



Spirit  
for  
All

**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 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, 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)

**847-673-8166**

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**St. Peter's United Church of Christ**  
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**OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR**  
**Sunday, May 23, 2021, 10:00 AM**  
**Pentecost Sunday**

**WELCOME GUESTS!**

\* Indicates all who are able are invited to stand

**PRELUDE** Selected

**THE RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS** Beth Sterba

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Pastor: On the day of Pentecost, the disciples and others were gathered together in expectation.

***Congregation: So we have come, or tuned in, in hope and faith.***

P: On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came upon them and enabled them to speak.

**C:** *Come, Holy Spirit! Help us to communicate.*

**P:** And from that day the church began to grow.

**C:** *Grow Your church in us, O God!*

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

**L:** Like the first disciples, we have much to learn about sin and righteousness and judgment.

**C:** *Almost without noticing it, we slip into the valley of dry bones, devoid of meaning and hope, unable even to pray.*

**P:** But together we can join our voices, asking that our spirits will awaken to new possibilities and know the mercy of God.

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**When Your face is hidden from us, mighty God, we forget that there is more to life than the daily pursuits that occupy our attention. We are weak because we have not tapped the resources You place within us. We are engaged only by what we can see and touch and hear. Our frantic self-centeredness dries up our bones and we lose hope. Forgive us, Lord, and call us out of the graves in which we have chosen to live, the deep ruts that keep us from knowing the fullness of life You reveal when we welcome Your Spirit. In the name of the Risen One, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.**

## **\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

“Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, ‘If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and truth will make you free . . . everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed” (John 8:31, 32, 34b-36).

We have confessed, we are growing enough to come forward and receive what Jesus has for us, which is freedom and forgiveness. We are freed from that which holds us back from believing and following, unless we submit to those obstacles once more. In the name of Christ Jesus our crucified and risen Lord, our sins are forgiven and a Spirit-powered life begins! Alleluia! Amen.

**\*RESPONSE: "Spirit of Gentleness"**

SSB #30

*Refrain*

Spir - it, Spir - it of gen - tle - ness, blow through the wil - der - ness

call - ing and free; Spir - it, Spir - it of rest - less - ness,

stir me from plac - id - ness, wind, wind on the sea.

- 1 You moved on the wa - ters, you called to the deep,
- 2 You swept through the des - ert, you stung with the sand,
- 3 You sang in a sta - ble, you cried from a hill,
- 4 You call from to - mor - row, you break an - cient schemes.

then you coaxed up the moun - tains from the val - leys of sleep;  
and you goad - ed your peo - ple with a law and a land;  
then you whis - pered in si - lence when the whole world was still;  
From the bond - age of sor - row all the cap - tives dream dreams:

and o - ver the c - ons you called to each thing;  
and when they were blind - ed with i - dols and lies,  
and down in the cit - y you called once a - gain,  
our wom - en see vi - sions, our men clear their eyes.

*Refrain*

"A - wake from your slum - bers and rise on your wings."  
then you spoke through your proph - ets to o - pen their eyes.  
when you blew through your peo - ple on the rush of the wind.  
With . . . bold new de - ci - sions your peo - ple a - rise.

Text: James K. Manley, b. 1940  
Music: SPIRIT, James K. Manley  
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## **WORDS ABOUT OFFERINGS**

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Olivia Altmayer

The New Testament:

Acts 2:1-21

Gospel:

John 15:26, 27; 16:4b-15

### **MUSICAL MEDITATION** Selected

## **PASTORAL AND SILENT PRAYERS**

### **THE 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 Call of Pentecost"



**HYMN:** "Faithful God, You Sent Your Spirit"  
(Sing to the tune of "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing")

**Faithful God, you sent your Spirit  
Long ago at Pentecost.  
You gave life and said to share it,  
All as one, beneath your cross.  
May we see your wondrous blessing  
When your people everywhere  
Work together, all confessing  
Faith that binds us, faith to share.**

**God of hope, you daily nurture  
Those who seek to follow you.  
You're not bound by any culture;  
You love rich and poor ones, too.  
In an ever-changing nation,  
May your churches welcome in  
Every child of your creation,  
Giving hope to all again.**

**God of love, may we in worship  
Welcome our diversity.  
May we reach in trust and friendship  
To the poor and refugee.  
May we see Christ in the stranger,  
Breaking bonds of hate and fear.  
By your Spirit, may we offer  
Glimpses of your kingdom here.**

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**CHARGE** (Proverbs 31:8, 9):

P: The apostles were given the gift of powerful speech: So with the gifts of the Spirit, let us all do as Scripture says and speak out for those who cannot speak,

**C: For the rights of all the destitute.**

P: Speak out, judge righteously,

**C: Defend the rights of the poor and needy!**

**\*BENEDICTION**

P: And now may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,

**C: *the love of God,***

P: and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all, now and forever.

