

A photograph of a person standing on a rocky mountain peak at sunset. The person is wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt, dark pants, and dark sneakers with yellow accents. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow and lens flare effects. The background shows rolling hills and mountains under a clear sky. The text "Compassionate Community" is overlaid in a white, handwritten-style font in the center of the image.

Compassionate
Community

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

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(Oakton and Laramie)

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

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

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

P: At the heights of our worship, may God's presence shine through the commonplace.

C: *At the depths of our pain and struggle, may God's presence give us courage and peace.*

ALL: **May God's light, shining in the face of Christ, illumine all our days!**

OPENING RESPONSE:

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" SSB #35 (v.4)

The musical score is written for four voices (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It consists of six systems, each with a vocal line and a piano line. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines.

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!
thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.
'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824-1908, alt.
Music: ST. DENIO, Welsh traditional; arr. John Roberts, 1807-1876

***CALL TO CONFESSION** (from Romans 5)

P: "The proof of God's amazing love is this: that while we were still sinners Christ died for us."

C: *Since we believe this, let us draw near to the throne of grace, that God may hear our confessions and forgive us.*

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of mercy and hope, we confess that we come with mixed thoughts and uncertain dreams. We could not meet our daily needs without the labor of others; yet we take them for granted. We are offended by slight offenses against us, and hardly consider our neglect of Your Word, our patience with evil, and our slowness to act for others. We could not sense the beauty or meaning of life without Your Spirit, yet we have not noticed signs of the eternal in the ordinary moments of our lives. We have not allowed our habits and perceptions to be transfigured by the glory of Your grace and presence. Grant us a taste of Your love so we may acquire an appetite for justice and a capacity for fulfillment. Forgive our falling short, and sharpen our hunger and thirst for You, O Christ! For it is in Your name we pray. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God” (Ephesians 2:8).


Mercy comes from God for us to share with others. It is not something of our making or deserving. God forgives us not because of who we are, but because of who God is, especially as we know God through Jesus Christ crucified and risen. In laying hold of the gospel, let the congregation at home say with me . . .

All: Thanks be to God! Alleluia, amen.

***RESPONSE:**

"He's My Source"

SSB #17



He's my source _____ of light _____ that




shines in my dark - ness. He's my source of liv - ing




wa - ter that I need ev - 'ry day. He's my



sword and my shield, _____ the fair - est of ten



thou - sand. He's the bright morn - ing Star, _____ the



soon com - ing King, the ris - en Lord. _____

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Barb Todd

Epistle:

2nd Corinthians 4: 3-6

Gospel:

Mark 9: 2-9

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Theme 2 on "Come to the Mountain Peak"

to the tune Diademata

"But some react in fear, not knowing what to do. In disbelief of all they hear, they wonder what is true. Can Moses teach today? Can ancient truth still live? Can prophet's warnings still convey the Words that God will give?"

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: "The Glory of God in the Face of Jesus Christ"

HYMN: "One Day Jesus Climbed a Mountain"

(We sing this to the tune of "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly")

One day Jesus climbed a mountain to a place of prayer and rest.

Peter, James and John went with him to that lonely wilderness.

In a moment so amazing, Jesus shone with brightness blazing, wrapped in glory, heaven-blessed.

Words could not contain the wonder of that most amazing sight.

Jesus' face was bright with splendor and his clothes were dazzling white.

There appeared two others with him; Moses and Elijah met him on that lonely mountain height.

Jesus talked there with the prophet and the bearer of the Law.

When his three disciples saw it, they were filled with joy and awe.

Peter told him, "Let us stay here. We can worship God and pray here."

Then a cloud came over all.

From that cloud a voice was saying, "This is my beloved son."

And the voice said, "Listen to him!" — to God's faithful chosen one.

While their plans were filled with glory, Christ was living out the story of his prayer, "Thy will be done."

Jesus took them down the mountain to a world of pain and loss.

For he knew what lay before him; he must journey to the cross.

In his serving, in his healing, God was there, by grace revealing wondrous love comes at a cost.

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CHARGE & BENEDICTION

C: Amen!

***POSTLUDE:** Theme 3 on "Come to the Mountain Peak"
to the tune Diademata
"Behold redemptions face, beloved of the Lord! Receive the mantle of his grace, that he may be adored. And, do not tarry long. This vision still endures! The world awaits salvation's song which, in Christ, confers."

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

MINISTER
MUSIC DIRECTOR

Rev. Richard Lanford
Ben Westphal

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Good Morning! Welcome to worship, dear family of Christ. Please share Christ's peace with someone near you.

Ash Wednesday! While we will be livestreaming our Ash Wednesday service, there will be a brief in-person Ash Wednesday service in our sanctuary on Wednesday, February 17th. It will be limited to the first 25 persons who have emailed or called the church to reserve a spot and is not restricted to members. Those attending must wear masks at all times, sanitize their hands upon entering the building through the eastern (parking lot) entrance only, and sit in designated pews only, in household groups. Otherwise, social distancing will be observed within the building. The service is at 7:00 PM and will be live-streamed. The sanctuary and bathroom will be sanitized ahead of time. Pre-filled Communion cups will be on tables for the taking when you come into the sanctuary, along with an order of service. Please do not attend if you are not feeling well or if you were with a lot of people for a Super Bowl party. Please note, this is ONLY for Ash Wednesday evening; the Council has not voted to re-open for in-person worship or Sunday School as of now.

