



Source of
STRENGTH

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 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** 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

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OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR
Sunday, February 8, 2021 10:00 AM
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
Installation Sunday
WELCOME GUESTS!

* Indicates all who are able are invited to stand

PRELUDE "Immortal, Invisible" arr. Cindy Berry

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS Jenn Schneider

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: O come, let us sing to the Lord, and shout
with joy to the rock of our salvation! Let
us come into God's presence with
thanksgiving, singing joyful songs of
praise!

OPENING RESPONSE:

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" SSB #35 (v.1)

The musical score is written for four voices (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It consists of six systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines.

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!
thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.
'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824-1908, alt.
Music: ST. DENIO, Welsh traditional; arr. John Roberts, 1807-1876

***CALL TO CONFESSION** (from Isaiah 59)

Pastor: "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or God's ear dull, that it cannot hear;

Congregation: But our iniquities have made a separation between us and our God, and our sins have hidden God's face from us."

P: Let us pray and ask God, who offers forgiveness, to pardon and wash away our sins.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

This is a Lord's Day of covenants, we know, great God. We celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, during which Jesus announced the new covenant in his blood shed for the forgiveness of sins. We also engage in the making, and renewal, of covenant commitments as Board members and Officers of this church are installed. We confess we have not always honored these covenants! We promise to support and pray for our elected leaders but we do not always follow through on those promises, thereby breaking our pledge to them in front of You. Sometimes our minds are elsewhere when we take the bread and cup.

What is holy is not always visible; sometimes it is right in front of us and we have domesticated it! Forgive us and renew our capacity for spiritual perception, appreciation, and participation. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Paul wrote, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith; as it is written, 'the one who is righteous will live by faith'" (Romans 1:16-17).

God has extended the hand of mercy and a transformed life in Christ; in faith we reach out for it and grab ahold of divine grace! In Jesus Christ crucified and risen, our sins are forgiven and we are not the same people anymore. Let us affirm this good news of God's love by saying . . .

All: Alleluia, amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Prophecy:

Gospel:

Annie Noorts

Isaiah 40:21-31

Mark 1:29-39

A CALL TO OFFERING

MUSICAL MEDITATION "On Eagle's Wings" arr. Lloyd Larson

PASTORAL AND SILENT PRAYERS

HOMILY: "Three Things about Service"

The Installation of Officers and Board Members

Introduction

P: Affirmation of ministry is the act whereby a local church of the United Church of Christ recognizes the diverse gifts of its members and celebrates the particular ministry of each person in the life of the church, or in various settings in the life of the world. There are different kinds of spiritual gifts,
But the same Spirit gives them.

C: There are different ways of serving but the same God is served.

P: There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to each of us for our particular service.

C: The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each believer for the good of all.

P: Christ is like a single body, which has many parts.

C: It is still one body, even though it is made up of different parts.

P: If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it; if one part is praised, all the other parts share its happiness.

C: All of us are Christ's body, and each one is a part of it.

Presentation

(At this time, all who were elected to serve as an Officer or on a Board are named and asked to come forward, standing on the chancel steps when your name is called and facing the congregation).

P: These people have been called by God in accordance with the faith and order of this church to serve among us. They have accepted their call and are before us in witness to their willingness to serve.

Covenant

P: Sisters and brothers in Christ, it is an honor to be entrusted with responsibility for particular service in the ministry of the church, whether gathered or scattered. Having prayerfully considered the duties and responsibilities of your ministry, are you prepared to serve with the help of God, in Christ's name, and for the glory of God?

Installees: I am.

P: Do you promise to exercise your ministry diligently and faithfully, showing forth the love of Christ?

Installees: I do, relying on God's grace.

P: (to the congregation): Members and friends of the household of faith, you have heard the promises of our brothers and sisters in Christ who have answered God's call to service. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them. Will those who are able please rise and witness to the commitment we now make?

C: We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.

