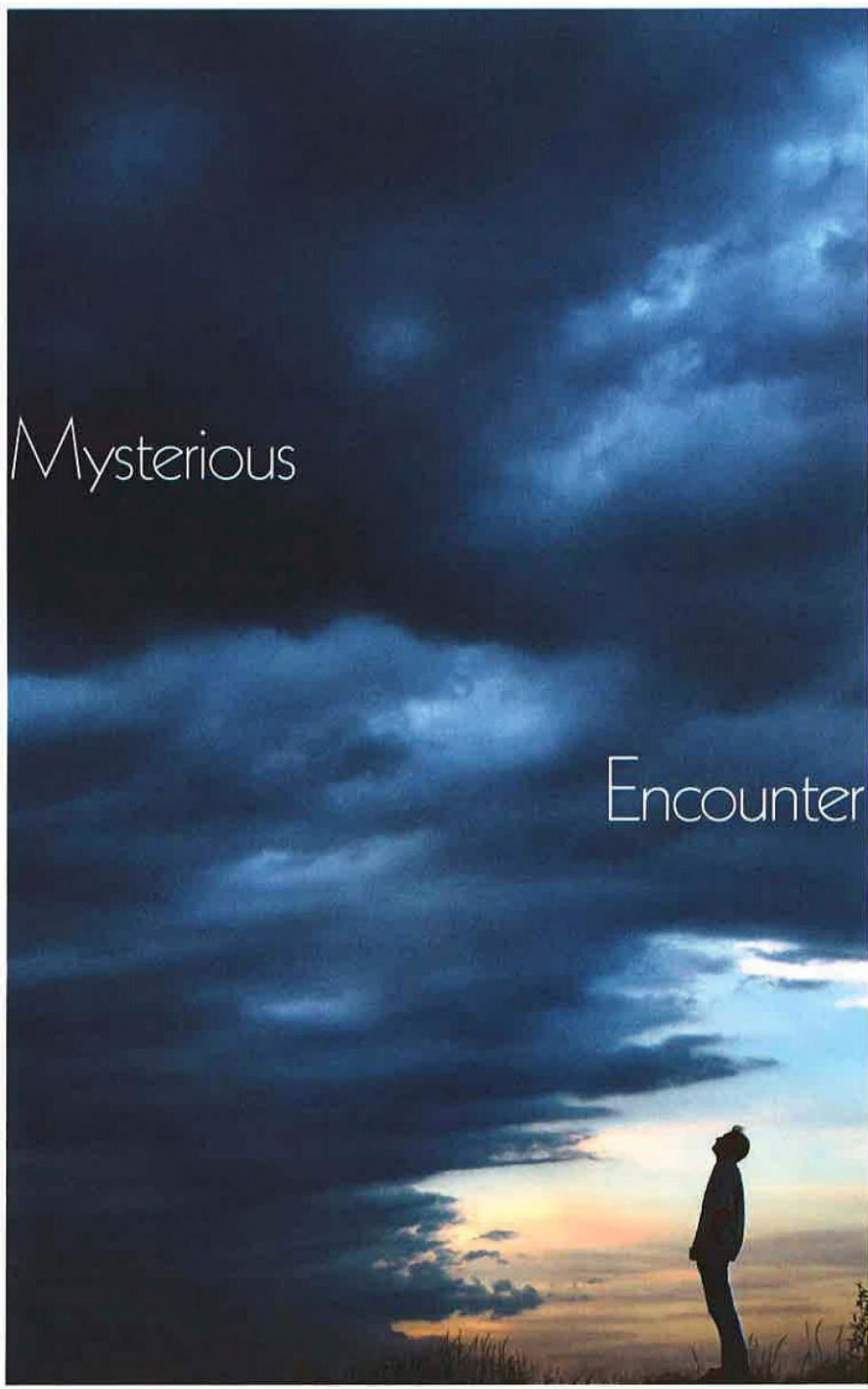


Mysterious

Encounter



Welcome to St Peter's UCC In-Person and 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

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

St. Peter's United Church of Christ
Oakton Street and Laramie Avenue, Skokie, IL
www.stpeteruccskokie.org
847-673-8166

OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR
Sunday, May 30, 2021, 10:00 AM
Trinity Sunday/Memorial Day Sunday

WELCOME GUESTS!

* Indicates all who are able are invited to stand

PRELUDE "Trinity Procession" by Lehenbauer

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS Jenn Schneider

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: We remember this weekend the people
 who died in our nation's wars, in part to
 preserve our freedom of worship.

***Congregation: And the God we worship is the
Triune God!***

P: As Isaiah said during his vision, "Holy,
 holy, holy is the Lord of hosts!

***C: The whole earth is full of God's
glory." Let's worship our freedom-
giving Maker!***

*** 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 vocal line with a descant, starting with a whole rest followed by a melodic line. The middle staff is a vocal line in unison, starting with a whole note chord and continuing with a melodic line. The bottom staff is a bass line starting with a whole note chord and continuing with a melodic line. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#) and the time signature is 2/2.

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

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

This system contains three staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line with lyrics. The middle staff is a vocal line in unison with lyrics. The bottom staff is a bass line. The key signature has two sharps and the time signature is 2/2.

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 contains three staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line with lyrics and first/second endings. The middle staff is a vocal line in unison with lyrics and first/second endings. The bottom staff is a bass line. The key signature has two sharps and the time signature is 2/2.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

O Holy God, we acknowledge to You, ourselves, and to one another that we are not what You have called us to be. We have not stood by our faith, shared our hope, or reached out with love when we knew we could have. We have done unkind and shameful deeds, and we have left undone the deeds that could have made a difference in the lives of those around us. We have failed to speak and act for peace and justice in our world. Have mercy upon our repentance, forgive our sin, and change our lives; for we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

“Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said, ‘Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.’”

Our forgiveness comes through the grace of the same God we know in Jesus Christ, crucified and risen. No burned lips for us, but like Isaiah we forgiven can answer God when we hear God call, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” the same way Isaiah did, and say “Here I am; send me.” Amen?

C: Amen!

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The Holy Trinity

JAMES MONTGOMERY, 1832
In moderate time

7. 7. 7. 7. D.

SPANISH HYMN
Arr. BENJAMIN CARR, 1824

1. Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of Hosts, when heaven and earth
 2. Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly! Thee, One Je - ho - vah ev - er - more,
 3. Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly! All Heaven's tri - um - phant choir shall sing,

Out of dark - ness, at Thy word, Is - sued in - to glo - rious birth,
 Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it, we, Dust and ash - es, would a - dore:
 While the ran - somed na - tions fall At the foot - stool of their King:

All Thy works be - fore Thee stood, And Thine eyes be - held them good,
 Light - ly by the world es - teemed, From that world by Thee re - deemed,
 Then shall saints and ser - a - phim, Harps and voic - es swell one hymn,

While they sang with sweet ac - cord, Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord!
 Sing we here with glad ac - cord, Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord!
 Blend - ing in sub - lime ac - cord, Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord! A - MEN.

WORDS ABOUT OFFERINGS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

The Prophet:

Judy Paige

Isaiah 6:1-8

Epistle:

Romans 8:12-17

MUSICAL MEDITATION "Holy, Holy, Holy"

arr. Hayes

GOSPEL:

John 3:1-17

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: "Celebrating and Serving our Triune God"

HYMN: "Eternal Father, Strong to Save"

SSB #27 (vv. 1, 4)

1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, Whose arm doth bind the
 2 O Sav - ior, whose al - might - y word, The winds and waves sub -
 3 O Ho - ly Spir - it, who didst brood Up - on the cha - os
 4 O Trin - i - ty of love and power! Our breth - ren shield in

rest - less wave, Who bidd'st the might - y o - cean deep Its
 mis - sive heard, Who walk - edst on the foam - ing deep, And
 dark and rude, Who bad'st its an - gry tu - mult cease, And
 dan - ger's hour; From rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, Pro -

own ap - point - ed lim - its keep, O hear us when we
 calm a - mid its rage didst sleep, O hear us when we
 gav - est light, and life, and peace, O hear us when we
 tect them where - so - e'er they go; Thus ev - er - more shall

cry to thee, For those in per - il on the sea.
 cry to thee, For those in per - il on the sea.
 cry to thee, For those in per - il on the sea.
 rise to thee Glad hymns of praise from land and sea. A - men.

CHARGE:

P: In the summer following the Floyd murder we learned many things, if we listened well. Some things need to change in order for us as Americans and Christians to be true to the Lord, to ourselves, and to the high values so many of our military gave their lives for. So I bring again a charge from last year:

Some are posting on social media, some are protesting in the streets,
Some are donating silently, some are educating themselves,
Some are having tough conversations with friends and family.
A revolution has many lanes -- be kind to yourself and to others
Who are traveling in the same direction;
Just keep your foot on the gas.

***BENEDICTION**

P: May God be beside you to accompany you,
Within you to give you peace and power,

**C: *Above you to watch over you,
Beneath you to catch you,***

P: Behind you to encourage you,

C: *And in front of you to show to show you the way.*

ALL: *Amen!*

***POSTLUDE:**

“Nicaea”

arr. Metzger

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

MINISTER

Rev. Richard Lanford

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Ben Westphal

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Good Morning! Welcome to worship on this Holy Trinity Sunday, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Thanks to everyone who helped make today’s virtual worship on YouTube possible, and thanks to everyone who watches and encourages others to watch!

Starting Tuesday, June 1st, fully-vaccinated Office Manager Laura Olson returns to the office and her office hours!

Next Sunday, June 6th, is a Communion Sunday. That means we suggest that folks worshipping with us via YouTube participate together beyond space and time, by having elements from your home ready with you. When Rev. Lanford invites us to take and eat, for the bread, a piece of bread, bun, or even some pita bread can be used; and at the time to ‘take and drink,’ for the cup, have some grape juice, water, or wine to drink when we partake of that. For those in-person with us there will be the wafer-topped pre-filled Communion cups at both the Narthex and East, or Chairlift, entrances for you to take with you.

