

A vertical collage of horizontal film strips. The strips show a close-up of hands holding a glass, with a blurred background of colorful lights in shades of green, yellow, and red. The text "KNOWN AND LOVED" is overlaid on one of the strips in a white, bold, sans-serif font.

KNOWN AND LOVED

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 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)

847-673-8166

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St. Peter's United Church of Christ
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OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR
Sunday, January 10, 2021 10:00 AM
Second Sunday after Epiphany

WELCOME GUESTS!

* Indicates all who are able are invited to stand

PRELUDE "A Thankful Heart" by Anne Marie David

THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS Jenn Schneider

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: God is present in our midst! Do we find
 strength in this?

Congregation: Yes, and comfort and peace too.

P: God is present and calling us! Do we listen
 or watch to perceive and respond?

***C: Not often enough, but we are
 listening and watching now. Let us
 rejoice in the presence of God as we
 listen, watch, and worship!***

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

On a Sunday closest to the birthday of one of America's prophets, we remember the Lord requires us to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God. We know that Rev. Dr. King preached about non-violence, equality, and justice in many areas of life including economic justice for the impoverished. Please join me in a prayer to God confessing our falling short.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Lord God, it is hard for soft ears to hear a call from You that is hard. We admit that the calls to let go of idols, attitudes and fears which have been part of us since our childhood are hard, and call for much faith. We confess that to effectively act justly means we have to spend more time learning, listening, and letting our old understandings or fears get confronted, if not cast out, so that new truths and comprehensions can come in and be more at home with Biblical faith and love. We confess that advocating well on behalf of the impoverished also calls us to learn more, speak out and show up more as a congregation of Jesus-followers. Forgive us our clinging to the comforts of self-delusion and passivity in a world of pain and injustices. In the name of Jesus our Savior we pray. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

“I, I am the One who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins,” says the Lord (Isaiah 43:25).

Hear the word of God, the word of grace and spiritual reopening from God! In such mercy we are freed from the reality and the feelings of guilt before the Holy One, and enabled to walk steadfastly again in the ways of righteousness and love. In claiming this second chance, and wanting to make the most of it the rest of our way, let the congregation join me in saying . . .

All: Alleluia! Amen.

***HYMN:** " Hear Now the Voice"

(Sing to the tune of "I Greet Thee, who my Sure Redeemer
Art")

**Hear now the voice that calls you from your sleep.
Listen for messages profound and deep.
Open your ears, for God may call your name.
Seeking your full abilities to claim.**

**God, who has searched you, measures every deed,
Noting if thought and actions match your creed.
You are God's temple, valued, loved and known,
As if God's favor were for you alone.**

**Live, then, as people who have passed the test,
Guided by Christ to always give your best.
Holding as sacred: body, soul and mind,
Seeking God's will for all of humankind.**

**Called as ambassadors for Jesus Christ,
Who, in the cause of love, was sacrificed,
We boldly tell what we have seen and heard,
Sharing with all the world God's holy word.**

**We are the word that Jesus speaks to day.
We are appointed keepers of Christ's way.
Unless the Church is faithful in this role,
Many will miss the joy that makes life whole.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Dan Guenther

Old Testament:

I Samuel 3: 1-10

Epistle:

I Corinthians 6: 12-20

MUSICAL MEDITATION "My Jesus, I Love Thee"

GOSPEL:

John 1:43-51

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: "Samuel and Nathanael 2021"

HYMN:

Lift Every Voice and Sing" (James Weldon Johnson / J. Rosamund Johnson)

Lift Every Voice and Sing

James Weldon Johnson, 1899

John Rosamond Johnson

1. Lift ev-ery voice and sing, till earth and Heav-en ring, Ring with the har - mo - nies of
2. Ston-y the road we trod, bit - ter the chast-ening rod, Felt in the days when hope un-
3. God of our wear-y years, God of our si - lent tears, Thou Who hast brought us thus far

