** **Honoring God leads to wisdom. Let us praise the Holy One forever!**

**RESPONSE** "O Word of God Incarnate" (vv.1)

1 O Word of God in - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high,  
 2 O God, we hold this trea - sure from you, its source di - vine,  
 3 O make your church, dear Sav - ior, a lamp of pur - est gold,

O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of cloud - ed sky:  
 a light that to all a - ges through - out the earth will shine;  
 to bear be - fore all peo - ple your true light as of old!

We praise you for the ra - diance that from the hal - lowed page,  
 It is the chart and com - pass that all life's voy - age through,  
 O teach your wan - dering pil - grims by this their path to trace,

a lan - tern to our foot - steps, shines on from age to age.  
 'mid mists and rocks and tem - pest, still guides, O God, to you.  
 till, doubt and striv - ing end - ed, they meet you face to face.

## **OPENING PRAYER**

**A: Holy God, we come together in your presence to offer worship, thanksgiving, and praise. We remember your covenant and acknowledge your abiding presence. Envelop us in your glory, strengthen us to confront the weariness of the world, challenge us to spread the good news, and empower us to be the church you have created us to be. Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

P: Please join me in prayer:

**A: Holy God, we find wisdom in your word, in your presence, and in your way. Help us to follow the path of love, community, and sharing. Open our awareness to the unmet needs in our community and the ways we may meet them. Open our compassion to notice those who too often go without being acknowledged. Open our schedules to be present to your Spirit, our neighbors, and ourselves. Fill us with wisdom, peace, and hope to move boldly toward new life and the fullness of joy.**

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

P: Beloved, God honors our request for wisdom.

Individually and, most importantly, collectively, we have the wisdom, discernment, and understanding necessary to meet the challenges of the day, to live a life pleasing to the Holy One, and to participate in the coming of God's kingdom.

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

## HYMN “Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart”

1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;  
 2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,  
 3 Have you not bid us love you ev - ery way?  
 4 Teach me to feel that you are al - ways nigh;  
 5 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,

wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move;  
 no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,  
 All, all your own; soul, heart, and strength, and mind;  
 teach me the strug - gles of the soul to bear,  
 one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame;

Stoop to my weak - ness, might - y as you are,  
 No an - gel vis - i - tant, no o - pening skies;  
 I see your cross— there teach my heart to stay;  
 To check the ris - ing doubt, the reb - el sigh;  
 The bap - tism of the heaven - de - scend - ed dove,

and make me love you as I ought to love.  
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.  
 O let me seek you, and O let me find.  
 teach me the pa - tience of un - an - swered prayer.  
 my heart an al - tar, and your love the flame.

*The congregation may be seated*

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Jenn Schneider

Old Testament:

1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14

Epistle:

Ephesians 5:15-20

## **MUSICAL MEDITATION** “I am the Bread of Life”

Suzanne Toolan

*Will those who are able please stand up*

## **THE GOSPEL**

John 6: 51-58

## **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**

P: Ephesians 5 encourages us to “Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise...giving

thanks to God at all times and for everything in the name of Jesus Christ.” (vv. 15, 20) We give thanks by trusting God with our resources. We give thanks by using the gifts of God for the kingdom of God. We give thanks by sharing our abundance for the mutual benefit of our community. Give thanks with everything we have.

## **OFFERTORY**

*If you donate electronically, feel free to place a green “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**

**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.**

*The congregation may be seated*

## **SERMON**

“Imitations”

