



Remember,

Restore,

Renew

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 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, 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.com/merchot/?x=1&from=paypal-merchant-directory) 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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847-673-8166

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St. Peter's United Church of Christ
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OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR
Sunday, September 6, 2020 10:00 AM
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Labor Day Sunday

WELCOME GUESTS!

* Indicates all who are able are invited to stand

PRELUDE: "Simple Gifts" arr. Russell Schulz-Widmar

THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS Jenn Schneider

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: The Hebrews were told to eat the first Passover meal in a hurry. It would be time for them to leave Egypt very soon.

Congregation: Today as we partake of Communion, we try to not to hurry that, but employ it as a time of reflection as well as joy.

P: Being in God's timing for feasts of freedom and new creation can be hurried or slow. So our pace of worship varies;

so God's work in our souls and human history can move at the pace God deems wisest.

C: We are called to patient faith in Providence as we also do what is right in service to God's realm of love, justice, peace and reconciliation. Let us worship God!

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

P: You and I continue our worship with a prayer of confession, as now, like in Isaiah Chapter 6, we realize we mere humans are in the presence of the Almighty! It's almost an instinct to want to be cleansed, forgiven, before presuming to go further in our worship of the great Source of Love and Holiness. So let us do so together, in the spirit and words of prayer.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Merciful God, whose care never ceases, we come to You as we are. We are tired of trying to do more than we can manage. We are anxious about problems that go unresolved. We are worried about events beyond our control. We do not easily let go. For mistakes we cannot redeem, for tasks left undone, for uncertain goals, we need Your forgiveness and ask for Your understanding. For recovery of strength and passion, we pray for Your Spirit. For fullness of life, generous hearts, and

contented souls, we pray to be followers of Jesus Christ. In Your mercy, restore us and lead us. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Of Christ Jesus it is written, "When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the One who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed" (I Peter 2:23-24).

Friends, believe the gospel: in Jesus Christ crucified and risen, our sins are forgiven and resurrection life is ours for life today and life everlasting. This is the stunning grace of God. In laying claim to the good news of Jesus, may you say whenever and wherever you are . . .

All: Alleluia! Amen.

*HYMN: "Sing Hallelujah to the Lord" SSB #1(with repeat)

Descant

Sing hal-le - lu-jah to the Lord.

Unison

Sing hal-le - lu-jah to the Lord. Sing hal-le -

Sing hal-le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -

lu-jah to the Lord. Sing hal-le-lu - jah, sing hal-le -

1 2

jah; sing hal-le - lu-jah to the Lord.

1 2

lu - jah. Sing hal-le-lu-jah to the Lord.

WORDS ABOUT OFFERING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Karen Christianson

Old Testament:

Exodus 12: 1-14

Epistle:

Romans 13: 8-14

MUSICAL MEDITATION: "Orgelstück" in C Major

by A. Kehrer

HOMILY

"The Love Debt"

***HYMN: "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" #272 (vv. 1, 4)**

272

Love and Fellowship

CHARLES WESLEY, 1747

8. 7. 8. 7. D.

BEECHER
JOHN ZUNDEL, 1870

In moderate time

1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
2. Breathe, O breathe Thy lov - ing Spir - it In - to ev - ery trou - bled breast;
3. Come, Al - might - y to de - liv - er, Let us all Thy life re - ceive;
4. Fin - ish, then, Thy new cre - a - tion; Pure and spot - less let us be;

Fix in us Thy hum - ble dwell - ing, All Thy faith - ful mer - cies crown:
Let us all in Thee in - her - it, Let us find the prom - ised rest;
Gra - cious - ly re - turn, and nev - er, Nev - er - more Thy tem - ples leave.
Let us see Thy great sal - va - tion Per - fect - ly re - stored in Thee;

Je - sus, Thou art all com - pas - sion, Pure, un - bound - ed love Thou art;
Take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be;
Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, Serve Thee as Thy hosts a - bove,
Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, Till in heaven we take our place,

Vis - it us with Thy sal - va - tion, En - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
End of faith, as its be - gin - ning, Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
Pray, and praise Thee with - out ceas - ing, Glo - ry in Thy per - fect love.
Till we cast our crowns be - fore Thee, Lost in won - der, love, and praise. A - MEN.

PASTORAL AND SILENT PRAYERS

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Exhortation and Invitation

Prayers of Thanksgiving

Prayer of Consecration

The Words of Institution

Participation

***CLOSING PRAYER & 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:** "A Parting Hymn We Sing" #343 (vv. 1, 2, 4)

343

AARON R. WOLFE, 1858 S. M. BOYLSTON
LOWELL MASON, 1832

Not too fast; with solemnity



1. A part - ing hymn we sing A - round Thy ta - ble, Lord;
2. Here have we seen Thy face, And felt Thy pres - ence here;
3. The pur - chase of Thy blood, By sin no long - er led,
4. In self - for - get - ting love Be our com - mun - ion shown,

A - gain our grate - ful trib - ute bring, Our sol - emn vows re - cord.
So may the sa - vor of Thy grace In word and life ap - pear.
The path our dear Re - deem - er trod May we re - joi - cing tread.
Un - til we join the Church a - bove, And know as we are known. A - MEN.

