

A close-up photograph of a bee on a yellow flower. The bee is positioned on the right side of the frame, facing left. The flower's petals are bright yellow and slightly blurred. In the background, there is a blurred orange flower. A decorative line of small yellow dots forms a path that starts from the top left, curves around the text, and ends near the bottom right. The word "Flourishing" is written in a cursive font in the center of the image.

Flourishing

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

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

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

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

St. Peter's United Church of Christ
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OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR
Sunday, June 13, 2021, 10:00 AM
Third Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME GUESTS!

* Indicates all who are able are invited to stand

PRELUDE Selected

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS Jenn Schneider

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 106)

Pastor: "Praise the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord,
for God is good; for God's steadfast love
endures forever.

***Congregation: Who can utter the mighty doings of the
Lord, or declare all God's praise!
Happy are those who observe justice,
who do righteousness at all times."***

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

P: Yes, but do we observe justice and do rightly at all times?

C: *We have to admit that we don't; no one is perfect!*

P: Then before going further in our worship, let us confess these shortcomings to our Maker, our Savior, our Advocate, our friend:

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Eternal God, here we are. We shed our excuses; we are broken and need Your healing! Sometimes we walk away from You or Your ways knowingly. More often we do not realize it until we sense a distance between You and us. We may have neglected Your teachings, or have withheld forgiveness, or dropped any pretense to personal purity. Perhaps we have chosen to neglect Your communities of faith. However we may have turned away, it does not bring us any health or improve our relationship with You, but moves us off of the road which leads to the life that really is life. Forgive us; strengthen our faith, our love, our community, and our service to You and the world. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

“Remember these things, O Jacob, and Israel, for you are my servant; I formed you, you are my servant; O Israel, you will not be forgotten by me. I have swept away your transgressions like a cloud, and your sins like a mist; return to me, for I have redeemed you” (Isaiah 44:21, 22).

We trust that words spoken to Israel, God’s people, through Christ are also spoken to God’s people of the new covenant. In Christ crucified and risen, God has taken away our sins and has redeemed us -- brought us back at God’s expense, to be free in Christ. We are forgiven! Please join me in claiming this deepest of all graces by saying together . . .

C: Alleluia! Amen!

***HYMN:**

"Gather Us In"

SSB #19



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
4 Not in the dark of build - ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream - ings
yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,
light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath - er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath - er us in, the
Gath - er us in, the rich and the haugh - ty, gath - er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the
Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath - er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
bread that is you; nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour - age to en - ter the
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are
fire . . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen
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WORDS ABOUT OFFERINGS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

David Iannotti

The Psalter:

Psalm 119:10-12, 97, 105

Epistle:

Colossians 3:12-17

2nd Timothy 3:10-17

MUSICAL MEDITATION Selected

GOSPEL:

Matthew 4: 4; 7:24-27; 22:34-40

RESPONSE:

"Alleluia!"

#495

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: "Trying to Know What God Wants Me to Do Part I"

201

The Word of God

WASHINGTON GLADDEN, 1897

C. M. D.

FOREST GREEN
English traditional melody

In moderate time; brightly

1. Be - hold a Sow - er! from a - far He go - eth forth with might;
 2. O Lord of life, to Thee we lift Our hearts in praise for those,
 3. Shine forth, O Light, that we may see, With hearts all un - a - fraid,
 4. Light up Thy Word; the fet - tered page From kill - ing bond - age free:

The roll - ing years His fur - rows are, His seed, the grow - ing light;
 Thy proph - ets, who have shown Thy gift Of grace that ev - er grows,
 The mean - ing and the mys - ter - y Of things that Thou hast made:
 Light up our way; lead forth this age In love's large lib - er - ty.

For all the just His word is sown, It spring - eth up al - way;
 Of truth that spreads from shore to shore, Of wis - dom's wid - ening ray,
 Shine forth, and let the dark - ling past, Be - neath Thy beam grow bright;
 O Light of light! with - in us dwell, Through us Thy ra - diance pour,

The ten - der blade is hope's young dawn, The har - vest, love's new day.
 Of light that shin - eth more and more Un - to Thy per - fect day.
 Shine forth, and touch the fu - ture vast With Thine un - trou - bled light.
 That word and life Thy truths may tell, And praise Thee ev - er - more. A - MEN.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION: (from Colossians 1)

P: "May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from God's glorious power,

C: *and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience,*

P: while joyfully giving thanks to the Creator who has enabled you to share

C: *in the inheritance of the saints in the light!"*

ALL: Amen.