Prayer

Declaration

P: In the name of Jesus Christ and on behalf of the people of St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Skokie, I rejoice to announce that you are all now duly installed in your respective positions!

All: Thanks be to God!

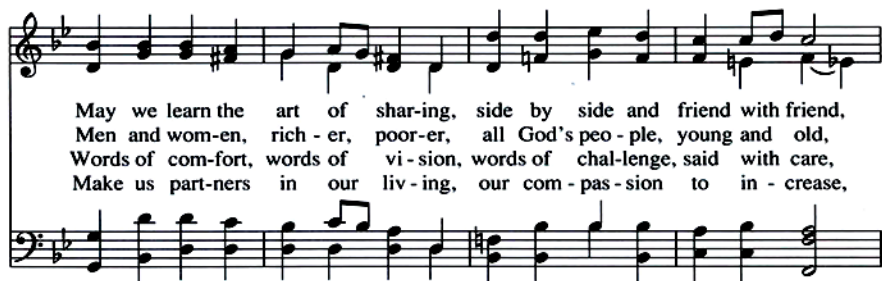
HYMN: "Called as Partners in Christ's Service" SSB #13



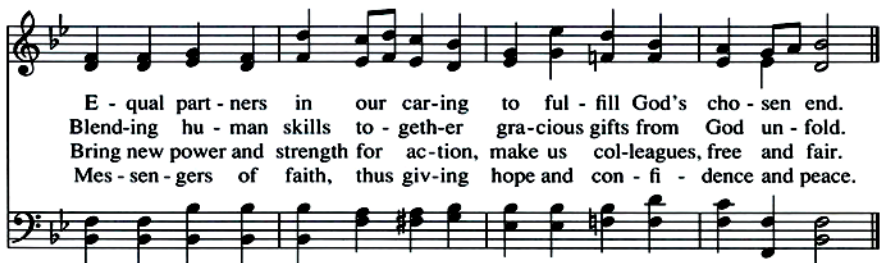
1 Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of grace,
2 Christ's ex - am - ple, Christ's in - spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
3 Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,
4 So God grant us for to - mor-row ways to or - der hu - man life



We re-pond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
Let us fol - low, nev - er fal-tering, re - con - cil - ing folk on earth.
Help us bear each oth - er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.
That sur-round each per - son's sor-row with a calm that con - quers strife.



May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,
Men and wom-en, rich - er, poor-er, all God's peo - ple, young and old,
Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care,
Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, our com-pas-sion to in - crease,



E - qual part - ners in our car-ing to ful - fill God's cho - sen end.
Blend-ing hu - man skills to - geth-er gra-cious gifts from God un - fold.
Bring new power and strength for ac-tion, make us col-leagues, free and fair.
Mes - sen - gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con - fi - dence and peace.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Exhortation and Invitation

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Consecration

The Words of Institution

Participation

CLOSING PRAYER & 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 (From I Thessalonians 5)

P: "But we appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labor among you . . . esteem them very highly in love because of their work.

C: See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all . . . rejoice always, pray without ceasing,

P: Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

BENEDICTION (from 2nd Thessalonians 2)

P: "Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word."
Amen!

All: Amen.

***POSTLUDE:** Selected

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

MINISTER

Rev. Richard Lanford

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Ben Westphal

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Good Morning! Welcome to worship, dear family of Christ. Please share Christ's peace with someone near you.

As we install new and returning Officers and Boards of St. Peter's United Church of Christ for the 2021-2022 year, we pause and give thanks to those who are stepping down or away from their position of service: Mandy Steegmueller (Treasurer / Board of Finance); Jessica Schneider and Shawna Taheny (Bd. Of Christian Education); David Iannotti (Deacons); Ginger Kalensky (Elders); Chad McCoy (Trustees); and thanks also to those who were willing to serve a 6th consecutive year due to the suspension of so much during 2020!

This is a Communion Sunday, and so we ask you 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, please partake of what you have when so prompted during Communion by Pastor Lanford.

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.

