



*Sent with Power*

**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 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.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](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**

---

**OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR  
Sunday, July 4, 2021, 10:00 AM  
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost  
Independence Day Sunday**

**WELCOME GUESTS!**

\* Indicates all who are able are invited to stand

**PRELUDE** "Thaxted" by Gustav Holst

**THE RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS** Jenn Schneider

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Pastor: With glad and grateful hearts,

***Congregation: With thanksgiving***

P: Flowing from sea to shining sea,

***C: We gather this day***

P: To sing a song of praise

***C: To God***

P: For our country,

**C: For our world,**

**ALL: For peace. Let us praise our freedom-giving God!**

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION** (from Psalm 24)

P: "Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in God's holy place?

***C: Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully."***

P: Those who have pure hearts may sit out this confession of sin, then.

***C: That would not be any of us. Let us join together in the spirit of prayer and repentance.***

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Far too often, O God, we desire to look wise in the eyes of the world. We have not spoken truth with our hearts. We have not loved as you love. We have said and done hurtful things to our friends. We have forgotten our true identity, wandering into ways that are not yours. We have lost the path of true worship, focusing on form and words rather than deeds. We have forgotten what true discipleship is. And because of this, you have a quarrel with us.**

**Forgive us and help us live into becoming the people you have created and called us to be: people of justice and love and truth and humility, and yes, even foolishness. May we be fools for Christ, embracing our true identity, even in the face of the world's scorn and derision. In Christ's blessed name we pray for forgiveness and change. Amen.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON** (Psalm 145:8)

“The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The Lord is good to all, and God’s compassion is over all that He has made.”

We especially know God’s mercy, compassion and steadfast love in the person and works of Jesus, who died for our sins and was raised for our eternity. Whosoever will may come, Jesus said, and those who come to Jesus, and His Table, will not only encounter forgiveness, but also transformation. That’s not only good, it is necessary and fantastic news. Alleluia! Amen!

**\*HYMN:**

**"Be Thou My Vision"**

**SSB #20**

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,  
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,

naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:  
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!

thou my best thought by day and by night,  
Thou my soul's shel - ter, thou my high tow'r,  
thou, and thou on - ly, first in my heart,  
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.  
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish 8th–10th cent.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.  
Music: SLANE, Irish tune

## **WORDS ABOUT OFFERINGS**

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Old Testament:

Jessica Schneider  
2nd Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10

Epistle:

2nd Corinthians 2:2-10

### **MUSICAL MEDITATION**

"I Vow to You My Country"

arr. Mark Hayes

**\*GOSPEL:**

John 8:31-38

**\*RESPONSE:**

"Alleluia"

# 495

## **PASTORAL AND SILENT PRAYERS**

**SERMON:**

"Strength and Freedom"

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

Exhortation and Invitation

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Prayer of Consecration:

P: Eternal God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts, that Christ may be present as we share this meal, that our eyes may be opened and that we may recognize him in our midst.

**All: Bless this bread and cup and bless us, that in drinking it we remember Christ Jesus, and that in the fullness of time every cup will be filled to overflowing, every table will be one of welcome,**



**and every life will be filled with abundant love.  
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

The Words of Institution  
Participation

**CLOSING PRAYER** (in unison)

**All: Eternal God, we thank You for Your presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. By the power of Your Holy Spirit, unite us with all whom Christ welcomes, that we may be the servant church of the servant Christ, in whose name we pray and using the words that he gave us, we also pray . . . (the Lord's Prayer / `debts').**

**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:** "My Country, 'tis of Thee" #441 (vv. 1, 3, 4)

(In Verse 1, line 3, "land where my fathers died" can be replaced by "land where our forebears died;" and in Verse 4, line 1, you may choose to sing "Our forebears' God" in place of "Our fathers' God.")

441

Seasons and Special Services

SAMUEL F. SMITH, 1832

6. 6. 4. 6. 6. 6. 4.

AMERICA  
Thesaurus Musicus, 1740

1. My coun - try, 'tis of thee, Sweet land of  
 2. My na - tive coun - try, thee, Land of the  
 3. Let mu - sic swell the breeze, And ring from  
 4. Our fa - thers' God, to Thee, Au - thor of

lib - er - ty, Of thee I sing; Land where my  
 no - ble free, Thy name I love; I love thy  
 all the trees Sweet free - dom's song: Let mor - tal  
 lib - er - ty, To Thee we sing: Long may our

fa - thers died, Land of the pil - grims' pride,  
 rocks and rills, Thy woods and tem - pled hills;  
 tongues a - wake; Let all that breathe par - take;  
 land be bright With free - dom's ho - ly light;

From ev - ery moun - tain side Let free - dom ring.  
 My heart with rap - ture thrills Like that a - bove.  
 Let rocks their si - lence break, The sound pro - long.  
 Pro - tect us by Thy might, Great God, our King. A - MEN.

**\*CHARGE** (from Galatians 5)

P: "For freedom Christ has set us free.  
Stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a  
yoke of slavery.

**C: *For you were called to freedom, brothers and  
sisters;  
only do not use your freedom as an opportunity  
for self-indulgence,***

P: but through love become servants to one another.

