



REIGNING  
COMPASSION

## **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 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**

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**  
**Oakton Street and Laramie Avenue, Skokie, IL**  
[www.stpeteruccskokie.org](http://www.stpeteruccskokie.org)  
**847-673-8166**

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**OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR**  
**Sunday, November 22, 2020 10:15 AM**  
**Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Totenfest**  
**Thanksgiving Sunday**  
**Transgender Day of Remembrance Sunday**

**WELCOME GUESTS!**

\* Indicates all who are able are invited to stand

**PRELUDE:** "Nun Danket Alle Gott" by Kaufmann

**THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS** Jenn Schneider

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (from Ecclesiastes 3)

Pastor: "For everything there is a season, and a  
time for every matter under heaven:

***Congregation: A time to be born, and a time to die;  
a time to plant, and a time to pluck  
up what is planted;***

P: A time to break down and a time to build up; a time to weep and a time to laugh;

**C:** ***A time to mourn and a time to dance; a time to keep silence and a time to speak;***

P: A time to love and a time to hate;

**All:** **A time for war, and a time for peace.”  
Let us praise the God of all seasons of life!**

### **CALL TO CONFESSION** (from Psalm 90)

P: Scripture asks God, “Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a wiser heart.”

**C:** ***It continues, and so we say, “Turn, O Lord! How long? Have compassion on Your servants! Satisfy us in the morning with Your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.”***

P: Let us join together in confession; let us pray:

### **\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**As we come to Thanksgiving week, O Giver of all gifts, we are aware that sometimes we moan about disappointments and slights, real or perceived, and lose perspective on how good we really have it here in this troubled but bountiful land. We can be quick to comment on what we do not have and neglect to regularly see the blessings You have given us. They can even be the people or things which help us get past these disappointments, resentments or**

**jealousy. Open our eyes once again, Lord Jesus, and keep them open, that we may never lose a grateful heart or a spirit which knows where You long for us to minister. In Your name we pray for mercy and a re-orientation of soul towards You. Amen.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

“But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with them those who have died” (First Thessalonians 4:13, 14).

The word ‘forgiveness’ is not in this passage but it is implied as Paul also invokes the death and resurrection of the Lord so we may end up with God not only now but beyond time. By grace we have been saved through faith; our sins are washed away and new life is set to take over! Will the congregation please join me in saying ‘yes’ to this gospel, and say . . .

**All: Alleluia! Amen!**



\*HYMN: "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" #434 (vv. 1, 2)

434

Seasons and Special Services

HENRY ALFORD, 1844  
ALT. HUGH HARTSHORNE, 1915

7. 7. 7. 7. D.

ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR  
GEORGE J. ELVEY, 1858  
Descant by H. A. CHAMBERS, 1934

DESCANT

3. These to Thee, our God, we owe, Source whence all our bless-ings flow;

1. Come, ye thank-ful peo-ple, come, Raise the song of har-vest home;  
2. All the bless-ings of the field, All the stores the gar-dens yield;  
3. These to Thee, our God, we owe, Source whence all our bless-ings flow;

And for these our souls shall raise Grate-ful vows and sol-emn praise.

All is safe-ly gath-ered in Ere the win-ter storms be-gin;  
All the fruits in full sup-ply, Rip-ened 'neath the sum-mer sky;  
And for these our souls shall raise Grate-ful vows and sol-emn praise.

Come, then, thank-ful peo-ple, come, Raise the song of har-vest home;

God, our Mak-er, doth pro-vide For our wants to be sup-plied;  
All that Spring with boun-teous hand Scat-ters o'er the smil-ing land;  
Come, then, thank-ful peo-ple, come, Raise the song of har-vest home;

Come to God's own tem-ple, come, Raise the song of har-vest home. A-MEN.

Come to God's own tem-ple, come, Raise the song of har-vest home.  
All that lib-eral au-tumn pours From her rich o'er-flow-ing stores,  
Come to God's own tem-ple, come, Raise the song of har-vest home. A-MEN.

**WORDS ABOUT OFFERINGS**  
**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Epistle:

Jenn Schneider  
Hebrews 11:39-12:3  
James 1: 17-18

**MUSICAL MEDITATION:** "O Welt, ich muß dich lassen"  
arr. C. Callahan

O World, I must leave you,  
I travel from here along my way  
To the everlasting place of rest.  
I will give up my spirit  
So that my body and life  
Lie in God's merciful hand.

**GOSPEL:** Matthew 25:31-46

**SERMON:** "From Thanks to Ministry to Thanks"

**LIGHTING THE TOTENFEST CANDLES**

Charles Bailey

Bill Todd II

The Candle for Others



418

Eternal Life

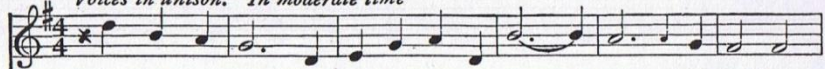
WILLIAM WALSHAM HOW, 1864

10. 10. 10. 4.