HOSPITALIZED: Richard Lindroth is in hospice care; Cristy Lopez had cancer surgery Friday. Carol Iannotti had outpatient surgery in mid-January and is doing well.

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend the Annual Congregational Virtual Meeting of St. Peter's U.C.C. at 11:30 AM last Sunday. News from the meeting will be available in the Quarantine Weekly that comes out tomorrow or Tuesday.

ASH WEDNESDAY IS IN TEN DAYS! It is Wednesday, February 17th. As the February Announcer says, as of this writing final plans are still in discussion and will be communicated ASAP.

New Addresses! Ralph and Carol Burmeister: Elevate St. Andrew's, 7000 N. Newark Avenue, Rm. 432, Niles IL 60714. The phone number is (708) 751-7965. Karen Christianson, Eric & Liesl Christianson: 1228 W. Lunt, Chicago, IL 60626

Thank you to everyone who brought soft goods to the church for our FUNdraiser through Savers! Everything is greatly appreciated!

NEW St. Peter's Zoom Account! We now have an official Church Zoom account. There are many more benefits we are able to use because of this. If you are having a Zoom meeting, contact Laura in the office and she'll share the username and password so you might host an online meeting using the church account.

Pastor's Podcast is now on all the Podcast platforms- iTunes, Stitcher, Overcast, Spotify, Podcast Addict, Amazon Music and more. Just look up "The Redheaded Preacher" on your podcast catcher or music streaming service then hit subscribe and you'll get the newest editions weekly! Give us a 5-star rating and review if you can, it helps us grow so much.

According to the schedule, next week's Lector is Barb Todd.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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

Source of Strength

Simon Peter's mother-in-law speaks:

"Peter was like a son to me, even though I did not bear him. So, when he put down his fishing nets and started to follow the Teacher, I paid attention. Some of the other women in the village said they were irresponsible, and if they stopped the work we counted on, we all would starve. "Fishing for people!" they scoffed, "THAT won't put bread on the table." I never said much in those conversations. In truth I never said much at all.

When we heard the Teacher was coming for a meal, I felt this might be my chance to listen, to finally understand his teachings. The other women and I worked all the day before and all through the night to make everything just right. By midday, I felt heavy and moved slower and slower. Finally, the other women saw and urged me to bed, but I was determined to meet the Teacher so without a word I tried to keep to my work. At last I took to bed. I tried to stay awake, but the sickness made me sleep.

When I woke up, the Teacher was there. That strange light that always seemed around him shone in the darkness of the room. His hand on my forehead was cooling and his touch was light, but it filled me with a new strength. All at once, I understood his strange command. To fish for people was to bring them near to God, to one another. I wanted to be one of those fishers, and in that moment, I knew that I would be able to. No longer heavy with fever, I rose.

Serving quietly was the chance to be near the table, and to hear what the Teacher was saying. As fast as I could bring bread and wine to the table, it was gone! First, the neighbors came pouring in, and then people I had never seen before. With that cool touch, he healed them all.

Early the next morning, I was up before the rest and I saw The Teacher slip out the door. I understand what it's like to need a few quiet minutes with the Holy One.

So, when the others asked where he was, I kept silent. But when they started to get ready to go, to look for him, I packed a bag and I followed. And I'm following still. We don't have to be preachers or have our names recorded in books to follow. We just have to be ready, to rise up, to listen and to go when he calls."



SCRIPTURES FOR THE CONGREGATION

February 7th, 2021

Isaiah 40:21 - 31

21- Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

22 - It is God who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in;

23 - who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

24 - Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

25 - To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

26 - Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.

27 - Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"?

28 - Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

29 - He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless.

30 - Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted;

31 - but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Mark 1:29 - 39

29 - As soon as Jesus and the disciples left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John.

30 - Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once.

31 - He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

32 - That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons.

33 - And the whole city was gathered around the door.

34 - And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

35 - In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed.

36 - And Simon and his companions hunted for him.

37 - When they found him, they said to him, “Everyone is searching for you.”

38 - He answered, “Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.”

39 - And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons