

A person is sitting in a lake at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright reflection on the water. The person is silhouetted against the bright light. A bucket is floating in the water to the right of the person. The sky is a mix of orange and blue.

Follow

Me

Welcome to St Peter's UCC Livestream Virtual Worship Service! Subscribe to our **YouTube Channel** to catch a new service at 10 am each Sunday! We also share a **podcast** weekly on our website of the scripture readings and sermon. The podcast can also be found on most podcast catchers & platforms, under "The Redheaded Preacher." Give us a like and 5-star rating to help others find us!

Open Holy Communion. We have communion the 1st Sunday of the month and we invite all Christians and seekers after God to partake of the Lord's Supper with us regardless of denominational background. To participate from home, please have a small cup of juice, wine, or other beverage you are comfortable with, and a piece of bread with you. When Rev. Lanford prompts us to "take and eat" (and "drink"), then we will all do so - physically separated, but together in spirit.

Who We Are. St. Peter's is an Open and Affirming congregation. We've been in the heart of downtown Skokie for over 152 years. 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 **welcome all people** to share worship, membership, marriage, baptism, funeral, and fellowship with us.

Attendance. We would like to get to know you better, too! If you are comfortable doing so, please put your first name and last initial in the comments section under the video, and where you are watching us from!

Donations. We have several options for giving, and your donation helps support our church and its various ministries. Now more than ever, every contribution (large or small) is important to keep us going:

- **Text Your Gift.** Text the amount you want to donate to **844-997-2346**.
- **PayPal.** Visit **PayPal.me/stpeteruccskokie** Uncheck the "Paying for Goods or Services" box to not pass on the fees to St Peters.
- **Vanco Give+ App.** Download the Vanco GIVE+ app from **iTunes** or **Google Play**, put in the church's zip code 60077 and select St. Peter's from the drop down. Set up an account with a password (or process as a guest), select your donation frequency, amount, and add payment info. There is also an option here to offset the processing fee.
- **Mail a Check.** We are collecting mail daily, and depositing regularly throughout the week.

Contact Us. You can email us – we are accessing email from home during the Shelter-in-Place order. Or call and leave a voicemail, we are picking up messages regularly while we are not in the building. Follow us on **Facebook** and **Instagram** for daily updates and messages, and check our website for additional details, weekly announcements, and more.

St. Peter's United Church of Christ

8013 Laramie Avenue, Skokie, IL 60077

(Oakton and Laramie)

847-673-8166

www.stpeteruccskokie.org

Rev. Richard Lanford (Pastor): revlanford@gmail.com

Laura Olson (Office Manager): office@stpeteruccskokie.org

Ben Westphal (Music Director): bcwestphal@gmail.com

St. Peter's United Church of Christ
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847-673-8166

OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR
Sunday, January 24, 2021 10:00 AM
Third Sunday after Epiphany

WELCOME GUESTS!

* Indicates all who are able are invited to stand

PRELUDE "St. Catherine" arr. Callahan

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS Jenn Schneider

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: For God alone our souls wait in silence.
Our hope is in God, our fortress.

***Congregation: God is our rock and our salvation,
our refuge and our deliverance.***

P: Trust in God at all times, in all places. Let
us pour out our hearts to the One who
hears.

***C: All people are valuable in God's sight.
No one is more important than
another.***

P: Worship God, who is ready to speak to us.
Let us open our lives to God's steadfast
love.

C: *All power in the universe belongs to
God, yet God depends on our faithful
service. Here we are, O God!*

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

God's Word sometimes comes as a warning, which Jonah teaches us. How often we have pushed aside the Word we found unpleasant. Even if we grudgingly acknowledge its truth, we like to postpone any action to change. God comes to us today, saying that our days are fewer than we think. The time for us to repent is now.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Sovereign God, we reluctantly confess that we have installed our own gods in our lives. They take our time. They use our resources. They exact from us care and devotion. We do not like to hear that our way of life is endangered. Yet we sometimes realize that innocent steps into self-indulgence can be deliberate strides away from You. We hear distant echoes of warning and judgment. O God, we want to return to You before it is too late. We repent of everything in our lives that cuts us off from You. Hear our prayer, which we make in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

“The Lord is not slow about his promise as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish but all to come to repentance” (2nd Peter 3:9).

God longs for everyone to respond to the call of grace we know through Jesus, to know forgiveness and a new way to live which Christ makes possible. We believe in, turn to, and serve a God of grace who does forgive when we do change our ways and come back. In claiming this gospel, let the congregation join me in saying . .

