



Bread of
LIFE

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](https://www.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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Our network name is: ATTUNITEDCHURCH; Pass:
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St. Peter's United Church of Christ
Oakton Street and Laramie Avenue, Skokie, IL
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OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR
Sunday, August 1, 2021, 10:00 AM
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME GUESTS!

* Indicates all who are able are invited to stand

PRELUDE "Jesus Loves Me" arr. Portman

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS Jenn Schneider

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Isaiah 55) Karen Christianson

Leader: Through the prophet, God calls out "Hey,
everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
and you that have no money, come, buy
and eat!

***Congregation: Come, buy wine and milk without
money and without price. Why do you
spend your money for that which is not
bread, and your labor for what does
not satisfy?***

L: Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

C: ***Incline your ear, and come to Me;
listen, so that you may live."***

L: This is what we shall do, O Lord, when we come to Your table of extravagant welcome where there is bread for our journeys of following Jesus Christ.

C: ***Let us worship God!***

27

Beginning of Worship

HENRY MONTAGUE BUTLER, 1881

10. 10. 10. 10.

WOODLANDS
W. GREATOREX, 1916

May be sung in unison. With exaltation and majesty

1. "Lift up your hearts!" We lift them, Lord, to Thee;
 2. A - bove the lev - el of the for - mer years,
 3. Lift ev - ery gift that Thou Thy - self hast given;
 4. Then, as the trump - et call, in aft - er years,

Here at Thy feet none oth - er may we see;
 The mire of sin, the weight of guilt - y fears,
 Low lies the best till lift - ed up to heaven:
 "Lift up your hearts!" rings peal - ing in our ears,

"Lift up your hearts!" E'en so, with one ac - cord,
 The mist of doubt, the blight of love's de - cay,
 Low lie the bound - ing heart, the teem - ing brain,
 Still shall those hearts re - spond, with full ac - cord

We lift them up, we lift them to the Lord.
 O Lord of Light, lift all our hearts to - day!
 Till, sent from God, they mount to God a - gain!
 "We lift them up, we lift them to the Lord!" A-MEN.

Music by permission of Mr. W. Greatorex.

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

L: Jesus, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof.

C: *But only say the word, and your servant will be healed.*

L: Before we pray this together, please take a moment to read this silently to yourselves. That way when we pray it together aloud, it will be more 'our prayer.'

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of Earth and sky, of rest and walking, we give thanks for Your goodness. Sith our eyes, we see Your love for beauty. With our ears we hear Your love of music. With our hearts we know Your love for people. With painful awareness, we know how often we have participated in the scarring of Your beautiful world, how often we have ignored the music of a cardinal or shunned the sounds of another culture, how often we have turned aside from the hurt of another heart, how often we have avoided the beckoning of Your Son.

God of Earth and sky, of bread, water and roses, give us eyes to behold Your creation, and hands to revere each part; give us ears tuned to tears and laughter, and give us a clean heart to act kindly and speak justly. Through Christ, forgive and renew us, and our world. Amen.

* **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Ephesians says God "destined us for adoption as God's children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glorious grace that God freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In Christ we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us" (1:5-8a). Through the astounding love of God and the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven and we can be transformed more and more into the image of Christ. Can we be silent in the face of such spectacular, eternal news? Join me, rather, in saying . . .

ALL: Thanks be to God! Amen.

***HYMN:**

"Where is Bread?"

(Please sing to the tune of "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken"
Hymn #323)

**"Where is bread?" the great crowd murmured —
Thousands strong, yet all in need.
"Where is bread?" your people wondered,
Faced with such a crowd to feed.
Who, Lord Jesus, could have guessed it?
One small boy brought food to share.
Taking what he gave, you blessed it;
All were fed, with much to spare.
Where is bread? We know their yearning;
Every day, we wish for more.**

**God, in time, we're slowly learning:
All we own can make us poor.
Our possessions can possess us,
Leaving hunger deep inside.
Christ our Bread, come now and bless us;
At your feast, we're satisfied.**

**"Where is bread?" the call is rising;
Millions cry who must be fed.
God, your answer seems surprising:
"You, my Church, you give them bread."
Bread to fill each hungry spirit,
Bread for hungry stomachs, too!
Give us bread and help us share it.
Richly blest, may we serve you.**

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PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

The Epistle:

Ephesians 4: 1-16

Gospel:

John 6: 24-35

MUSICAL MEDITATION "Reprise: Jesus Loves Me"

PASTORAL AND SILENT PRAYERS

Led by the Rev. Blair Hull

SERMON:

“Bread of Life”

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

Exhortation and Invitation

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Prayer of Consecration:

Pastor: Eternal God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts, that Christ may be present as we share this meal, that our eyes may be opened and that we may recognize him in our midst.

