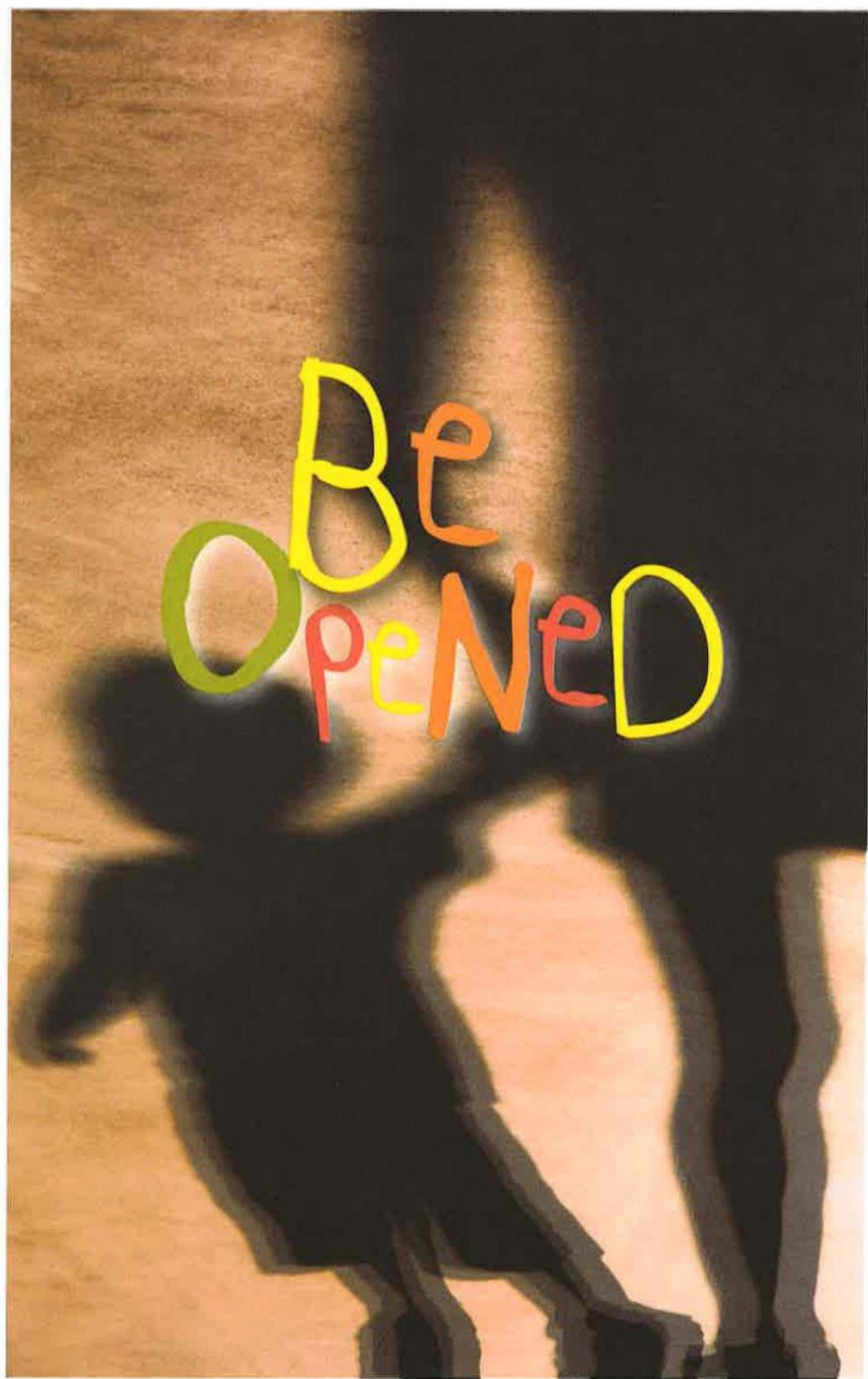


BE  
OPENED



**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)

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**847-673-8166**

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**OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR**  
**Sunday, September 5, 2021, 10:00 AM**  
**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**WELCOME GUESTS!**

