

*Joy* to the  
*World*

**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. 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** 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  
Christmas Eve  
Thursday, December 24, 2020 – 7:00 PM**

**WELCOME GUESTS!**

\* Indicates all who are able are invited to stand

**PRELUDE:** "Before the Marvel of This Night" by Carl Schalk

**THE RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

Pastor: Christmas is a time of wonder -- the wonder of Jesus; God-with-us; the Promised One, the Light of the world, the Holy One of God. On this holy night we light the Christ Candle and we wonder:

***Congregation: Is Jesus really here?***

P: We light this Christ Candle and we wonder:

***C: Jesus is really here!***

P: We light this Christ Candle and we know

**ALL: God is with us, the Promised One has come,**

**The Light of the world breaks through the shadows,**

**The Holy One of God brings peace,  
hope, love and joy.**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Pastor: O come, all ye faithful, joyful and  
Triumphant!

***C: Come and behold Him, born the King of  
angels!***

P: O come let us adore Him,

***C: O come, let us adore Him***

P: O come let us adore Him

**All: Christ the Lord!**

**\*OPENING RESPONSE: "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"**  
 #107 (vv.1, 3)

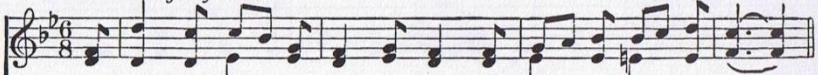
107

**His Nativity**

EDMUND H. SEARS, 1850  
*In the style of a carol*

C. M. D.

CAROL  
 R. STORRS WILLIS, 1859



1. It came up - on the mid-night clear, That glo - rious song of old,  
 2. Still through the clo - ven skies they come, With peace - ful wings un - furled,  
 3. O ye, be - neath life's crush - ing load, Whose forms are bend - ing low,  
 4. For lo! the days are has - tening on, By proph - et bards fore - told,



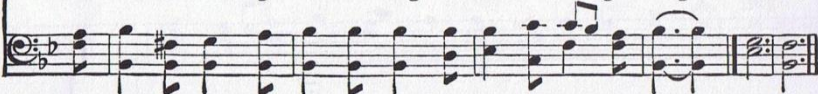
From an - gels bend - ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold:  
 And still their heavenly mu - sic floats O'er all the wear - y world;  
 Who toil a - long the climb - ing way With pain - ful steps and slow,  
 When with the ev - er - cir - cling years Comes round the age of gold,



"Peace on the earth, good-will to men, From heaven's all - gra - cious King!"  
 A - bove its sad and low - ly plains They bend on hov - ering wing,  
 Look now! for glad and gold - en hours Come swift - ly on the wing:  
 When peace shall o - ver all the earth Its an - cient splen - dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay, To hear the an - gels sing.  
 And ev - er o'er its Ba - bel - sounds The bless - ed an - gels sing.  
 O rest be - side the wea - ry road, And hear the an - gels sing.  
 And the whole world give back the song Which now the an - gels sing. **A-MEN.**





## **\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Gracious God, gentle Lord, on this holy night we pray that Your power, and Your peace, would cast out our sin, that there may be room for You to be born in our hearts. We confess that we have crowded You out of our lives with false priorities and self-serving goals. We have been selfish and called it "prudence." We have been proud and called it "self-esteem." We have been cruel and called it "necessary." Forgive us, Lord.**

**We have deceived people and pretended it was "for their own good." We have hurt good people and claimed it was "nothing personal." We have hidden our sins behind cliches and habits for so long we are hardly aware of right and wrong. Forgive us, Lord. Send Your Spirit to awaken our consciences and purify our minds, that this Christmas we may welcome You aright. In Christ's name and for His sake we pray. Amen.**

## **\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

*When Joseph had decided to divorce his fiancée Mary quietly, "An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Joseph, Son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins'" (Matthew 1:20-21).*

Friends, believe the gospel: in love beyond human love, God gave His Son to free us from everything that keeps us from God and each other, from everything that would entomb us; and to open the door to light and eternal life. In Jesus, God's grace brings forgiveness of sins and a transformed life with a new way to live. In claiming the great news of great joy which is for all the people, let the Christmas Eve congregation cry out . . .

**ALL: Christ has been given, and we are forgiven!  
A new world is before us.  
God is with us! Alleluia! Amen.**



\*HYMN: "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing!" # 102 (vv. 1, 3)

102

HYMNS

93

## Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

77, 77 D

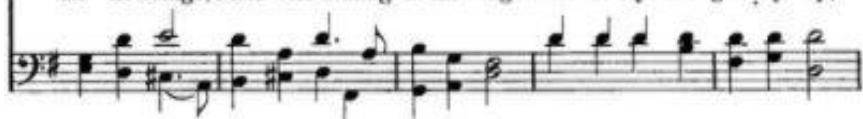
Arr. by William H. Cummings



1. Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo-ry to the new-born King; Peace on earth and  
2. Christ, by high-est heav'n a-dored, Christ, the ev-er-last-ing Lord; Come, De-sire of  
3. Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to



mer-cy mild, God and sin-ners re-con-ciled." Joy-ful all ye na-tions, rise,  
Na-tions, come, Fix in us Thy humble home. Veiled in flesh the God-head see;  
all He brings, Risen with healing in His wings. Mild He lays His glo-ry by,



Join the triumph of the skies; With th'angel-ic host pro-claim "Christ is born in  
Hailth' Incarnate De-i-ty, Pleas'd as man with man to dwell; Je-sus, our Im-  
Born that man no more may die, Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them



Beth-le-hem." Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo-ry to the new-born King."  
man-u-el. Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo-ry to the new-born King."  
sec-ond birth. Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo-ry to the new-born King."



**THE SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS**

A Prophecy of the Messiah

Isaiah 9:2-7

Read by Dan Guenther

88

Our Lord Jesus Christ

VENI EMMANUEL

From Latin, 12th century  
 Stanzas 1 and 2 Tr. JOHN MASON NEALE, 1851  
 Stanza 3 Tr. HENRY S. COFFIN, 1916 8. 8. 8. 8. 8. Ancient plain song, 13th century (Mode I)

*Unison, with spirit*

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive  
 2. O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer Our spir - its by Thine  
 3. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind All peo - ples in one

Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
 ad - vent here; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,  
 heart and mind; Bid en - vy, strife and dis - cord cease;

HARMONY

Un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re - joi - ce! Re - joi - ce! Em -  
 And death's dark shad - ows put to flight. Re - joi - ce! Re - joi - ce! Em -  
 Fill the whole world with heav - en's peace. Re - joi - ce! Re - joi - ce! Em -

UNISON

man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!  
 man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!  
 man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el! A-MEN.

## **THE STORY OF THE NATIVITY**

Luke 1: 26-38

The Annunciation

Read by Gianna Iannotti (Narrator), Jamie Iannotti (Angel)  
and Layla Iannotti (Mary)

Luke 1:39-56

The Magnificat

Read by Beth Sterba

Matthew 1: 18-25

Joseph's Dream

Read by Peter Svenson

Luke 2: 1-7

The Journey and the Birth

Read by Mandy Steegmueller

**SOLO:** "O Holy Night" Adolphe Adam, English  
translation by John Sullivan Dwight  
Sung by: Jessica Schneider

Luke 2: 8-20 Of Shepherds and Angels  
Read by Olivia Altmayer

Revelation 12:1-6 A Great Portent  
Read by Roy Svenson

**\*HYMN:** "Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn"

ELW 242

**Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn**

Marty Haugen

♩=63

D G Am<sup>7</sup> G/B D

1. A - wake! a - wake, and greet the new morn, For  
 2. To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -  
 3. In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, When  
 4. Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, Though

4 G/B C Am<sup>7</sup> D<sup>7</sup> G Am<sup>7</sup>

an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing, Sing out your joy, for  
 man - uel comes a sing - ing, His hum - ble song is  
 all the world is de - spair - ing, As morn - ing light so  
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, The ris - ing sun shall

7 G/B D Am<sup>7</sup> D C G

now he is born, Be - hold the Child of our long - ing.  
 qui - et and near, Yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;  
 all - et and free, So warm and gen - tle and car - ing.  
 crown you with light, Be strong and lov - ing and fear - less;

10 D G Em Am/C D

Come as a ba - by weak and poor, To bring all hearts to -  
 Mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul, And hymns of lov - ing  
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, The lame shall leap in  
 Love be our song and love our prayer, And love, our end - less

13 Em D<sup>7</sup> G C B<sup>7</sup> Em

geth - er, He o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door And  
 kind - ness, THE thun - der of his an - n - them roll To  
 won - der, The weak be raised a - bove the strong, And  
 sto - ry, May God fill ev - 'ry day we share, And

Tag at end with ritard

16 Am<sup>7</sup> D<sup>7</sup> G C/G G

lives not in - side us for - ev - er.  
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.  
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.  
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

12/19/2018

**HOMILY**

**"The Draw"**

**\*HYMN:** "Angels We Have Heard on High" #105 (vv. 1, 3)

**105**

**His Nativity**

LES ANGES DANS NOS CAMPAGNES (IRIS)

Traditional Carol  
Altered by EARL MARLATT, 1937

7 . 7 . 7 . 7 . with Refrain

French Carol Melody

*Joyously*

1. An - gels we have heard on high, Sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,  
 2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?  
 3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;

And the moun - tains in re - ply Ech - o - ing their brave de - light.  
 What great bright - ness did you see? What glad ti - dings did you hear?  
 Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

**REFRAIN**

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o, Glo - - - - -

- - - - - ri - a . . . in ex - cel - sis De - o. A - MEN.



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

**Exhortation and Invitation**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving and Consecration**

**The Words of Institution**

**Participation**

### **CLOSING PRAYER AND**

#### **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**

### **THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

This year being virtual worship, if you have a candle with you, please light it and hold it while we begin singing these three verses of "Silent Night."

101

His Nativity

Freely translated from JOSEPH MOHR, 1818  
6. 6. 8. 8. 6. 6.

STILLE NACHT  
FRANZ GRÜBER, 1818

*Quietly*

1. Si - lent night! ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright;  
 2. Si - lent night! ho - ly night! Dark - ness flies, all is light;  
 3. Si - lent night! ho - ly night! Guid - ing Star, lend thy light!  
 4. Si - lent night! ho - ly night! Won - drous Star, lend thy light!

'Round you vir - gin moth - er and Child, Ho - ly In - fant so ten - der and mild;  
 Shep - herds hear the an - gels sing: Al - le - lu - ia! hail the King!  
 See the east - ern wise men bring Gifts and hom - age to our King!  
 With the an - gels let us sing Al - le - lu - ia to our King!

Sleep in heav - en - ly peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 Christ the Sav - iour is born, Christ the Sav - iour is born.  
 Christ the Sav - iour is born, Christ the Sav - iour is born.  
 Christ the Sav - iour is born, Christ the Sav - iour is born.

GERMAN TEXT (Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!<br/>         Alles schläft, einsam wacht<br/>         Nur das heilige Elternpaar,<br/>         Das im Stalle zu Bethlehern war<br/>         Bei dem himmlischen Kind,<br/>         Bei dem himmlischen Kind.</p>         | <p>2 Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!<br/>         Hirten erst kund gemacht;<br/>         Durch der Engel Halleluja<br/>         Tönt es laut von fern und nah:<br/>         Christ der Retter ist da,<br/>         Christ der Retter ist da!</p> |
| <p>3 Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!<br/>         Gottes Sohn, o wie lacht<br/>         Lieb' aus deinem holdseligen Mund,<br/>         Da uns schlägt die rettende Stund',<br/>         Christ, in deiner Geburt,<br/>         Christ, in deiner Geburt!</p> |   |

**\*BENEDICTION**

P: Here is the word of Christmas -- the strength in which we too -- just like the shepherds -- can return glorifying and praising God for all that we have seen; the faith and hope in which we can rejoice, not only in this blessed season, but on every blessed day of life from here until the final dawning of the realm of God. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice: Jesus Christ was born to save! Amen.

**\*RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**\*POSTLUDE:** "Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern"  
by Johann Christoph Bach

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FOR WORSHIP TODAY

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MINISTER	Rev. Richard Lanford
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Dan Guenther

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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**In the name of Jesus, the newborn Babe of Bethlehem,** welcome to Christmas Eve worship.

**Thank you to our lectors, the Women’s Guild for the Christmas poinsettias, volunteers behind the scenes,** and you for tuning in tonight (or whenever you do)! Thanks too to Ben Westphal our Music Director, and Office Administrator Laura Olson for the extra work they put in for Advent, for tonight’s service and communicating the bulletin and links!

**Hospitalized:** Carol Burmeister is home from Glenbrook Hospital recovering from a bout of COVID-19. Ralph was admitted there for the same reason, and may be home by now. Laurie Mitchell was scheduled for hip replacement surgery Tuesday, and to come home Christmas Eve. Please keep them, and others, in your prayers! Thank you.

**About Communion:** If you picked up a small bag with pre-filled Communion elements, you're ready to partake at the Pastor's prompting. If not, we ask you to please have some bread, roll or some food meaningful you (for the bread / body to be consecrated during the service) and likewise juice, water or other beverage (for the wine / blood of Christ) and likewise, partake when the minister prompts us. Thank you!

**Next Sunday, December 27th, there is no new service.** We admit that this is highly unusual but a guest preacher was not lined up. Pastor Richard is planning to record something brief for us and post it on our YouTube channel for anyone who is missing something of church that day.

**Our next full service will be our first livestreamed service since COVID stopped reliably safe in-person worship last March.** We are not opening up the sanctuary for in-person worshipers quite yet, but please know you will still find us on our YouTube channel, but we'll be back at 10 AM. If you come to worship later, you'll find it on our YouTube page under Past Live Streams. This means that unless there is an epic fail, our Saturday recordings will cease and everyone who is taking part in worship has to be on site Sunday mornings (lectors, recorders, soloists).

**Christmastide is Saturday the 26th through January 5th**, so if you missed some Christmas Eve hymns or carols not in the service tonight, you might find us singing them on January 3rd when we still sing Christmas music and start livestreaming!

**The 2021 Offering Envelopes are ready to be picked up!** They are outside the Office door, inside against the wall, **along with 2021 Haben's/St. Peter's wall calendars.** The next date to pick them up is January 4<sup>th</sup> from 9 AM to 2 PM. If you'd like it mailed to you, just send the office an email or call. If you do not have a box of envelopes and want one, please call the church office or contact Financial Secretary Marcia Hilliard and we'll get a box to you.

**Pastor Richard will be taking vacation days** this coming Saturday the 26th through Wednesday, December 30th, and also on the national holiday of January 1st. **Office Manager Laura Olson will also be on vacation** the 28th & 29th. Laura will check for messages on her days off; in case of pastoral emergencies, contact our Pastor at home. There is no clergy back-up this Christmastide (also hard to find).

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CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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

**IN HONOR/IN MEMORY  
POINSETTIAS 2020**



**The Altmayer Family:**

In memory of Jean Schuster, Peter & Mariana Altmayer.

**Greg Dennis:**

In memory of my family; mom Lois Dennis, father Gregory  
Dennis, grandmother Alyce Parman, grandfather Harold  
Parman

**Sharon Johnson:**

In memory of Johnny and Susan

**Ginger Kalensky:**

In memory of loved ones of the Kalensky & Bedoe families

**Richard Lanford:**

In honor of Laura Olson's 10th Anniversary at  
St. Peter's UCC



**Helen Mauer:**

In memory of my beloved daughter Laurie Leider, and my  
loving companion Richard Hohmann

**Clara Melone:**

In memory of the Ketters, Melones and Cains

**The Mitchell Family:**

In memory of Nancy Kammin, Sam Salamone and Ed  
Sobieski

**Annie and Gerry Noorts:**

In memory of our parents, Joan and George Stahl and  
George Noorts who we miss even more during the holiday  
season

In honor of Molly Uchtman, just because she works so hard  
and is blossoming into an amazing adult.  
She makes us all very proud

**Laura Olson:**

In Memory of My Mother Ardene, and June Peterson

In honor of my grandbabies Arya, Calisto & Vivian





**Judy Paige:**

In memory of my loved ones this Christmas

**Marlene Russell:**

In memory of husband Samuel Russell

**Mandy Steegmueller:**

In memory of Amy Yoshino, Ray Fujinaga and Steven  
Fujinaga

In honor of Omi and Opa

**Beth Sterba:**

In memory of our Dear Uncle Bill and friend Jimmy Hoffman

**Theresa Stielow, Martha Mazur, Susan Schmidt and  
Their Families:**

In Memory of our parents, Harold and Jacqueline Ruesch  
and all of our Ruesch family loved ones

**Wendy & Roy Svenson:**

In memory of loved ones

**Ben Westphal:**

In memory of Marion van der Loo