All: Bless this bread and cup and bless us, that in drinking it we remember Christ Jesus, and that in the fullness of time every cup will be filled to overflowing, every table will be one of welcome, and every life will be filled with abundant love. In Christ’s name we pray.

Amen.

The Words of Institution

Participation

CLOSING PRAYER (in unison)

All: Eternal God, we thank You for Your presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. By the power of your Holy Spirit, unite us with all whom Christ welcomes, that we may be the servant church of the servant Christ, in whose name we pray and using the words that he gave us, we also pray . . .

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**

***HYMN:** "We Gather at Your Table, Lord"
(Please sing to the tune of Tallis' Canon, hymnal # 59, "All Praise
to Thee, My God, This Night")

**We gather at your table, Lord:
We humbly lift our hearts to you!
Here all are welcomed, all restored,
And all are given work to do.**

**We share this meal and we are fed.
Such basic gifts become your sign:
We see you broken in the bread;
We know your love in common wine.**

**God, pour your Spirit on us all,
And on these gifts that we receive;
For in Christ's presence we recall**

His life and death, and so believe.

**From North and South, from West and East,
Now reconciled, we gather near;
We taste your Kingdom's banquet feast,
So finding strength to serve you here.**

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***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE:** "Tallis Canon" arr. Callahan

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

MINISTER
MUSIC DIRECTOR

Rev. Richard Lanford
Ben Westphal

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Good Morning! Welcome to worship as we gather to praise the God of all creation, our Savior Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit who guides us in love.

We extend a special welcome to our Guest Preacher and worship leader the Rev. Blair Hull! Currently a Skokie resident, Rev. Hull was ordained in the Chicago Metropolitan Association of the United Church of Christ over 25 years ago; she has served churches in Deerfield, California, Whitewater, WI and elsewhere. She and our Pastor have known each other through the CMA and our Cluster #1 since before she was ordained. Welcome!

We are always grateful for any and all offerings to the church! They too are a very big part of our ability to remain here for you and our community.

About Communion: For those worshipping in-person with us, we hope you picked up one of the wafer-covered Communion cups on tables in the Narthex and at the landing of the eastern, chair-lift stairs. If you are joining us via the live-stream, we invite folks to have ready with them some piece of bread and a cup of something (wine, water, juice) for the elements. As always, we will partake together in the Spirit (although perhaps apart in space and time) when the Pastor prompts us. Please note this week we have a responsive Prayer of Consecration and a unison closing prayer.

Fundraising Committee Zoom Meeting August 3rd at 7 PM. Please plan to join and find out where best you can help!

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87555075033?pwd=cnJQWk53VVZaTnl5cVlk3Q0J6NUo4UT09>; Meeting ID: 875 5507 5033;

Passcode: 657480. Dial by your location: +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)- Meeting ID: 875 5507 5033, Passcode: 657480

Having birthdays this week are Linda Haig (today), Sharon Johnson, Erik Altmayer and Rich Steegmueller; celebrating anniversaries are Jack and Gail Hoellerich, and Leslie (Todd) and Gene Kiesel. May God bless all these!

Thanks to everyone who was able to support our fundraiser through Village Inn last Sunday!

On August 8th, Marlene Russell is planning to host our first post-COVID coffee hour downstairs in celebration of her and Carol Burmeister's 85th birthdays! Please plan to join in.

Also planned for next Sunday is a Service of Healing incorporated into our Sunday worship. This service is taken right from the Book of Worship of the United Church of Christ and for those who come forward, either for themselves or for someone else, there will be an anointing of oil on the forehead and the laying on of hands from Rev. Lanford.

Pastor's podcasts will resume once he has returned to the pulpit (August 8th) and after Laura has the chance to put it together from that day's elements. And, Laura will be taking some more vacation this month, starting Monday, August 15th through that Friday, August 20th.

Our Holiday Bazaar is back and will be November 13th!

We are looking for vendors. Interested in setting up a table? Email Wendy Svenson at st.peteruccbazaar@gmail.com or call/text her at (847) 528-4545.

According to our schedule the Lector next Sunday is Annie Noorts.

Special thanks to Bill Orpet, Beth Lanford and Mandy Steegmueller for helping Laura remove the items from the stairwell Friday.

Our worship service on Sunday, August 29th will be held at Lorel Park due to the Back Lot Bash taking over the adjacent parking lot and any Laramie Avenue parking. That service will not be live-streamed but it will be recorded, uploaded to our YouTube channel, and available for enjoined worship on-line later.

Rummage Sorting continues on Mondays from 6:30 to 8:30 PM and Fridays from 10 AM to Noon. Scheduled to open next week are Kathy Z. (8/2), Andre & Marcia (8/4) and Beth L. (8/6).

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

PRESIDENT	Jenn Schneider
VICE-PRESIDENT	Judy Paige
TREASURER	Chad McCoy
SECRETARY	Carolyn Kuechler
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Marcia Hilliard

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 1, 2021

John 6:24-35

Bread of Life

ONE VOICE: Creator of All, When everything was nothing, you drew life from the void - separating night from day, setting the stars in the sky, placing plants, fish, birds and all living creatures on this planet that we call home. And you created us, earth creatures, molded from the dust of the ground and created in your image.

MANY VOICES: From the very beginning, we looked for signs that you were near.

ONE VOICE: You tried to show us your power and your mercy. You set us on journeys of faith and transformation. You fed us in the wilderness. Through your prophets, you spoke under trees and on mountaintops and in city streets.

MANY VOICES: Still, we asked for signs of your presence.

ONE VOICE: So, at last you sent us Jesus. As an infant, he gathered both kings and peasants to his side. As a child, he astonished all with his teaching. As a man, he told stories and healed the sick and welcomed the cast out. He walked on water and fed a great crowd with a few loaves and fishes. By his life, he showed us how to live completely filled up with God.

MANY VOICES: And we said, "We still need a sign."

ONE VOICE: And so, he said, "I am the bread of life."

MANY VOICES: Slowly, we began to understand. Maybe if we followed him, we could sometimes taste what it was like to live a life completely filled up with God, too.

ONE VOICE: And then, on the night before he was killed by those who feared his message of love and forgiveness for all people, he gathered those closest to him and took the bread, and he blessed it and broke it and he gave it to us and said, "This bread is my body. Eat this and remember you and you will not go hungry." And he also took up the cup, and gave it to them and said, "Drink this, and you will no longer thirst for righteousness." And so, they ate and drank. And so, we eat and drink.

MANY VOICES: And we give thanks for this sign, Holy One, that you are near. Amen.



SCRIPTURES FOR THE CONGREGATION

July 25, 2021

The writer makes an appeal to maintain the unity of the faith even as we have a variety of different gifts.

Ephesians 4:1 - 16

Paul writes,

1I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called,

2with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,

3making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

4There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling,

5one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

6one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

7But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift.

8Therefore it is said, 'When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people.'

9(When it says, 'He ascended,' what does it mean but that he had also descended □ into the lower parts of the earth?

10He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.)

11The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers,

12to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

13until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

14We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming.

15But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,

16from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love."

This conversation takes place about a day after Jesus had fed 5,000 people when all he had to work with was a little boy's lunch.

Unbeknownst to the townspeople, overnight He and the disciples had moved on back across the Sea of Galilee. Here is where our story picks up!

John 6:24 - 35

24So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

25When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?"

26Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves.

27Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal."

28Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?"

29Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent."

30So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing?"

31Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”

32Then Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven.

33For the bread of God is that which □ comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

34They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

35Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.” Here ends the reading from John and our Scriptures for today’s service.

Holy wisdom, holy Word.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.