



## **Welcome to St Peter's UCC Virtual Worship**

**Service!** Subscribe to our [YouTube Channel](#) to catch a new service at 10am each Sunday! We also share a [podcast](#) weekly of the scripture readings and sermon.

**Open Holy Communion.** We have communion the 1<sup>st</sup> 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, 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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[www.stpeteruccskokie.org](http://www.stpeteruccskokie.org)

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**OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR**  
**Sunday, August 29, 2021 10:00 AM**  
**Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**In Lorel Park**

**WELCOME GUESTS!**

\* Indicates all who are able are invited to stand

**CONGREGATIONAL PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP BY SINGING!**

"Seek ye first the Kingdom of God / and His righteousness.  
And all these things shall be added unto you.  
Allelu, alleluia!"

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (Psalm 150)

Pastor: Praise the Lord!  
Praise God in the sanctuary;  
Praise God in the mighty firmament!

***Congregation: Praise him for his mighty deeds;  
Praise God according to God's  
Surpassing greatness!***

P: Praise God with trumpet sound;  
Praise God flute and harp!  
Praise God with tambourine and dance;  
Praise God with strings and pipe!

**C:** *Praise the Lord with clanging symbols;  
Praise God with loud clashing symbols!  
Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!*

**ALL:** **Praise the Lord!**

**\*SING:** "We shall not live by bread alone  
But by every word  
That proceeds from the mouth of God  
Allelu, alleluia"

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

P: So often we are complainers, not seekers. We proclaim our innocence and justify our anger when so much in life does not go the way we had hoped.

***C: We blame God or others for conditions entrusted to our stewardship. Unintentionally, we become stumbling blocks, not facilitators, of God's design.***

P: Let us then seek reconciliation with our God. Let us join in the spirit of prayer and confess our falling short of the path.

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Living, loving Maker of the Creation and of everyone in it, we confess to turning deaf ears to prophets telling us that we are deeply damaging**

**the gift of this world, its atmosphere, waters, and normal weather patterns, by all kinds of pollution. We were told to change how we work, travel, do business and live in relationship with Your world, and most of us just kept carrying on doing little, let alone raise our own voices in warning and hope! Forgive us our turning away from the inconvenient truth, and use us in service to each other and to Your planet's health. In the majestic name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

"Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed" (Isaiah 53:4, 5).

In Jesus Christ crucified and risen, God's suffering love forgives our sins. God's power opens the way to transformed life in Christ, who overcame death, that we may be God's servants in transforming the world. Will you join me in acclaiming the great news of the gospel?

**All: Alleluia! Amen.**

**\*SING:** "Ask and it shall be opened unto you; seek and ye shall find. Knock, and the door shall be opened unto you; Allelu, alleluia."

## **WORDS ABOUT OFFERING**

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Katy Schuhrke Aguayo

Old Testament:

Genesis 1:26-31

Psalms 8

Gospel:

Matthew 24:45-51

### **SPECIAL MUSIC**

"I Saw the Light"

Hank Williams

Played and sung by Dan Guenther

## **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:** "Stewards of an Earth in Crisis"

**\*HYMN:** "Through Devastating Storms"

*(Sing to the tune "The God of Abraham Praise")*

**Through devastating storms,**

**through times of heat and drought,  
through fire and flood, creation mourns  
and so cries out.**

**As hot and cold extremes cause overwhelming  
need,  
the earth bears witness to the cost of human  
greed.**

**We're always wanting more;  
we spend and build and buy.  
To meet our wants, we hurt the poor — till many  
die.**

**The world that we have built is one we can't  
sustain,  
and all around us, God's creation cries in pain.**

**Creator, by your grace, you give the gift of life —  
You entered into time and space in Jesus Christ.  
Your Spirit makes us strong to tend and heal and  
lift —  
and helps us see creation as a sacred gift.**

**There's no time left to wait! May we be bold to  
give.  
May we plant trees and advocate and gently live —  
God, as we love the earth and love each other, too,  
may we bring hope and healing to this world with  
you.**

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**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**\*SUNG CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

(in place of a Postlude!)