- lib - er - ty; Let our re - joic - ing rise, high as the lis - tening skies, Let it re-
- born had died; Yet with a stead-y beat, have not our wear-y feet, Come to the
- on the way; Thou Who hast by Thy might, led us in - to the light, Keep us for-

- sound loud as the roll - ing sea. Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has
- place for which our fa - thers sighed? We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been
- ev - er in the path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we

taught us, Sing a song full of the hope that the pre - sent has brought us; Fac-ing the
wa - tered, We have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh - tered; Out from the
met Thee. Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get Thee. Sha-dowed be-

ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun, Let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.
- gloom-y past, till now we stand at last Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
- neath Thy hand, may we for - ev - er stand, True to our God, true to our na - tive land.

Public Domain
Courtesy of the Cyber Hymnal™

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

***POSTLUDE:** "Lift Every Voice and Sing"

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

MINISTER

Rev. Richard Lanford

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Ben Westphal

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Good Morning! Welcome as we thank and worship God for his wonderful works and listen for his word to us today.

The Church Council meets after worship today via Zoom after worship.

Annual Reports are also due by tomorrow (Jan. 18th). There is a drop box dedicated for these special year-end reports. Here is the link: **Dropbox Annual Report folder**. Laura herself is taking a carry-over-from-2020 vacation day that day but will be in later in the week to get the Annual Reports ready.

HOSPITALIZED: Last Sunday Laurie Mitchell was back at the Skokie Spine and Orthopedic Center for what turned out to be another hip replacement surgery. The one she'd received last month was infected and that necessitated a replacement. She is now at home recovering. Keep up prayers for her!

The Board of Elders held a teleconference call last Thursday to touch base.

Pastor is going to be looking at possible Lenten Zoom study topics. Let him know if you have ideas for a 5-week Wednesday night study!

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.

FROM THE PRESIDENT – Official Announcement about our Annual Meeting – In the interest of safety, and the likelihood that Illinois will not allow large gatherings by the end of January, Council is choosing to be pro-active and has decided to hold our Annual Meeting on January 31st as a Zoom call. We realize and acknowledge that NOT EVERYONE can attend this type of meeting. We are giving ample notice about this to allow for alternative solutions to this challenge. Perhaps if you are not able to Zoom, you can (safely) join a friend or family member on that day that CAN Zoom, and participate in that way. Or communicate your thoughts or concerns to a Council member before-hand ... we will allow proxies at this meeting. Sadly, we haven't figured out how to feed everyone this way ☹ More information will be available about the Agenda items and meeting structure as we get closer to the meeting itself.

ANNUAL MEETING ZOOM LINK: Please join our Annual Meeting on January 31st at 11:15 AM. Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/97759473772?pwd=ZUNDNzF6WFVNLOdRVUdPY1kwNVRUQT09>

Meeting ID: 977 5947 3772

Passcode: 688732

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,97759473772#,,,,*688732# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 977 5947 3772

Passcode: 688732

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/j/97759473772>

Soft goods donations and special collection days!

Now's a great time to clear out those closets, basements, storage lockers and garages and help us at the same time! We are collecting clothing, shoes, hats, belts, purses, linens, stuffed toys and bedding through the end of January. We get 20 cents/pound and our goal is 1,000 pounds. We will be at church for people to drop off donations January 20 and 27 6:30-8:30 pm and January 23 and 30 11:00-1:00. We also collect them on Mondays when the office is open. Anyone who has keys can bring donations anytime, they should leave them in the gym.