Rummage donations wanted!! Though some folks have been dropping things off already, we wanted to officially announce we are taking rummage! If you have a key you can drop it off anytime. Leave it outside the gym doors though to give some "quarantine" time to the stuff. Laura will be in Friday, but starting next Tuesday when Laura resumes normal office hours, you can come bring your stuff anytime Monday - Friday from 9 AM to 2 PM. If that doesn't work for you, call us and we'll schedule something else.

Rummage Sorting starts soon!! We are going to set up the gym for the rummage sale on June 9th, 6:30-8:30. For this we are in need of strong bodies able to move and set up tables. Going forward we will be sorting on Wednesday evenings. A second sorting day will be added in July.

Women's Guild Annual Picnic at the Todd's! We're so excited to begin to resume some of our past normal activities, including this one! Join us June 16th at 11:30 AM at Jim and Barb Todd's for the end of year picnic. All women of the church are invited and welcomed! Please call Barb Todd at 847-965-0345 to RSVP.

Mark your calendars! Our next Village Inn Food Fundraiser will be June 27th!

We are always grateful for any and all offerings to the church. No amount is too small! Thank you very much for giving!

Having Surgery: Beth Lanford is having her left knee surgically replaced this coming Wednesday, June 2nd. Pastor will be out of the office but working off-site.

New Network and Pass! You'll have to reconnect your devices to our new network name and pass today. Our network name is: ATTUNITEDCHURCH; Pass: UNITEDCHURCH8166. Let an usher know if you have trouble connecting.

Pastor's "The Redheaded Preacher," can be found anywhere you listen to podcasts! Filled with prayer, thoughts, Sunday's scripture reading and sermon, this podcast is a great way to reinforce what you're learning weekly, and help you pass the time when doing chores, or walking, or taking a drive. If people don't have time to sit before a screen for most of an hour, the podcast gives you the Scriptures by the lector and message. Check it out!

Congratulations to Sandy Guenther, older daughter of Nancy and Dan Guenther, who graduated from the University of Minnesota on May 16th! She received her degree in History, with an emphasis in Medieval European history; along with a minor in three areas. Allison will continue at Maryland. Please let us know if there are others we need to announce!

Having birthdays this week are: Jack Hoellerich, Barb Bailey, Ben Rees, Barb Todd, Christopher Taylor and a child baptized here on her first birthday some time ago, Liliana Greiner. Celebrating wedding anniversaries will be Lana and Don Kahn, Ralph and Carol Burmeister, and Nick and Susan Garcia.

According to the schedule, next Sunday’s lector is Barb Todd.

Thank you again to everyone who made a donation to the church enabling us to meet our covenant obligation to cooking for / serving at the Community Kitchen of A Just Harvest last Saturday. We did raise the dollar amount needed by the Kitchen to prepare the full meal we bring and serve when it’s our turn. By the way, our next turn for the Kitchen is Saturday, July 31st.

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CHURCH LEADERSHIP

| | |
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TRINITY SUNDAY
(FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST)

May 30, 2021

John 3:1-17

Mysterious Encounter

In today's Gospel story, the man Nicodemus has an encounter with Jesus that changes his life. As Christ's disciples, we never know what small interaction might be life-changing for those we meet.

Andy DeBraber, generosity officer of the United Church of Christ, tells this true story.

At a gathering of United Church of Christ members who support the National Setting financially, the question was asked, "Why do you support the UCC?"

At first there was silence, but then a man in his 70s from rural Ohio stood up. His wife elbowed him, he explained, so he had been nudged to tell his story.

As a child, he had learned to give to the church and be generous from his father. His father would give him a dime each Sunday to put in the offering plate. Then one Sunday, he turned to his father at the offering for his weekly dime to put in the plate.

His father refused. You see, he had just started delivering newspapers. His father told him that from now on, the boy had to put his own dimes in the plate. Learned early, his practice of giving continued into adulthood.

But why does he now give so generously to all settings of the UCC, 62 years after that long-ago lesson?

"I was a homophobe and racist," he said. "And if it weren't for the UCC, I still would be."

Just like Nicodemus, the man in this story was changed, and changed again. First by his father who taught him the value of giving and then by those who helped him see a way of love and openness. How might your witness bring change to the world?



SCRIPTURES FOR THE CONGREGATION

May 30th, 2021

Isaiah 6:1 - 8

1In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple.

2Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew.

3And one called to another and said:“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.”

4The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke.

5And I said: “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

6Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs.

7The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.”

8Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!”

Romans 8:12 – 17

12So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—

13for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

14For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

15For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear,

but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!”

16it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

17and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

John 3:1 - 17

1Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews.
2He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.”

3Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.”

4Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?”

5Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.

6What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.

7Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’

8The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

9Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?”

10Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

11“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony.

12If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?

13No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.

14And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,

15that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.”

16For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

17Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.