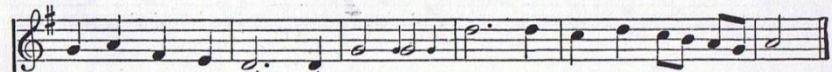
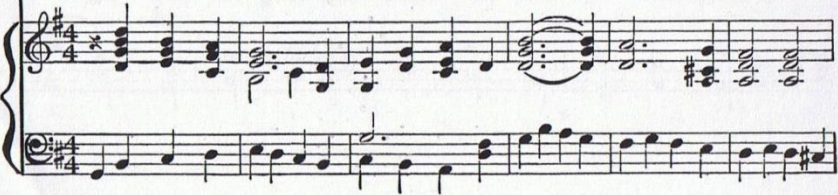
SINE NOMINE  
R. VAUGHAN WILLIAMS, 1906

Second Tune

Voices in unison. In moderate time



1. For all the saints who from their la - bors rest, Who Thee by faith be -  
 2. Thou wast their Rock, their For - tress, and their Might; Thou, Lord, their Cap - tain  
 3. O may Thy sol - diers, faith - ful, true, and bold, Fight as the saints who  
 4. O blest com - mun - ion, fel - low - ship di - vine! We fee - bly strug - gle,  
 5. From earth's wide bounds, from o - cean's far - thest coast, Through gates of pearl streams



fore the world con - fessed, Thy Name, O Je - sus, be for - ev - er blest.  
 in the well - fought fight; Thou, in the dark - ness drear, their one true Light.  
 no - bly fought of old, And win with them the vic - tor's crown of gold.  
 they in glo - ry shine; Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.  
 in the count - less host, Sing - ing to Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost,



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! A - MEN.



**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**

**CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

***C: Amen.***

**\*POSTLUDE:**                    “Sine Nomine”                    arr. C. Callahan

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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 Totenfest, Transgender Remembrance Sunday, the Sunday before Thanksgiving and Christ the King [Reign of Christ] Sunday. Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 4:17 ESV). May the Holy Spirit strengthen us for service in the kingdom.

**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.

**Thank you to everyone who was able to take advantage of our 10,000 Villages Fundraiser which ran from Thursday to Sunday!** We hope everyone who took part enjoyed the experience as we included a Zoom video as part of the project. If you were unable to shop during the 48 hours, they will allow special exceptions if you let them know you were unable to shop during those times and mention our fundraiser, but you must act fast.

**It is in two days!** The annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service will be held, via Zoom, on Tuesday, November 24th at 7:30 PM. Follow this link and join us!  
<https://usozweb.zoom.us/j/82a280c626>; Call in: 312-626-6799 Meeting ID: 821 2805 6265 Passcode: 526256

**The Trans Day of Remembrance was (and is set each year on) November 20th.** We commemorate those who have lost their lives due to anti-transgender prejudice and violence. Please follow this link for the names of the 42 folks who've died due to this horrific violence:  
<https://www.glaad.org/blog/tdor-memoriam>

**Winter is coming!** It's a good time to buy a plot at our St. Peter's U.C.C. Cemetery. See Kathy Zipperer to get the ball rolling.

**FUNDrive Soft Goods Collection going on now!** No better time than quarantine to clean out your closets, basements, storage and garages for soft goods! We get paid by the pound for soft goods such as clothes, shoes, belts, purses, linens, stuffed animals, bedding and more! Bags go in the gym and call us to schedule drop off times.

**Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup> is our next Village Inn food fundraiser.** Take a break from holiday shopping and support 2 great local businesses. Anyone can order via carryout and delivery, and call them to find out their in-dining options. Just remember to mention our fundraiser to your order taker!

Wishes for blessed birthdays go out to Linda Mau, Felix Roy Svenson and Emily Brzozowski Vacca. Henry and 'Bobbie' Muhrer down in Missouri have a wedding anniversary.

According to the schedule, next weekend's lector is Judy Paige but there may be a switch.

Wreath pick-up was yesterday afternoon. If you did not pick yours up and you have not yet made arrangements to do that, please contact Rich Schneider.

**Next Sunday, November 29th, is the First Sunday of Advent!** Please consider being one of those who writes and shares a brief devotional (for recording) for one of the Advent Sunday themes of hope, peace, love and joy -- contact Ben Westphal! We have received one volunteer so far for Love in Advent.

**June Peterson was moved by family** out of the hospice unit of Generations at Oakton Arms to the home of granddaughter Mandy Taheny MacDonald; her address is 1127 Burnham Court, Mundelein, IL, 60060.

**We apologize for letting 2020** and its suspension of routine structure prevent us from communicating anything regarding our traditional yearly collection of winter hats, cookies, cans of hot cocoa mix, and more, for the Night Ministry. Right now the plan is to hold our collection for the Night Ministry in January (as our original pre-COVID 2020 plan for 2021 was, but not adequately communicated). An email from the Ministry told us they receive gifts of winter hats, gloves and scarves through March (cookies were not mentioned although I'd mentioned them). We ask you folks if a December drive for hats / cocoa mix / scarves / gloves /

cookies is still do-able this year instead. Micah 6:8 meets soon and will discuss this too.

**Holiday Meals for needy area families from the Jewel Food Store at 5667 Touhy in Niles is on and donations are needed.** As you might expect, the need is up this year! Laura has been reached out to by the various community partners we work with who benefit from these meals. If you are able please go to the Jewel and make a donation! Most of our meals go to Skokie School District 69 which has a very high rate of low income families, then UCAN which helps youth in crises become future leaders, and Pastor Cranford’s ministries in Evanston. We’d sure like to make it a very happy holiday season for all!! Thanks so much for your support. You can go to the cashiers or service desk and write a check, you don’t have to shop.

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**CHURCH LEADERSHIP**

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

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**Niles Township Clergy Forum**

**50<sup>th</sup> Annual Interfaith**

**Thanksgiving Observance**

**HOPE**

*Speaker: Mayor Van Dusen*

*Keynote Sermon: Rabbi Michael Weinberg*

**All are welcome!**

**Tuesday, November 24, 2020 at 7:30 PM**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82128056265>**

Call in: 312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 821 2805 6265

Passcode: 526256

# POINSETTIAS



**If you didn't hear, we won't be doing our usual Poinsettia order this year. Due to COVID we can't be certain on how our Christmas service will play out yet. Instead, our Women's Guild will be generously providing poinsettias for our altar, in honor of all members and friends of St. Peter's. As a HUGE THANK YOU to everyone for all your extra care, support, thoughtfulness and concern for St. Peter's UCC during this unprecedented time, we'd like to offer you the chance to dedicate one of these poinsettias in honor and/or in memory of whomever you'd like. Just fill out the form below and return it to the office by December 6<sup>th</sup>! You can email your info, mail it or call it in to the office. We'll still be doing an In honor/In Memory insert for our Christmas worship and we'll also include it in the January Announcer!**

Name:

Phone #:

In Honor Of:

In Memory Of:



Now through January

WINTER

SOFT GOODS

FUNDDRIVE



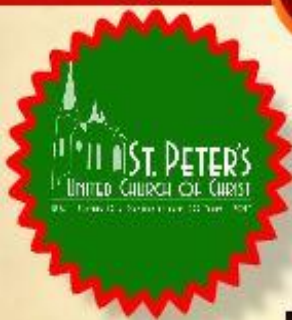
ST. PETER'S  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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



VillageInn  
PIZZERIA  
SPORTS BAR & GRILL



**Village Inn Food  
Fundraiser**

December 10th 11am - 11pm

**Village Inn Pizzeria**

8050 Lincoln Ave.  
Skokie, IL 60077

Mention St. Peter's UCC when ordering and we get 20% of your total

## REIGN OF CHRIST

November 22, 2020

Matthew 25:31-46 (I was hungry, and you fed me)

### Reigning Compassion Thanksgiving Sunday United Black Christians Anniversary

*We gather together to ask for God's blessing,  
To live in community, seeking God's will...\**

So begins a hymn that many of us will sing during the Thanksgiving season, whether we worship on Thanksgiving Day, Thanksgiving Eve or a Sunday before or after. We Gather Together, as the name suggests, is a hymn beloved by those of us who call ourselves congregational because it's all about, well, congregating. Written in the 16th century in the Netherlands as a hymn of celebration of freedom from Spanish rule, it is perhaps surprising that we so often sing this in thanksgiving when it is intended as an anthem to national pride.

On Thanksgiving, many will gather around the table at a feast with families and friends. These gatherings, with their familiar foods and faces can be comforting affairs. Yet, too often our Thanksgiving celebrations turn inward. Although we can take satisfaction in gathering around an intimate table with our beloveds, when we face each other, our backs are turned to the world.

Too often in congregations we do this, too. Comforted by the familiar intimacy of our private feasts and celebrations, our gatherings can become too comfortable, too insular.

The scripture reading from Matthew reminds us that when we feed, clothe and embrace the lost and alone, we are embracing Christ. This scripture in effect encourages us to turn our Thanksgiving table chairs the other way around. If your family and friends are not accustomed to facing that way, it may be uncomfortable to face out into the world and to respond to the needs we see.

So, turn around, face the world, so that we can freely and joyfully sing not just the first, but the last words of that beloved hymn.

*Empowering all by the hope you engender.  
Grant wisdom and courage to follow your way.\**

\*Bayler, Lavon. We Gather Together, #421. The New Century Hymnal. Word adaptations Copyright © 1992 The Pilgrim Press.



## SCRIPTURES FOR THE CONGREGATION

Nov. 22, 2020

*The background is that the writer has spent a lot of time lifting up Jewish heroes of the faith, from Genesis onward, including many who suffered and died for their faith, awaiting the promised Messiah. This is where the passage picks up.*

### **Hebrews 11:39-12:3**

Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.



Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart.

**James 1:17-18**

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

**Matthew 25:31-46**

Jesus said, "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me

food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'

Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?'

And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in

prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."