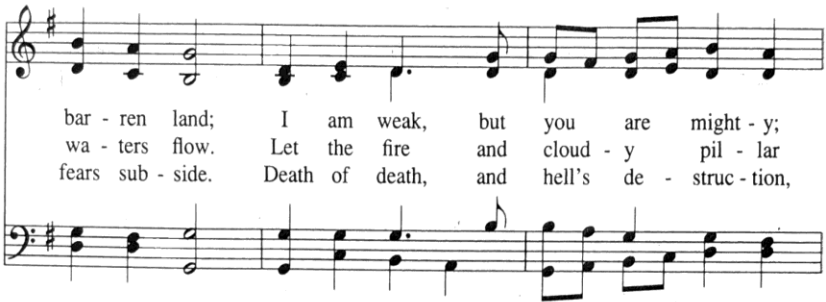


*Will those who are able please stand up*

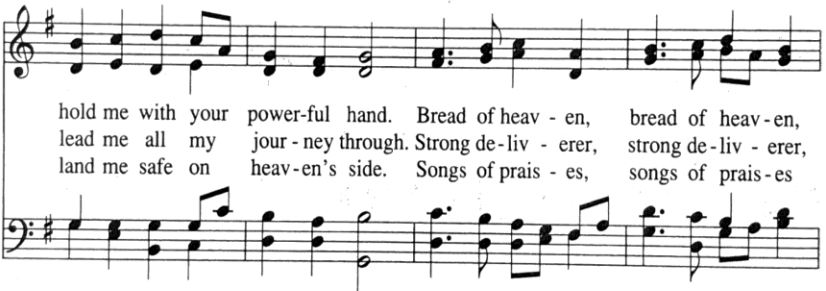
## HYMN "Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer"



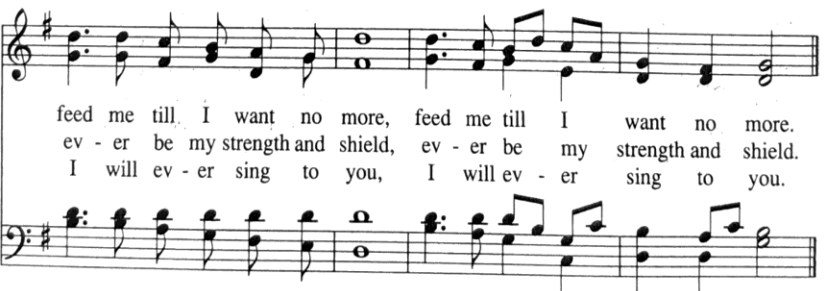
1 Guide me, O my great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this  
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, where the heal - ing  
 3 When I reach the Riv - er Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land; I am weak, but you are might - y;  
 wa - ters flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar  
 fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion,



hold me with your power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,  
 lead me all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,  
 land me safe on heav - en's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es



feed me till I want no more, feed me till I want no more.  
 ev - er be my strength and shield, ev - er be my strength and shield.  
 I will ev - er sing to you, I will ev - er sing to you.

---

**BENEDICTION**

P: May you experience the fullness of life. May abundance be your regular portion. May grace, hope, and generosity be your guide. And may the joy of the Holy One sustain all your days. God in peace to love and serve.

**POSTLUDE**

“Cwm Rhondda”

arr. 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.*

---

**FOR WORSHIP TODAY**


---

|                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| GUEST MINISTER       | Rev. Roger Dart |
| MUSIC DIRECTOR       | Ben Westphal    |
| DEACON               | Barb Bailey     |
| LIVESTREAM RECORDING | Jenn Schneider  |
| NURSERY ATTENDANT    | Kathy Zipperer  |

---

---

# News in the Pews

---

**Welcome! “Reverence for the Eternal is the first step toward wisdom” (Psalm 111:10, The Voice Bible). So let us come before God in awe and praise.**

**Coffee hour today is hosted by Barb and Jim Todd to honor their 69<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary!** Sending them huge congratulations and continued blessings.

**Please welcome Reverend Roger Dart to the pulpit today!** Rev. Dart is a longtime friend of St. Peter’s who has preached here many times. He serves as the Disaster Response Coordinator for the Illinois Conference of the UCC which is an active member of the Illinois affiliate organization of national VOAD—Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster. IL VOAD’s mission is to strengthen the capabilities of organizations working together to respond to communities affected by disaster and Rev. Dart is leading that charge for the Illinois Conference. We are so glad to have him back today, thank you Reverend Dart!

**Join us in NEXT WEEK for our annual outdoor worship service!** Meet us in Lorel Park (8135 Lorel Ave., Skokie) on **Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup>** for worship lead by Rev. Wayne MacPherson. We meet in the Pavilion area near the tennis courts. Chairs will be available, but feel free to bring your own if you wish.

**There is no Church Council meeting this month** due to travel and availability issues. The Council will meet next on **September 21<sup>st</sup>.**

---

---

**We need your rummage, we are down on donations** – this is our biggest fundraiser of the year but can't happen without many donations. You can bring your items to the office during office hours, but please call ahead to let us know you are coming. You can also drop off during sorting hours, especially if you need help unloading. We do NOT accept furniture or other bulky items like large electronics and exercise equipment. We will stop accepting rummage on **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!

**Keep Our Sunday School Mission Project Going!** When Sunday School is in session our students and their families bring in monthly food donations for our mini pantry. Please keep the collection going during the summer. *We have bins available to receive donations this Sunday because we will be worshipping in Lorel Park the last Sunday of this month*. You can also leave donations anytime in the collection area just inside the Laramie Avenue entrance. Thank you for your generous support!

**We are updating print, electronic media and signage around the church!** We are working to update our materials, but this won't happen overnight. A Communications Committee, chaired by Office Manager Laura Olson, is working on this. If you think something might have escaped the Committee's notice, please email Laura at [office@stpeteruccskokie.org](mailto:office@stpeteruccskokie.org).

---

---

## Our People

---

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

-Marcia Hilliard had surgery on Thursday for what is thought to be a benign tumor.

-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 had brain surgery to remove a tumor. He is resting comfortably, and additional treatments will begin soon.

-Annie and Gerry Noorts's cousin Scott Richter is going through chemo for throat 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. **If you are aware of others to include in our shared prayers, please let a church officer, an Elder, or the office know!**

**Having birthdays** this week are Rich Miller, Dan Guenther, Elizabeth Hoellerich, Fredrik William Carnate Svenson, Allison Guenther, Juanito Banoyo, Ron Lundeen, Valerie Paige-Mahoney, Harrison Kuras, Stephanie Lundeen and Henry Muhrer. Celebrating their anniversaries are Barb and Jim Todd, Bonnie and Mark Loach, Heather and Dan O'Hara

---

---

and Laurie and Errol Mitchell. God's blessings to all on their special days!

**According to the schedule**, barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector will be Karen Christianson. There is no nursery attendant for the Lorel Park service.

---

### 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.

**Pantry Donations** – our mini pantry is visited daily by folks in the community so we need regular donations to keep it filled. Thank you so much to all who donate!

**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.

---



## MISSION MOMENTS

---

**August 18, 2024**

**Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**“Wisdom Quest”**

**1 Kings 2:10–12, 3:3–14**

It's the time of year when many of us prepare members of our households - or ourselves - to return to school. If you are a life-long learner and would like to return to school, the United Church of Christ has many opportunities for you, including Pathways. Pathways, an online program in progressive theology, offers many points of entry and programs of different lengths and intensity depending on what the student would like to focus on.

“PATHWAYS offers you a program for progressive theological engagement that values the past without being limited by it, moving intentionally into the present while looking boldly towards the future. We provide a welcoming online space to bring your questions, doubts, and desire to deepen your understanding. Pathways welcome all people who yearn for a still-speaking God. Whether you are on the path to authorized ministry, want to hone your current skills,

---

---

or just want to explore your faith more deeply, we have a program for you.

### What Makes PATHWAYS Unique

Why does a Pathways education work so well for its students?

- Affordable, Accessible, and Flexible – We are able to include students from a diversity of regions, backgrounds, and economic means, with coursework that flexes around the rest of your day-to-day life.
- Learner-Centered Adult Education – Our pedagogical approach, including weekly readings and facilitated online discussion forums, allows you to focus on your own personal educational goals so that you can get out of each course whatever is most relevant to your own needs.
- Asynchronous Education – Rather than following a traditional semester and set class-times, with just a computer and internet-access, you can opt-in to weekly forums for our six-week regular courses, four-week Explorer courses, or 12-week UCC history and polity courses.”

To find out more and to register for Pathways, navigate to <https://www.secucc.org/ministries/pathways/>

---



**Aug 18, 2024**

**PRAYER for ILLUMINATION**

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

Blessed Lord, who caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**Our Old Testament lesson comes from the book of First Kings chapter 2, verses 10 through 12 and chapter 3, verses three through 14.**

Then David slept with his ancestors and was buried in the city of David.

The time that David reigned over Israel was forty years; he reigned seven years in Hebron and thirty-three years in Jerusalem. So, Solomon sat on the throne of his father David, and his kingdom was firmly established. Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of his father David, except that he sacrificed and offered incense at the high places. The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the principal high place; Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I should give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted.

Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?" It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you. I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor all your life; no other king shall compare with you. If you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your life."

**This ends our Old Testament reading. Our Epistle reading is:**

**Ephesians 5:15-20**

**Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil.**

**So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.**

**Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to one another, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,**

**This ends our Epistle reading. Our worship continues with a**

**MUSICAL MEDITATION**

(reader can sit down)

**Thank you, Ben**

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

**Our Gospel lesson is John chapter 6 verses 51 through 58.**

"I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever, and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh." The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" So Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day, for my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which the ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever."

**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.**