***ALL: Amen!***

**\*POSTLUDE:** Selected

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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!** The Holy Spirit called the church into being and continues to call us together. Welcome to worship as we celebrate the Day of Pentecost.

**Thanks to everyone who helped make today’s live stream worship on YouTube possible,** and thanks to everyone who watches and encourages others to watch! If you missed last week’s live stream (due to a loss of Internet

at the church's end) you can rejoin it full time back on our YouTube page, thanks to our having recorded a backup we could put up.

**We are always grateful for any and all offerings** to the church. Thank you very much for giving!

**Village Inn Food Fundraiser!** It is today! From 1 PM to 11 PM is your chance to give yourself a day off from cooking and help two beloved Skokie staples! All you have to do is mention us when ordering anytime and we get 20% of your total. Good for carryout, delivery and dining in.

**Wishing God's blessings to Jessica Schneider who graduated** from Maine West High School yesterday or today (rain date). If you have a graduation and/or celebration coming up please let the office know, we'd love to celebrate with you!

**May Mission:** The Undy 500 is going strong!! Big thanks to everyone who's been donating!! We are collecting Men and Women's brand new underwear for The Night Ministry, which serves Chicago's homeless and most needy (colors only, no whites please) in ALL SIZES including Plus sizes. Items can be brought to the church on Sundays during in-person worship, or during the week when Pastor is there W-F from 10 AM to 3 PM. Or if you have a key drop off anytime! Boxes for collecting are in the Narthex and the hallway by the office doors. You can also drop off items W-F from 10 AM to 3 PM. Just call ahead to make sure someone is there if you can't come on Sunday morn.

**Having birthdays this week are:** Diane Meggs, Angelo Iannotti, Louise Hrynkow, Heather (Schuhrke) O’Hara, and Melissa (Erickson) Paluck. Mark and Ann Aler celebrate their wedding anniversary today. We wish God’s blessings on all of them!

According to the schedule, next Sunday’s lector is Judy Paige.

Office Manager/Custodian Laura Olson will off Monday and Tuesday.

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**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!

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**CHURCH LEADERSHIP**

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

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# PENTECOST SUNDAY

May 23, 2021

Acts 2:1-21

## **Spirit for All** ***Strengthen the Church Offering***

Today is Pentecost, sometimes called the church's birthday. Every church was a new church start at one time and this is the day we recall and celebrate the day we were a new church. In that spirit, many churches receive the Strengthen the Church offering on this day.

“The Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.” ([ucc.org/stc](http://ucc.org/stc))

Your congregation's offering provides the financial resources for the United Church of Christ to be a Spirit-inspired and world-changing Christian movement. Strengthen the Church funds ministry that allows us to benefit from best practices, insights, and innovations across the life of the UCC. Because of your support, new church starts have emerged, congregations have been revitalized, and leadership skills have been enhanced.

To find out more about how your church can Strengthen the Church, visit: <https://www.ucc.org/stc>



## SCRIPTURES FOR THE CONGREGATION

May 23, 2021

### Acts 2:1 - 21

1When the day of Pentecost had come, the disciples were all together in one place.

2And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.

3Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them.

4All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

5Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem.

6And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each.

7Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?”

8And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?

9Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,

10Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes,

11Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.”

12All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?”

13But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

14But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.

15Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning.

16No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

17'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.

18Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.

19And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

20The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

21Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

### **John 15:26 – 27; 16:4b - 15**

Jesus said,

26'When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf.

27You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

4I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you.

5But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?'

6But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts.

7Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.

8And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment:

9about sin, because they do not believe in me;

10about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer;

11about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

12“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.

13When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

14He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

15All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”