**God be with you till we meet again;  
By good counsels guide, uphold you,  
With a shepherd’s care enfold you,  
God be with you till we meet again.  
Till we meet, till we meet,  
Till we meet at Jesus’ feet.  
Till we meet, till we meet,  
God be with you till we meet again.**

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FOR WORSHIP TODAY

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MINISTER

Rev. Richard Lanford

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Ben Westphal

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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**Good Morning!** Life is full of ups and downs, twists and turns, but with God’s love “there is no variation or shadow due to change.” Let us worship the “Father of lights” (James 1:17).

**Thanks to everyone who made this service,** and bringing it to you, possible, and special thanks to Dan Guenther for his sharing his musical gifts this morning!

**The Annual after outdoor worship picnic** was cancelled due to Covid/Delta variant concerns! We hope to have it back next August!

**HOSPITALIZED:** Barb Bailey was admitted to Evanston Hospital last week for tests after a slight stroke. She's home. Please add her to your prayers.

**There are scheduled meetings this coming week!** Our Board of Elders will meet over Zoom or teleconference call this Wednesday the 1<sup>st</sup> at 4 PM. Pastor will be running a CMA Cluster 1 meeting over Zoom Thursday at 10 AM.

**We are always grateful for any and all offerings to the church.** No amount is too small! You can support our work (and thus, your work too) by mailing in a check, signing up for electronic giving, or using PayPal as indicated, with links on the first main page of announcements. Depending on how you set up your PayPal account, you can arrange to pay whatever transaction fee there is yourself, or, that it will be included in your donation and deducted before it hits St. Peter's account (so St. Peter's, in effect, pays it). There is now a new option to donate by text! Information for all of these is at the start of your bulletin. Thank you!

**Rummage Sorting and Pricing continues!** Opening Monday at 6:30 PM is Kathy Zipperer. Wednesday at 6:30 PM Heidi T. is opening and Friday at 10 AM Beth is opening. We are also receiving rummage at those times, too, but only up to Labor Day. The Memorial Room is now set up for Rummage use only.

**Having birthdays this week are** Helen Mauer, Bill Schaller and Ursula Dworak; Anthony and Jennifer (Mau) Gemignani have a wedding anniversary! God bless all of them. Next week the scheduled Lector is Karen Christianson. Next Sunday we also celebrate the Lord’s Supper -- so if you are viewing via live-stream or its recorded version afterward, be prepared with a bite and a beverage for consecration!

**Pastor’s podcasts The Redheaded Preacher, is available online anytime by clicking this link:**  
<https://www.stpeteruccskokie.org/podcast>. Each week we record Pastor’s sermon and the scripture readings. Great for walks while you stay safe! 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.

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CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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

## FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 29, 2021

James 1:17-27

### Be Love

In the United Church of Christ, we rely on testimonies, not tests of faith. So, unlike other faith communities you may have experienced, most UCC churches do not regularly recite creeds during worship. In keeping with that philosophy, the UCC's Statement of Faith (here reprinted in the form of a doxology) is not a doctrine of beliefs that must be adhered to, but instead is the beginning of a conversation. What about the statement of faith resonates with your understanding of the work of God in the world? What seems true to you? What makes you uncomfortable? What do you have questions about? Being willing to enter into conversation with the Statement of Faith is one more way that "God is still speaking" in our church.

#### *United Church of Christ Statement of Faith in the form of a doxology*

*We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:*

*You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.*

*You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.*

*You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.*

*In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.*

*You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.*

*You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.*

*You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.*

*Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you.*

*Amen.*



8 1/2" x 11" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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## SCRIPTURES FOR THE CONGREGATION

August 29, 2021

### Genesis 1:24-31

And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so.

God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful

and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."

God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so.

God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

### **Psalm 8:1-9**

O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established;

what are human beings that you are mindful of them,

mortals that you care for them?

Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor.

You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;

you have put all things under their feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,

whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

**Matthew 24:45-51**

Jesus asked the disciples, "Who then is the faithful and wise slave, whom his master has put in charge of his household, to give the other slaves their allowance of food at the proper time? Blessed is that slave whom his master will find at work when he arrives. Truly I tell you, he will put that one in charge of all his possessions.

"But if that wicked slave says to himself, 'My master is delayed,' and he begins to beat his fellow slaves, and eats and drinks with drunkards, the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour that he does not know. He will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."