The Lenten Bible Study will possibly begin on Wednesday, February 24th at 6:30 PM via Zoom; but for the first week due to a scheduled surgery of a class member, we may move off of Wednesday the 24th for the first session. What is it? An adult study written by Professor Amy-Jill Levine called "The Sermon on the Mount: A Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven. Pastor or Laura need to know who

wants to be included so we can get a book to you, and if you can chip in \$10 for the book (paperback) we will appreciate it! This is a 6-week session so we as usual will be off during Holy Week but finish the week of April 11th. Claim your book and spot now!

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.

Looking for help loading bags! February 19th at noon Annie and Andre will need some help loading the soft goods bag on to the truck. If you can come by and help please let us know! All bags have sat over 2 weeks and will be safe for handling. Message the office and/or Annie to let us know you can help!

February 21st from 11 AM to 11 PM is our next Village Inn Food Fundraiser! Please order from them if you are able!

We are taking orders for Easter Flowers! See form below these announcements and return to us by March 21st!

Lenten Devotionals went out this week. Those who requested them will get them either via snail mail or in their emails by Ash Wednesday fingers crossed! There may be extra copies outside the office door if you missed asking for them.

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.

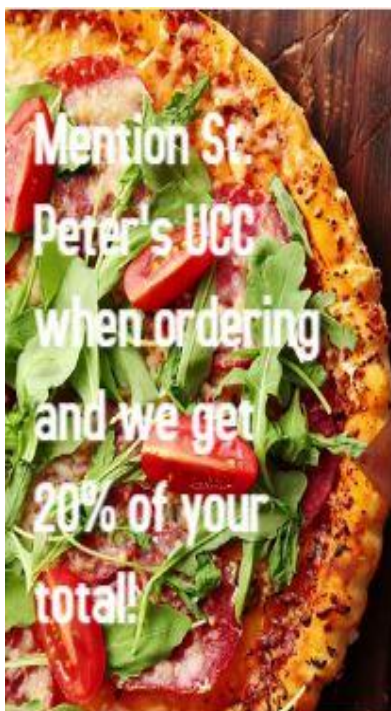
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According to the schedule, due to a switch next week's Lector is Andre Gloeckner.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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

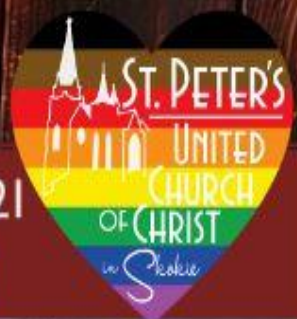


Mention St. Peter's UCC when ordering and we get 20% of your total!



Food Fundraiser
CARRYOUT, DELIVERY & CALL FOR DINE IN OPTIONS

FEBRUARY 21, 2021
11 AM TO 11 PM



2021 EASTER CHANCEL FLOWERS



Please find below the order form for the Easter plants that we will have to beautify our chancel on Easter Sunday. Sometimes there are limited quantities of plants available and the G & E substitutes an equal value plant, orders will be filled by date submitted.) Orders may be placed in the offering plate, brought or mailed to the church. Please make a separate check for your flower order to St. Peter's UCC.

Orders must be placed by **Sunday, March 21, 2021**

Quantity	Type	Price	Total
	Easter Lily 6 pot	10.50	
	Azalea 6" pot	19.00	
	Hyacinth 4 bloom	9.00	
	Tulip 6" 5-6 blooms	7.00	
	Rieger Begonia 6"	11.00	
Total			

Name _____ Phone# _____

In Honor of: _____ In Memory of: _____

TRANSFIGURATION

February 14, 2021

Mark 9:2-9

Compassionate Community *Racial Justice Sunday* *Science and Technology Sunday*

By a coincidence of the calendar (or perhaps a “God-incidence” of the calendar) today sees the collision of several different religious and secular observances. Today is Transfiguration Sunday, observed throughout Christendom as the day that the disciples saw Jesus for the first time as a truly divine being. In the United Church of Christ, we designate this Sunday as both Racial Justice Sunday and Science and Technology Sunday. And this also happens to be what has become the secular holiday of St. Valentine’s Day.

Observing so many different, and seemingly contradictory, holidays and designations on the same day can seem confusing. It may seem as if they are in competition with each other, and that if we lift up one, then another may fall by the side.

We can hold all of these together, however, as we celebrate this day as what it means to be progressive Christians. **“Progressive Christianity is characterized by a willingness to question tradition, acceptance of human diversity, a strong emphasis on social justice and care for the poor and the oppressed, and environmental stewardship of the earth. Progressive Christians have a deep belief in the centrality of the instruction to “love one another” (John 15:17) within the teachings of Jesus Christ. This leads to a focus on promoting values such as compassion, justice, mercy, and tolerance, often through political activism.”* *Wikipedia.

When we recall the progressive expression of our faith, it takes away the need for competition and a sense of scarcity or anxiety. We remember that in Christ, we are united in love and acceptance. We give thanks that our tent is big enough and wide enough to hold the wonder of miracle, the persistent call to social justice, the yearning for knowledge, and even the sentimentality of a greeting-card holiday.

However you observe this day, give thanks that you do it in company with a great cloud of witnesses who join you in following the same Christ in many ways.



SCRIPTURES FOR THE CONGREGATION

February 14th, 2021

2 Corinthians 4:3 - 6

Paul writes, “And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing.

⁴In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

⁵For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus’ sake.

⁶For it is the God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”

Mark 9:2 - 9

^{9:2}Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them,

³and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one[□] on earth could bleach them.

⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

⁵Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings,[□] one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”

⁶He did not know what to say, for they were terrified.

⁷Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved;[□] listen to him!”

⁸Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

⁹As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.