**C: *For the whole law is summed up in a single  
commandment,***

All: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

**BENEDICTION**

**C: *Amen.***

**\*POSTLUDE:** Selected

---

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

---

MINISTER

Rev. Richard Lanford

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Ben Westphal

---

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

---

**Happy Fourth of July!** As our nation celebrates Independence Day, let us remember and proclaim that God so loved the whole world that he sent Jesus to share in this life. Let us join in praise!

**About Communion:** For those worshipping in-person with us, we hope you picked up one of the wafer-covered Communion cups on tables in the Narthex and at the landing of the eastern, chair-lift stairs. If you are joining us via the live-stream, we invite 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 perhaps apart in space and time) when the Pastor prompts us. Please not this week we have a responsive Prayer of Consecration.

**Please remember, our Office Manager Laura Olson is on vacation right now!** She is not returning until Tuesday, July 13th. Sharon Johnson has graciously offered to be in the Office during Laura's 9 – 2 hours this Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Pastor Richard will be in during Laura's hours Thursday and Friday. Thank you, Sharon!

**If you are receiving emails from the Church Office on a weekly basis,** such as "This Week at St. Peter's," and have missed what are new protocols are, check the "This Week" email from Monday, June 21st and / or the new July Announcer newsletter. Right now we are distancing every-other-pew (instead of one out of every three) and if you are fully vaccinated, you are free not to wear a mask -- but you are free to wear one if that is your choice!

**We are always grateful for any and all offerings to the church.** No amount is too small! As we said in the opening announcements, you can support our work (and thus, your work too) by mailing in a check, signing up for electronic giving, or using PayPal as indicated, with links, on the first main page of announcements. 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). Thank you very much for giving!

**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 ask for financial commitments before hand 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.

**The Board of Elders** hold a Zoom / phone meeting next Thursday at 4 PM.

**There was an initial meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee** last Wednesday, via Zoom, from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. A second one is Thursday, July 8, same time.

**Rummage sorting continues Wednesdays at 6:30 PM,** Anyone is welcome to come help sort rummage, and sorters get to shop while they work.

**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!

**Having birthdays this week are:** Judy Paige's grandson Danny Mahoney, Nancy Lindroth, Sandy Piper, and Ron Schuhrke.

**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.

Today’s Prayers of Consecration and Closing unison Prayer are reprinted by permission of the publisher from Touch Holiness (Resources for Worship, Updated), ed. Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi. Copyright ©1990 by The Pilgrim Press. Copyright ©2012 Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi.

According to the schedule next Sunday’s lector is Marcia Hilliard.

---

**CHURCH LEADERSHIP**

---

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

---

## SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 4, 2021

Mark 6:1-13

### Sent with Power *Independence Day*

In a few weeks, from July 11-18, a General Synod like no other will convene via teleconferencing.

The General Synod of the United Church of Christ is the national decision-making body for the denomination, responsible for giving general direction to the evangelistic, missionary, and justice programs of the UCC. Rather than making proclamations to the church, which the church must obey, General Synod is in a real sense a gathering of the church at large. General Synod speaks to but not for the church, and as we gather together as one, it reminds us of our radical interconnectedness.

Since the beginnings of this youthful denomination more than sixty years ago, regular meetings of General Synod have given direction and purpose to the church as a whole, as well as providing an opportunity for thousands of delegates to learn, participate in service and mission projects, attend inspiring worship, and meet up with friends old and new.

The theme of this year's General Synod is "Rooted In Love," and the logo shows a tree planted by a river to reflect the words of Psalm 1:3a, "they are like trees planted by streams of water." The logo is a poignant reminder of being rooted in Christ's love, and the water that flows like a connection between our churches and other settings of the UCC. Although our gathering will be online instead of in-person this year, the elements that make General Synod so special and uplifting will remain.

On this Independence Day, we remember and rejoice in our fundamental INTERDEPENDENCE as we prepare and plan for General Synod 2021. Visitors are welcome at General Synod. Search for General Synod 33 on [ucc.org](http://ucc.org) to register. If you cannot attend all or part of General Synod this year, keep the church as it gathers in your prayers.



## **SCRIPTURES FOR THE CONGREGATION**

**July 4, 2021**

**2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10**

**Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron, and said, "Look, we are your bone and flesh. For some time, while Saul was king over us, it was you who led out Israel and brought it in. The LORD said to you: It is you who shall be shepherd of my people Israel, you who shall be ruler over Israel." So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron; and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the LORD, and they anointed David king over Israel. David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years.**

**At Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months; and at Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah thirty-three years.**

**David occupied the stronghold, and named it the city of David. David built the city all around from the Millo inward. And David became greater and greater, for the LORD, the God of hosts, was with him.**



## **2 Corinthians 12:2-10**

**I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows.**

**And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows — was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses.**

**But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.**

**Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.**

**Jesus has been discussing things, and disputing things, with some of his fellow Jews.**

**John 8:31-38**

**Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"**

**Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.**

**I know that you are descendants of Abraham; yet you look for an opportunity to kill me, because there is no place in you for my word. I declare what I have seen in the Father's presence; as for you, you should do what you have heard from the Father."**