***POSTLUDE:** "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

MINISTER

Rev. Richard Lanford

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Ben Westphal

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Good Morning! Welcome to worship, as we pray: Speak your word to us, Lord, as we are able to hear it. (from Mark 4:33)

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 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.

Our Board of Finance meets over Zoom today.

We are collecting Rummage! Drop off during office hours (M-F 9AM to 2 PM) or call us to schedule something that works for you.

Rummage sorting every Wednesday night from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. Sorters get to shop while sorting, come join us even if you can't make it for the whole time. Newcomers always welcome and no experience necessary!

June is PRIDE month! While we are not directly involved this year, activities planned by the Skokie Park District are here: <https://www.skokieparks.org/skokie-pride/>. There's something for everyone including outdoor movies, walks, discussions and more... check it out and show your support to all our LGBTQ+ friends and family!

Sunday, June 27th is our next Village Inn Food Fundraiser! Plan to order food on this day and mention St. Peter's UCC to your server and we get 20% of whatever your bill is! Good for carryout, delivery and dine in. Not exclusive to St. Peter's congregation, anyone can help us so spread the word!

Next Sunday, June 20th, your Church Council meets, perhaps in person in the Gym! So, if you are responsible for a report for the gathering, please submit it or them into the Council June Dropbox as soon as you can this week. Some reports are already in!

Having birthdays this week are Megan and Steven Caras' son Aiden Caras, Barb Gack, and both Zachary and Clementine Muhrer. David and Karem Zafrane Iannotti and Valerie (Paige) and Chris Mahoney mark wedding anniversaries this week too. May God bless them and their families!

According to our schedule the Lector next Sunday is Molly Uchtman.

Next Sunday the pastor’s sermon series on “What is it that God wants me to do?” concludes (probably) with a message lifting up the roles of community, the spirit of discernment, experience and an appreciation of eternity. Maybe Father’s Day will find its way in!

New Network and Pass! You’ll have to reconnect your devices to our new network name and pass today. Our network name is: ATTUNITEDCHURCH; Pass: UNITEDCHURCH8166. Let an usher know if you have trouble connecting.

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!

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 13, 2021

Mark 4:26-34

Flourishing

Look around. What if just *this* was enough?

What if this choir was enough, for example?

Consider the miracle that each week, a group of mostly volunteers gathers to sing together in (occasionally im)perfect harmony. Whether there are three of them, or thirty or three hundred, isn't it some kind of miracle that week after week this group of working folks and retired folks and just plain folks leave their daily occupations and raise their voices together in song?

What if our youth and children were enough? What if instead of worrying about the youth and children we don't have, we started noticing, naming and celebrating the youth and children we do have? If there are no children in this congregation right now, what if we recognized the abundance of children in our neighborhood, or in our nation or in our world? What if we asked ourselves to notice the way we can be in community with THOSE children?

What if this congregation's leadership was enough?

What if God has called to this place and time exactly the people with just the skills, passions and gifts of the spirit that are needed for this moment? What if the church of the future is happening right now, today?

What if our church building was enough?

What if God has granted us this space in this time so that we might recognize it not as a burden or a project, but as a gift that we are privileged to steward?

The farmer in today's scripture throws seeds recklessly on seemingly infertile ground as well as obviously healthy soil. This image invites us to think the same way about our ministries and presence in the world. Rather than being obsessed with scarcity, scanning articles about the church in decline and worrying about the bottom line, what if we looked around at what we do have? What if we allowed ourselves to imagine our church in a new way, as a part of God's kingdom that has not just enough, but more than enough to share?



SCRIPTURES FOR THE CONGREGATION

June13, 2021

Psalm 119:10-12, 97, 105

With my whole heart I seek you; do not let me stray from your commandments.

I treasure your word in my heart, so that I may not sin against you.

Blessed are you, O LORD; teach me your statutes.

Verse 97:

Oh, how I love your law! It is my meditation all day long.

Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies,
for it is always with me.

I have more understanding than all my teachers,
for your decrees are my meditation.

I understand more than the aged, for I keep your precepts.

Verse 105:

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Colossians 3:12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything

together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

2nd Timothy 3:10 through 17:

Paul writes, “Now you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, and my suffering the things that happened to me in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra. What persecutions I endured! Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. Indeed, all who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. But wicked people and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving others and being deceived.

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is

useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.”

Matthew 4:4; 7:24-27; 22:34-30

But Jesus answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Jesus said, "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!"

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."