



Abiding in  
**Love**

**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](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**

8013 Laramie Avenue, Skokie, IL 60077  
(Oakton and Laramie)

**847-673-8166**

[www.stpeteruccskokie.org](http://www.stpeteruccskokie.org)

Rev. Richard Lanford (Pastor): [revlanford@gmail.com](mailto:revlanford@gmail.com)

Laura Olson (Office Manager): [office@stpeteruccskokie.org](mailto:office@stpeteruccskokie.org)

Ben Westphal (Music Director): [bcwestphal@gmail.com](mailto:bcwestphal@gmail.com)

**St. Peter's United Church of Christ**  
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[www.stpeteruccskokie.org](http://www.stpeteruccskokie.org)  
**847-673-8166**

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**OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR**  
**Sunday, May 2, 2021, 10:00 AM**  
**Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
**St. Peter's U.C.C. 154<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Sunday**

**WELCOME GUESTS!**

\* Indicates all who are able are invited to stand

**PRELUDE** Fanfare on "Lasst uns Erfreuen"  
by P. Lehenbauer

**THE RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS** Jenn Schneider

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Pastor: For thousands of years, going back to the people in Genesis, humankind has called on the name of the Lord.

***Congregation: For one hundred and 54 years, the first persons organized as St. Peter's in this village have joined their voices to those in calling on the name of our God.***

P: We are a church surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses of believers who came before us, and like them but in different times we gather to worship God and serve our community.

**C: *May our worship honor our God, brighten our spirits, energize our steps and inspire our hearts to follow Jesus Christ as we enter a future yet unknown. Let us praise our loving Triune God!***



**OPENING RESPONSE: "Holy, Holy, Holy!"**

**#1 (v. 1)**

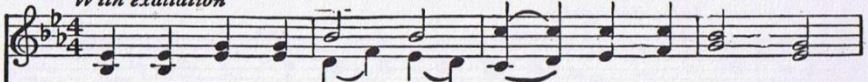
**Adoration and Praise**

**1**

REGINALD HEBER, 1826  
*With exaltation*

11. 12. 12. 10.

NICÆA  
JOHN B. DYKES, 1861



1. Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!  
2. Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly! all the saints a - dore Thee,  
3. Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly! though the dark - ness hide Thee,  
4. Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!



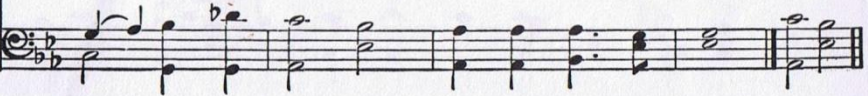
Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to Thee:  
Cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;  
Though the eye of sin - ful man Thy glo - ry may not see,  
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea;



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!  
Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore Thee,  
On - ly Thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side Thee,  
Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!



God in Three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!  
Who werc, and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.  
Per - fect in power, in love, and pu - ri - ty.  
God in Three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty! A-MEN.



## **\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**On this Anniversary Sunday, and during the pandemic, prayers of confession can come hard, as life has been hard in a lot of ways. Yet we as individuals and as St. Peter's, even while doing what we think is all we can do, still admit to sins of omission. We could have stood up more for unarmed victims of brutality and gun violence. We could have shared our faith with others more. We could have engaged more with those trying to non-violently undo the centuries-long effects of racism, deconstruct white privilege which is part of that, and join also with those trying to spread the gospel of salvation in Christ. We could have been more attentive and responsive to attacks upon persons in the LGBTQ + community. We could have prayed more for this country, our leaders, and our church. Forgive us these, and any other ways we have grieved Your Holy Spirit! Create in us new hearts, after Yours; for it is in the name of Jesus Christ we humbly pray. Amen.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

“For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all . . . And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them” (2nd Corinthians 5:14, 15)).

Friends, believe the gospel: in Jesus Christ crucified and raised, God’s love forgives our sins, heals our brokenness, and offers new life as daughters and sons of the living God! In claiming this saving, liberating news of pardon and re-creation, let the 154-year birthday church cry out . . .

**All: Alleluia! Praise be to God! Amen!**



\*HYMN: "Christ is Made the Sure Foundation" #324 (vv. 1, 2)

324

The Church

Latin, 7th century  
Tr. JOHN MASON NEALE, 1851

8. 7. 8. 7. 8. 7.

REGENT SQUARE

HENRY SMART, 1867

*In moderate time, with dignity*



1. Christ is made the sure Foun - da - tion, Christ the Head and  
 2. To this tem - ple, where we call Thee, Come, O Lord of  
 3. Here vouch - safe to all Thy serv - ants What they ask of  
 4. Laud and hon - or to the Fa - ther, Laud and hon - or



Cor - ner Stone, Cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,  
 hosts, to - day: With Thy wont - ed lov - ing - kind - ness  
 Thee to gain, What they gain from Thee for - ev - er  
 to the Son, Laud and hon - or to the Spir - it,



Bind - ing all the Church in one; Ho - ly Zi - on's  
 Hear Thy peo - ple as they pray; And Thy full - est  
 With the bless - ed to re - tain, And here - aft - er  
 Ev - er Three and ev - er One, One in might, and



help for - ev - er, And her con - fi - dence a - lone.  
 ben - e - dic - tion Shed with - in its walls al - way.  
 in Thy glo - ry Ev - er - more with Thee to reign.  
 One in glo - ry, While un - end - ing a - ges run! A-MEN.



## **WORDS ABOUT OFFERINGS**

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

The Prophet:

Annie Noorts  
Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14

Gospel:

John 15:1-8

### **MUSICAL MEDITATION**

"Surely the Presence of the Lord is in this Place"

by Lanny Wolfe

### **AFFIRMATION OF PURPOSE**

P: Article III of our Church Constitution states our purpose, or 'Objective.' In renewing and re-affirming our objective as St. Peter's U.C.C., as servants of Christ, as members and active friends of St. Peter's U.C.C., please join me in saying it aloud together:

**ALL: "This church has as its objective the development and maintenance in this community of a Christian congregation on an evangelical basis, for worship and the promotion of the Christian life, and the furtherance of the Kingdom of God by all available means." To this objective, to this gospel and to this Triune God we reaffirm and renew our covenant. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**\*GLORIA CREATOR** (sung to the traditional tune #493)

**Glory to our Creator,  
And to our Christ and to the Holy Ghost!  
As it was in the beginning, is now,  
And ever shall be; world without end!  
Amen, Amen.**

## **PASTORAL AND SILENT PRAYERS**

**MEDITATION:** "Branch Life"

### **THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

Exhortation and Invitation

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Consecration

The Words of Institution

Participation

## **CLOSING PRAYER AND 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**

**HYMN:** "We Look to You, O Jesus"

(Sing to the tune of "The Day of Resurrection")

**We look to you, O Jesus — in faith, our Pioneer —  
For you have gone before us and brought your  
people here.**

**You showed us all God's kingdom, you gave us  
work to do;**

**In death you went before us; for life, we turn to  
you.**

**Through times of strife and anguish, through  
times of joy and grace,**

**Through conflicts with our culture, you've brought  
us to this place;**

**And still your world is changing, and still we seek  
to be**

**A church reformed, reforming in faithful ministry.**

**Perfecter of the faith, Lord, we look to you each  
day;**

**We work for peace and justice, we worship, learn  
and pray —**

**And witnesses surround us, a host of saints above,  
As we continue sharing the joy of your great love.**

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permission).

## CHARGE

P: Seek first realm of God and God's righteousness;

**C: *As for us and our houses, we shall serve the Lord.***

P: Act with faith, believe with humility,

**C: *Love one another and love those whom nobody loves,***

**All: Serve the Lord!**

## BENEDICTION

**\*POSTLUDE:** "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"

arr. Hayes

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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!** Welcome to worship on this beautiful spring day that the Lord has made! "Let us rejoice today and be glad" (Psalm 118:24, NIV).

**Today as you can tell Saint Peter's United Church of Christ celebrates 154 years of service and worship in Skokie;** when it began we were Saint Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Western Synod of North America in Niles Center, IL, established in 1867. Later after a merger we were in the Evangelical and Reformed Church, and in the 1950s, after another merger, became part of the United Church of Christ. We thank God for everyone who has been a blessed part of our journey over the decades, and for those we have had the opportunity to minister with and to. Alleluia!

**Thanks to everyone who helped make today's hybrid worship on YouTube possible,** and thanks to everyone who watches and encourages others to watch! We plan to continue in hybrid worship unless in-person worship with COVID limitations becomes too risky for those who come. Don't forget, you **MUST RSVP for EACH SUNDAY** you wish to attend in-person, as we can only have a total of 40. Follow this link to sign up or let Laura in the office know and she'll sign you up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080e4aa8aa29abfa7-inperson>

**About Communion:** This is a Communion Sunday, and so we ask you who remain at home this morning to have a piece of bread, a roll, or something small like this with you, and a cup of wine, juice, water, coffee or something else, each of which will be your "bread and cup." As if we were gathered in person together, consecrated by the Spirit and prayer, please partake of what you have when so prompted during Communion by Pastor Lanford. Pre-filled Communion cups with wafers on top are at the top of the chairlift stairs, and in the narthex).

**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.

**Village Inn Food Fundraiser!** May 23rd is your next chance to give yourself a cooking break and help two beloved Skokie staples! All you have to do is mention us when ordering anytime on May 23rd and we get 20% of your total. Much thanks to everyone for participating—we've raised 175.00 for the months of February, March and April and Diana at Village Inn rounded it out to \$200.00!

**This is also our month to donate to the Kitchen of A Just Harvest for service on 5/29.** Follow this link and sign up to donate what you are able to. We have collected two-thirds of our goal, we need about 170.00 more dollars as of Thursday 4/29: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1h-w4KMmxVAshWG8pjDmY4AFwGRvlgBDeQBoW5TbLaLY/edit?usp=sharing>. You can mail or e-donate through Paypal, just mark your donation "AJH donation for May."

**HOSPITALIZED:** Carol Burmeister is still at Advocate Lutheran General for now; last week Ralph reported that Elevate St. Andrews in Niles and the insurance company are in talks as to what's next in terms of rehab options. Ralph says she is continuing to make progress. Little Harry Kuras has been at Lurie Children's Hospital and had a surgery early last week.

**IN SYMPATHY:** Sue and Barb Bailey's Aunt Eleanor Bailey died on Wednesday, April 28th. Her graveside service will be at a cemetery on Irving Park Road on Monday, led by Pastor Richard. Arrangements are through the Haben Funeral Home however.



**Staff Health and Office Reopening:** Ben Westphal is fully immunized. Pastor Richard received his second dose of the Pfizer vaccine and should thus be fully immunized by Tuesday, May 11th. Beth Lanford gets her 2nd shot tomorrow. Office Manager Laura Olson has had her first dose and has an appointment for the 2<sup>nd</sup> May 14th. Pastor will resume his office hours 2 weeks after his second dose. If all goes well, Laura will reopen the office for normal hours on Tuesday, June 1<sup>st</sup>. COVID safe procedures will still be enforced for anyone visiting the office, 6' distance, stay outside (in the hall) of offices and you must wear a mask.

**Having birthdays this week are:** Dale Todd, Molly Uchtman, Dianna Pappadakis-Haun, Bill Karol, Ken Paige, and Laura (Brzozowski) Medaglia. We wish God's blessings on all of them!

**Pastor's podcast "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. 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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## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 2, 2021

John 15:1-8

### Abiding in Love

While today retired pastor Rev. Dr. Ron Patterson lives comfortably with his wife Charnley Marsden in Tacoma, Washington, his early life in Akron, OH was much more humble. Unsure of his life's direction, Ron met with his pastor, who encouraged the high schooler to enroll at Heidelberg College.

"My parents don't have the money for that," Ron told his minister. But endowment funds from both Grace UCC in Akron and Heidelberg College (now University) made college possible for Ron – as well as a long and successful career in ministry.

And he remains eternally grateful for such great generosity from people he never knew.

"All because of the endowments people like me, who had nothing, could go to college and seminary. That's why I've left a planned gift to the UCC. So much of what the UCC was able to do for justice and work in the world was because of our endowments at churches, camps, Conferences, and the National Setting," Ron continued.

"The UCC has something to say and to share, and the financial part is not the most important part but sure makes the other parts possible in so many ways. We need to be a place where prophets like Traci Blackmon can stand, and voices like Karen Georgia Thompson's can be heard."

To learn more about giving to the UCC, please contact Generosity Officer Andy DeBraber at [debrabera@ucc.org](mailto:debrabera@ucc.org) or 216.736.2168 or Generosity Officer Jessica Shine at [shinej@ucc.org](mailto:shinej@ucc.org) or (216) 736.2175.



## SCRIPTURES FOR CONGREGATION

May 2, 2021

### **Jeremiah 29:1, 4 - 14**

These are the words of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the remaining elders among the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.

It said: 4Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon:

5Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they

produce. 6Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear

sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. 7But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to

the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. 8For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Do

not let the prophets and the diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, □ 9for it is a

lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, says the LORD.

10For thus says the LORD: Only when Babylon's seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and

bring you back to this place. 11For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to

give you a future with hope. 12Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. 13When you search for me,

you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, 14I will let you find me, says the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and

gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have

driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.”

### **John 15:1 - 8**

Jesus said, 1“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. 2He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes□ to make it bear more fruit. 3You have already been cleansed□ by the word that I have spoken to you. 4Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. 5I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. 6Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. 7If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become□ my disciples.