



GOD-INSPIRED

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

8013 Laramie Avenue, Skokie, IL 60077

(Oakton and Laramie)

847-673-8166

Our network name is: ATTUNITEDCHURCH; Pass:
UNITEDCHURCH8166

www.stpeteruccskokie.org

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847-673-8166

OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR
Sunday, July 11, 2021, 10:00 AM
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME GUESTS!

* Indicates all who are able are invited to stand

PRELUDE "New Britain" arr. C Callahan

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS Jenn Schneider

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: God is very near to us.

Congregation: We come together to praise God who lives and dwells among us.

P: Bring your songs and your praises and let the Spirit of God be heard in this place!

C: We praise God with song and voice, with prayers and laughter, and we greet one another with love.

ALL: Praise be to the Triune God!

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

P: God has chosen us to be holy and blameless in love before our Creator.

C: In our hearts, we know we do not measure up to that high calling.

P: We have built many barriers in our lives against true communion with God and honest community with one another.

C: In our Prayer of Confession, we seek help to remove those barriers and to know forgiveness and change.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Lord of all hope and blessing, hear us as we turn to You with all our hearts. We have not been faithful to Your word of love. We have hurt others and held grudges. We have been jealous and deceitful and ungrateful. We have turned from Your Word and resisted the Holy Spirit. We have wanted our inheritance from You without the responsibilities that go with it. O God, we plead for Your forgiveness and healing, that we might respond with joy to the spiritual blessings You offer. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to set us free from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory forever and ever. Amen” (Galatians 1:3-5).

Our sins of what we have done, and what we have left undone although God called for us to do it, are forgiven by the giving of Jesus on the Cross, and new life in this grace is made real by the raising of Jesus from the tomb so we may know the transformations God desires for us! In laying claim to this priceless news from the God who made it happen, please join me in saying . . .

ALL: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Amen.

***HYMN:**

"Amazing Grace"

SSB #5 (vv. 1, 2, 3)

1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
4 My God has prom - ised good to me, whose
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; How pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'Tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; God will my shield and
shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to

now am found, was blind but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

John Newton's autobiographical hymn reflects his conversion from his earlier existence as a slave trader. While serving as curate in the English village of Olney, Newton met William Cowper, and together they published Olney Hymns, which included this hymn.

Tune: AMAZING GRACE C.M.
(NEW BRITAIN)
Columbia Harmony, Cincinnati, 1829
Arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1900

WORDS ABOUT OFFERINGS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Marcia Hilliard

The Old Testament:

Second Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19

Gospel:

Mark 6:14-29

MUSICAL MEDITATION "In Memoriam"

J. Cotter

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:

***HYMN: "We are Marching in the Light of God" SSB #25**



Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -
 We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march - ing in the



nyen' kwen - khos'. Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos',
 light of God. We are march - ing in the light of God,



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of God.



Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) OO
 We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) OO



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of God.



Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) OO
 We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) OO



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
 we are march - ing in the light of God.

Additional stanzas ad lib.:

We are dancing ...
 We are praying ...
 We are singing ...

***CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

P: Remember each day that you are chosen by God.
Be open to the spiritual blessings available at all times.

**C: *We are cleansed and free, purified and made whole,
Great is our God, and greatly to be praised!***

P: Dwell in the mystery of God's will for you.
Dare to We will reach out in love to those who share your world.

**C: *We will seek God's counsel daily.
We will open our hearts to others' pain.***

P: The Holy Spirit goes with you to empower you.
The love of Christ sustains you in all circumstances.

**C: *We have been blessed and fed in this place.
We will share with others the joy we have known.***

P: Amen.

C: *Amen.*

***POSTLUDE:** "Walk in the Light" S. Pethel

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

MINISTER Rev. Richard Lanford

MUSIC DIRECTOR Ben Westphal

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to worship! Sisters and brothers in Christ, it is a joy to gather with you for worship! Please take a moment to greet those around you in the name of the Lord.

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.

Laura Olson's vacation continues through tomorrow

(Monday); she will be back in the church office on Tuesday, July 13th. Pastor Richard leaves on his vacation Thursday the 22nd, providing guest preachers are confirmed.

This Month our Rummage Sorting expands to 3 times a week;

Monday & Wednesdays from 6:30 – 8:30 PM and Fridays from 10 AM to noon. Anyone is welcome to help, and sorters get to shop while they work. Call Annie if you have any questions!

Having birthdays this week are Wendy Svenson, Hillary Gack, Shari Meggs, Jeremy Steegmueller, Sydney Kerbel, and Dorothy Taylor's granddaughter Mary Taylor. Having wedding anniversaries this week are the Lanfords, Greg and Gail (Peterson) Thomas, the Brzozowskis, Lisa (Schuhrke) and Eric Martinek and Gail (Dennis) and John Baling. May God bless all these!

Speaking of the Brzozowski family, Laura, her husband Paul Medaglia and their two sons, baptized here (Hunter and Colin) have very recently moved to Florida (we don't know what part).

Our next Village Inn Food Fundraiser will be Sunday July 25th, so mark your calendars!

Let your server know you are there for St. Peter's UCC on this day and we get 20% of whatever you spend. Good for dine-in, carryout and delivery and ANYONE can order for us, not just congregants!

This month of July has 5 Saturdays -- that means it is our turn

to partner with the staff at the Community Kitchen of A Just Harvest for our 'turn to serve' on Saturday, July 31st. Each time since COVID restrictions came into place, we have not been cooking the sloppy joes and bringing them in, and then purchasing the rest of the meal we are responsible for, but have to ask for financial commitments beforehand which accumulate to \$500 for

their curbside service. We are hopeful of returning to the old m.o. this autumn. There will soon be a link for us as individuals to make a financial commitment for the dinner costs, with which the Kitchen staff will buy, cook the meal, and deliver to the customers.

According to our schedule the Lector next Sunday is Barbara Todd.

The deadline for articles to be in the August Announcer are DUE Monday, August 19th. Please if you have something to share or report, do not make Laura have to call and wait for you to submit it after the deadline.

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!

Wider but still local Church News: Christ U.C.C., Des Plaines, lost its long-term pastor Rev. Virginia Ericson to retirement. Now serving in an interim role there is pastor Gilberto Martinez, who is a Member in Discernment of the Chicago Metropolitan Association for ordination. Before one is ordained, and after one has gone through the CMA's procedures of preparation for it, the last step of approval is the Ecclesiastical Council. Although Pastor Richard cannot attend due to being out of state for vacation, Pastor Gilbert's Ecclesiastical Council will be held on Saturday, July 24th, via Zoom, at 11 AM. The presence of lay church members is more vital than clergy participation, for getting a quorum to conduct the event. If someone is willing and interested in representing St.

Peter’s U.C.C., Skokie, for this young man’s last requirement toward ordination, please contact our Pastor Richard. You will be asked to read his ordination paper ahead of time, which will be on-line at the CMA website.

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The 33rd General Synod of our United Church of Christ convenes on today July 16th, in Kansas City, MO and goes through July 20th. It is held via Zoom! If anyone wants the link, tell Pastor and he’ll email it to you. Among the speakers this year are new Sojourners President Adam Russell Taylor. 50 workshops covering topics from privilege to preserving our planet, from opioid addiction to workshops centering on the youth of the church.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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

July 11, 2021

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19

God-inspired Joy

Last year at this time, several months into the COVID pandemic and not an end in sight, Rev. Rebekah Moyer of Emmanuel UCC, in Allentown, PA was in search of joy. She thought wistfully of the joy that she experienced at Christmas, and wondered if others might want that joy, too. So, she and the congregation she serves initiated Christmas In July.

Pastor Becky, as she is known, said in her sermon that day “I thought about all of the hustle and bustle that goes along with the Christmas season and all of the chaos that comes during that season. I also thought about how quickly baby Jesus is packed away and our Christmas “high” is taken away. ...As I was reflecting on all of this I couldn’t help but think to myself: After the Christmas holiday is over, how many of us put Christ back in a shoe box? I started to wonder what happens to Christmas if we take away the ribbons and the bows. If we forget about Santa Claus and decorating Christmas trees. If we don’t have to worry about baking cookies or pies or serving extravagant dinners. If we don’t have to worry about running around looking for the perfect Christmas present. If we don’t have to worry about the lines we usually have to stand in at the store and the irritated faces of strangers when you take the last of whatever the “popular” present is that year. If we get rid of the frustration of wrapping gifts. And I thought that maybe, just maybe, July is an opportunity for us. Perhaps we can forget all of the extra stuff that we have added to the season and really celebrate Christ. We can celebrate what the birth of Christ really means to us without the commercialization, without the pressures that come along with everything surrounding Christmas. ...I was reminded that, although the nights are short and the weather is warm, we need that light and that hope. We need that joy that comes with hearing the story of the baby lying in the manger all of the time. The more I thought about it, the more I realized that the Christmas story does not belong in a box, tucked away somewhere safe. I think we need to hear the miracle of the birth of Christ throughout the year. Have you put Jesus in a box in a closet, attic, or basement with the Christmas stuff? Have you packed him away with the palm fronds and the Easter decorations? Is your joy for the Savior on layaway with the gifts you have set aside for December? Elizabeth and Mary were filled with so much joy that they could not hold it in. Mary’s pregnancy, her child, brought the One who would reshape the world, the One who would confront injustice and deliver new hope, the very presence of God. It is time for us to find him again, the baby in the manger. It is time for us to find joy. The most wonderful news, he is always looking for you, waiting for you. Christmas joy is not a single day or month. It is for us, followers of Christ, a way of life.”



8.125" x 11" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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SCRIPTURES FOR THE CONGREGATION

July 11, 2021

As we heard last Sunday, David is now Israel and Judah's king, the capital is Jerusalem, and having lost the Ark of the Covenant to another power earlier, it is now in Israeli possession but has to be taken to the City of David along with David himself. But that alone is not the whole story!

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19

David again gathered all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand. David and all the people with him set out and went from Baale-judah, to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the LORD of hosts who is enthroned on the cherubim. They carried the ark of God on a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were driving the new cart with the ark of God; and Ahio went in front of the ark.

David and all the house of Israel were dancing before the LORD with all their might, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals.

It was told King David, "The LORD has blessed the household of Obed-edom and all that belongs to him, because of the ark of God." So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the city of David with rejoicing; and when those who bore the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, he sacrificed an ox and a fatling. David danced before the LORD with all his might; David was girded with a linen ephod. So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet.

As the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal daughter of Saul looked out of the window, and saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart.

They brought in the ark of the LORD, and set it in its place, inside the tent that David had pitched for it; and David offered burnt offerings and offerings of well-being before the LORD. When David had finished offering the burnt offerings and the offerings of well-being, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of hosts, and distributed food among all the people, the whole multitude of Israel, both men and women, to each a cake of bread, a portion of meat, and a cake of raisins. Then all the people went back to their homes.

This passage of Mark 6 follows right after Jesus sent the disciples out two-by-two on a preaching mission, with authority over the unclean spirits. They returned, having cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick.

Mark 6:14-29

King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for

Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee.

When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter."

The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.