January 30th is our time to serve! With the help of mission partners like St. Peter's, A Just Harvest Community Kitchen continues to provide delicious, hot meals 365 days a year even during a pandemic. Our day to serve traditionally comes on the fifth Saturday of the month. (In 2021 the months of January, May, July, and October have five Saturdays). Support from St. Peter's members and friends will help the Kitchen staff prepare a community meal to go. While

we can't offer our typical meal of sloppy joes and side dishes and don't need to rally dining room helpers, we still need your participation in this hands-on ministry. Please make a financial contribution so that the Kitchen can purchase and prepare food for our hungry neighbors. We need \$500 to provide the community meal on January 30th. Please follow this link to let us know you can donate: **AJH Community Kitchen Pledge Tracker, January 2021**. St. Peter's collective generosity keeps the spirit of service alive even while we are physically apart. Please pledge and make your gift by January 20th so that we can continue this long-time ministry.

VILLAGE INN FUNDRAISER FEEDBACK NEEDED – For 2021, we'd like people to give Annie some feedback on whether or not we want to continue doing Village Inn or another place for monthly food fundraisers? Please email her: annie@mollyu.com or send an email to the office: office@stpeteruccskokie.org with your thoughts and/or ideas for a new monthly fundraiser. Thanks so much!

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.

Pastor's Podcast is now on all the Podcast platforms- iTunes, Stitcher, Overcast, Spotify, Podcast Addict, Amazon Music and more. Just look up "The Redheaded Preacher" on

your podcast catcher or music streaming service then hit subscribe and you'll get the newest editions weekly! Give us a 5-star rating and review if you can, it helps us grow so much.

The text of the hymn "Hear Now the Voice" is reprinted by permission of United Church Press from Led by Love by Lavon Bayler. Copyright 1996 by United Church Press.

According to the schedule, next week's Lector is Mandy Steegmueller.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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

Now through January

WINTER

SOFT GOODS

FUNDDRIVE



ST. PETER'S
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WELCOMING
CONGREGATION
IN ILLINOIS

DROP OFF AT
THE GYM
8013
LARAME,
SKOKIE OR
CALL TO
SCHEDULE
(847)
673-8166



WE NEED
CLOTHING
LINENS
BEDDING
STUFFED
TOYS
ACCESSORIES
AND MORE

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 17, 2021

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

Known and Loved

**O Lord, you have searched me and known me.*

My God, you see and understand all that I am.

*You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.*

You know even my most hidden thoughts.

*You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.*

When I work, when I sleep, you are with me.

Even before a word is on my tongue,

O Lord, you know it completely.

When I speak, you know what I'm going to say before I do.

You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

You are everywhere, even right here with me!

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

I cannot imagine how you think or feel or create. You are so vast.

For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

And yet, you are close by, too. Always giving birth, always making new.

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

You even made this sacred body that I call home.

*My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.*

Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.

You know how I was made because you made me!

*In your book were written all the days that were formed for me,
when none of them as yet existed.*

You write the past, you sculpt the future.

How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

I cannot weigh or measure you, God,

I try to count them—they are more than the sand;

I come to the end—I am still with you.

I only know that wherever I am, you are too. And that is enough.

**Italics from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18*



SCRIPTURES FOR THE CONGREGATION

January 17th, 2020

FIRST SAMUEL 3:1-10

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli.

The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room;

the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was.

Then the LORD called, “Samuel! Samuel!” and he said, “Here I am!”

and ran to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call; lie down again.” So he went and lay down.

The LORD called again, “Samuel!” Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call, my son; lie down again.”

Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.

The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy.

Therefore Eli said to Samuel, “Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, ‘Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.’” So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.”

LECTOR: Evidently some of the church members in this Greek city thought that since they were free from having to obey the Law to be forgiven, they could pretty much do what they wanted as long as it did not harm anyone. That included visiting prostitutes who worked at the temples of foreign gods. The Corinthians even had some phrases to justify giving in to their desires, like “All things are lawful for me” and “Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food,” which Paul will toss back at them in his reply.

FIRST CORINTHIANS 6:12-20

“All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are beneficial.

“All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything.

“Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food,” □ and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never!

Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, “The two shall be one flesh.”

But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself.

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own?

For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

LECTOR: Jesus is just getting His ministry underway. The day before this, He met Andrew and Peter.

JOHN 1:43-51

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!"

Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told

you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these."

And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."