All: Alleluia! Thanks be to God.

***HYMN:** "My Jesus, I Love Thee"

SSB #29

1 My Je - sus, I love thee, I know thou art mine;
2 I love thee be - cause thou hast first lov - ed me;
3 I'll love thee in life, I will love thee in death,
4 In man - sions of glo - ry and end - less de - light,

for thee, all the fol - lies of sin I re - sign;
and pur - chased my par - don on Cal - va - ry's tree;
and praise thee as long as thou lend - est me breath;
I'll ev - er a - dore thee in heav - en so bright;

my gra - cious Re - deem - er, my Sav - ior art thou;
I love thee for wear - ing the thorns on thy brow;
and say, when the death - dew lies cold on my brow;
and sing - ing thy prais - es, be - fore thee I'll bow;

if ev - er I loved thee, my Je - sus, 'tis now.
if ev - er I loved thee, my Je - sus, 'tis now.
if ev - er I loved thee, my Je - sus, 'tis now.
if ev - er I loved thee, my Je - sus, 'tis now.

Text: William R. Featherstone, 1846-1873
Music: GORDON, Adoniram J. Gordon, 1836-1895

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Old Testament:

Epistle:

Mandy Steegmueller

Jonah 3: 1-5, 10

I Corinthians 7: 29-31

MUSICAL MEDITATION "St. Anne"

arr. Callahan

GOSPEL:

Mark 1: 14-20

A CALL TO OFFERING

PASTORAL AND SILENT PRAYERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER ('debts')

**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**

SERMON: "Coming Through the Call to Nineveh"

HYMN: "Jesus, You Once Called Disciples"

(Sing to the tune of "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing")

Jesus, you once called disciples, choosing twelve to follow you:

Simon (also known as Peter), Andrew and Bartholomew,

Philip, Thomas, James and Matthew, Simon, Thaddaeus, John, and James —

Then there was the one called Judas. These were your disciples' names.

Women, too, were your disciples, sitting, learning, at your feet.

Mary knew your word was precious, even more than food to eat.

Martha trusted in your power when her brother Laz'rus died.

Women shared your journey, Lord, and stayed when you were crucified.

Lord, so many heard and followed, like the woman at the well.

Meeting you, the living water, she sought others she could tell.

Like the boy with loaves and fishes, like Zacchaeus in the tree,

Many gladly heard your message; many shared your ministry.

Jesus, still you call your people, "Come and follow me today!"

Some, like Paul, feel sudden wonder; some are brought up in your way.

Lord, no matter how we meet you, by your Spirit, make us new.

May we know your living presence; may we daily follow you.

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CHARGE & BENEDICTION

All: Amen.

***POSTLUDE:** "Fuga in Cdur" by Johann Pachelbel

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

MINISTER
MUSIC DIRECTOR

Rev. Richard Lanford
Ben Westphal

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Good Morning! We gather to worship in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Welcome to all, dear family of Christ.

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 front cover for details on how to donate.

Soft goods donations special collection days Part Deux is next week, better hurry, time is running out! We are collecting clothing, shoes, hats, belts, purses, linens, stuffed toys and bedding through the end of January. We get 20 cents/pound and our goal is 1,000 pounds. ***We will be at church for people to drop off donations January 27 6:30-8:30 pm and January 30 11:00-1:00. We can also collect items Mondays when Laura is in the office, the 25th and the 31st from 9 AM to 2PM.*** Anyone who has keys can bring donations anytime until the end of January, they should leave them in the gym.

Thank you so much to everyone who donated to A Just Harvest serving this month! We've collected enough funds to fulfill our required amount to purchase the meal thanks to you!

FROM THE PRESIDENT – Official Announcement about our Annual Meeting – In the interest of safety, and the likelihood that Illinois will not allow large gatherings by the end of January, Council is choosing to be pro-active and has decided

to hold our Annual Meeting next Sunday on January 31st as a Zoom call. We realize and acknowledge that NOT EVERYONE can attend this type of meeting. We are giving ample notice about this to allow for alternative solutions to this challenge. Perhaps if you are not able to Zoom, you can (safely) join a friend or family member on that day that CAN Zoom, and participate in that way. Or communicate your thoughts or concerns to a Council member before-hand ... we will allow proxies at this meeting. Sadly, we haven't figured out how to feed everyone this way ☹ More information will be available about the Agenda items and meeting structure as we get closer to the meeting itself.

PLEASE NOTE, THE TIME OF THE MEETING MAY BE CHANGED TO ACCOMMODATE THE LIVESTREAM WORSHIP LEADERS, WHO MAY NEED MORE TIME. WE'LL LET YOU KNOW THE EXACT TIME NEXT WEEK.

ANNUAL MEETING ZOOM LINK: Please join our Annual Meeting on January 31st. Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97759473772?pwd=ZUNDNzF6WFVNLOdRVUdPY1kwNVRUQT09>

Meeting ID: 977 5947 3772

Passcode: 688732

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,97759473772#,,,,*688732# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 977 5947 3772

Passcode: 688732

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/j/84428442844>

If you are elected to become, or stay on as, a Board Member or Officer, please remember that we'll have a virtual service of installation on Sunday, February 7th. Which is also a Communion Sunday!

Pastor is going to be looking at possible Lenten Zoom study topics. Let him know if you have ideas for a 5-week Wednesday night Bible study!

VILLAGE INN FUNDRAISER FEEDBACK NEEDED – For 2021, we'd like people to give Annie some feedback on whether or not we want to continue doing Village Inn or another place for monthly food fundraisers? Please email her: annie@mollyu.com or send an email to the office: office@stpeteruccskokie.org with your thoughts and/or ideas for a new monthly fundraiser. Thanks so much!

NEW St. Peter's Zoom Account! We now have an official Church Zoom account. There are many more benefits we are able to use because of this. If you are having a Zoom meeting, contact Laura in the office and she'll share the username and password so you might host an online meeting using the church account.

Pastor's Podcast is now on all the Podcast platforms- iTunes, Stitcher, Overcast, Spotify, Podcast Addict, Amazon Music and more. Just look up "The Redheaded Preacher" on your podcast catcher or music streaming service then hit subscribe and you'll get the newest editions weekly! Give us a 5-star rating and review if you can, it helps us grow so much

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According to the schedule, due to a switch next week's Lector is Beth Lanford.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

PRESIDENT	Jenn Schneider
VICE-PRESIDENT	Judy Paige
TREASURER	Mandy Steegmueller
SECRETARY	Carolyn Kuechler
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Marcia Hilliard

Now through January

WINTER

SOFT GOODS

FUNDDRIVE



ST. PETER'S
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WELCOMING
CONGREGATION
IN ILLINOIS

DROP OFF AT
THE GYM
8013
LARAME,
SKOKIE OR
CALL TO
SCHEDULE
(847)
673-8166



WE NEED
CLOTHING
LINENS
BEDDING
STUFFED
TOYS
ACCESSORIES
AND MORE

Follow Me *Ecumenical Sunday*

Last summer, the killing of George Floyd by a police officer in Minneapolis, Minnesota galvanized the nation and sparked urgent protests in many cities. Although the Black Lives Matter movement was not new, it was newly urgent for many as marchers took to the streets, chanting, “Say their names” and “No justice, no peace.” For the first time for many Americans, our eyes were lifted to the role of policing in our communities.

Calls for change in policing include plans to shift financing to other social services and methods of protection. Activists invited us to imagine a 911 call resulting in response by the right person to help with a social service or mental health need. Those who called for changes in policing noted how seldom police are able to interrupt crimes in progress, and how inefficient the bureaucracy of policing has become. They drew a line from modern police forces back to slave times, when police forces were established to control enslaved African Americans.

It can be very hard to imagine a new way of organizing ourselves and our society. Even though modern policing is a relatively new idea, it can seem as if things were “always this way.”

When the men who became the disciples were called by Jesus to follow him, they could not imagine any other way of living. Their fathers and grandfathers and all the many generations before had been fishermen. Everyone they knew in their villages were fishermen. Yet, Christ called them to imagine something completely new. And once they did, they initiated a way of life that literally changed the world.

We are a resurrection people. This means that as Christians we understand as the most important tenet of our faith that something old must pass away in order for something new to be born. With the introduction of a movement to change policing, we have a unique opportunity to see our resurrection belief transformed from theological idea to lived reality.



SCRIPTURES FOR THE CONGREGATION

January 24, 2021

JONAH 3:1-5, 10

¹The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying,

²“Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.”

³So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days’ walk across.

⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!”

⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

FIRST CORINTHIANS 7:29-31

²⁹I mean, brothers and sisters, □ the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none,

³⁰and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions,

³¹and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

MARK 1:14-20

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news □ of God, □

¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; □ repent, and believe in the good news.” □

¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen.

¹⁷And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.”

¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him.

¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets.

²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.