***CHARGE**

P: "Owe no one anything, except to love one another;

C: for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law."

***BENEDICTION**

P: May the Light of God surround us,

C: The Love of God enfold us,

P: The Power of God protect us,

C: The Presence of God watch over us,

P: Now and forevermore.

C: Amen!

***POSTLUDE:** "O Perfect Love" arr. Carl Schalk

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

MINISTER Rev. Richard Lanford

MUSIC DIRECTOR Ben Westphal

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Good Morning! The psalmist declares that "the LORD takes pleasure in his people" (Psalm 149:4, ESV). As we gather before the God who delights in us, may we also delight in God. Welcome.

Thanks to everyone who made this service, and bringing it to you, possible.

Happy One Year Anniversary to our Choir Director Ben Westphal!

The Women's Guild meeting scheduled for this Wednesday has been cancelled.

HOSPITALIZED: June Peterson remains in hospice care at Bella Terra; 8425 Waukegan Road, MG, IL 60053. Please keep her in your prayers, along with others whom we lift up together today. Marlene Russell had a cataract removed last Monday at Highland Park Hospital and is recovering nicely.

There are scheduled meetings this coming week! The Communication Committee meets virtually this Wednesday at 6:30 PM. Our Micah 6:8 Committee met over Zoom last Thursday, and the Board of Elders have a teleconference call this coming Thursday the 10th at 4 o'clock.

Rummage Sale Coming Soon! We WILL hold the sale on Sept 25 & 26, by appointment only, in 2-hour blocks limited to 10 shoppers each. No Bake Sale and no Bag Sale this year. Church members are welcome to shop in person any time after September 15th using the honor system, and are welcome to bring their friends and family as long as they stay with them while they're in the building and follow our safety protocols. Donation drop off deadline is Sept 13th.

We need volunteers to make this sale successful so please sign up!! Sign up to work the sale here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904094ca8ab2fa5f85-rummage>

The link for shoppers outside the church family to shop on the sale days is:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080e4dafab29a0fb6-annual>. Please contact Annie Noorts with questions, or if you'd like to schedule a time to shop, and you don't have a key! We continue to sort on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 6:30-8:30pm.

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, and using PayPal as indicated with the links in the front of this bulletin. 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 are at the start of your bulletin. Thank you!

Rummage Sorting is happening! It is Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. Obviously we are also receiving rummage as well but only for one more week!

Having birthdays this week are Isabella Aguayo, Jackie Johnson, Judy Paige’s grandson Nathan Paige, and Isabella Mau Gemignani. Wendy and Roy Svenson celebrate an anniversary on Friday. May God bless all of them!

Next week the scheduled Lector is Dan Guenther.

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About Communion: We are inviting 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 apart in space and time) when the Pastor prompts us.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 6, 2020

Exodus 12:1-14

Remember, Restore, Renew

On this day we recall the beginning of Passover. Passover is celebrated by our Jewish brothers and sisters as a reminder of freedom from slavery. Pressed into hard toil, the people of Israel banded together, and so were able to escape to a new and more equitable life. Although this is not the season of Passover, it is appropriate to read this scripture on the secular weekend of Labor Day, as we recall the hard work by labor unions to secure freedom for workers of all kinds.

In the United Church of Christ, we rejoice that “each worker - judge or janitor, salesclerk or scientist, mother or millionaire CEO - is equal in the sight of God. Each person's work, done with integrity, is a contribution to society and has value and dignity. But the world doesn't always see it this way.

Workers are dependent on their employer, but employers are much less dependent on any particular worker. This unequal power relationship can lead to problems in the workplace. A common way that workers have responded is to join a labor union. Unions are one of the very best ways for workers to bring greater justice to the workplace. The right of workers to form or join unions is so important and fundamental that it is an internationally-recognized human right.” (<https://www.ucc.org/justice-worker-justice-unions>)

The right of people to gather together and speak out against workplace injustice is part of a long tradition in our faith story. As we recreate or relax on Labor Day Monday, it is also an opportunity to give thanks for the United Church of Christ's commitment to the principles of fairness and equity in the workplace. This Labor Day, take a moment to pray using these or other words.

Dear God, On this Labor Day, we pause to thank you for the opportunity for satisfying work, and for the pleasure of rest from our labors. Be with all those, we pray, who work under unjust conditions. Be with all who advocate for those who work in such conditions. And be with us, we pray, as we strive along with you for a world in which every person is afforded decency, justice and fair treatment. In your name, Amen.



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

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SCRIPTURES FOR THE CONGREGATION

September 6, 2020

Exodus 12:1-14

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but

roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn.

This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

Romans 13:8-14

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near.

Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.