\* Indicates all who are able are invited to stand

**PRELUDE** "Slane" arr. L. Lang

**THE RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS** Jenn Schneider

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Pastor: God has given us holy hands:

***Congregation: Hands to caress a deep ache, a tight knot of stress and tension;***

P: Hands to hold a hurt child, embrace a lonely friend, care for one who is ill;

C: ***Hands to create a loving meal or a work of art;***

P: Hands to till the soil and make a bed;

C: ***Hands to write to one in need or call another with good news.***

P: God has given us holy hands,

**C:** *Hands to bring God's touch to earth and to do God's will. Let us worship God!*

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

P: God of wondrous patience, hold us close in the midst of our doubts and fears, for the future will demand much from us.

**C:** *Our time, our energy and our resources will be needed to maintain and expand our ministry.*

P: Release through us a flow of grace and courage that will bring healing where there is hurt, creativity where there is hesitancy,

**C:** *New beginnings where there are dead ends, openness where there has been prejudice, and justice where there is brokenness.*

P: We confess O God there have been times when we were behind the hurt, the dead end, the prejudice or the hesitancy. Forgive us, and mend our own spirits so we may know Your peace and do Your gracious will.

**C:** *In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.*

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

The Lord reminded Israel, "Yet I have been the Lord your God ever since the land of Egypt; you know no God but me, and besides me there is no savior. It was I who fed you in the wilderness, in the land of drought" (Hosea 13:4, 5).

In the New Testament God comes to us as Savior again, in the person and through the work of Jesus of Nazareth. Besides this God there is no savior, but with this God there is forgiveness, mercy, and the power for a transformed, forgiving and healing life! In claiming this good news that changes everything, please join me in saying . .

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

**\*HYMN:** "Lift up your Heads" SSB #9

### **WORDS ABOUT OFFERINGS**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION** Karen Christianson  
Old Testament: Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-27  
Epistle: James 2:1-10, 14-17

**MUSICAL MEDITATION** "Slane" arr. C. Callahan

**\*GOSPEL:** Mark 7:24-37

**\*RESPONSE:** "He's my Source" SSB #17

### **PASTORAL PRAYER AND SILENT PRAYERS**

**SERMON:**

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

Exhortation and Invitation

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Prayer of Consecration:

The Words of Institution

Participation

### **CLOSING PRAYER AND 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:**

"She Came to Jesus"

(Sing to the tune of "Be Thou My Vision")

**She came to Jesus from outside the fold —**

**Canaanite woman! Persistent and bold!**

**Looking to Jesus, she wanted to see**

**One who would help her and set her child free.**

**Claiming a blessing, a touch of God's grace,**

**She knew God's love was not bounded by place.  
Jesus, you listened, debated — then healed —  
For in her asking, her faith was revealed.**

**God, you still bless those who seek you in prayer.  
You welcome dreamers who faithfully dare.  
In Christ, now risen, your mercy extends:  
Those on the outside are welcomed as friends.**

Text: Copyright © 2002 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. Copied from Songs of Grace: New Hymns for God and Neighbor by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette (Upper Room Books, 2009) and as Pastor owns this book, permission is granted for using it in worship.

**\*CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE:** Selected

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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 this Labor Day weekend! The Lord gives a wide array of talents and knowledge to us all so we may serve one another through both paid and unpaid work. Thanks be to God!

**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!

**Having birthdays this week are:** Isabella Aguayo, Jackie Johnson, Nathan Paige, and Isabella Mau Gemignani, and celebrating their wedding anniversary on September 11, Wendy and Roy Svenson. May they all know the blessings of God and enjoy their festivities.

**Rummage sorting openers and times for this week:** Monday (Carolyn) and Wednesday (Maria) at 6:30 PM, and Friday (Sharon) at 10 AM.

**The Rummage Sale (no Bake Sale, sorry!) is coming fast --** it's on Friday, Sept. 17th and Saturday the 18th, from 9 AM to 3 PM. Today is the last day to donate rummage, so we hope you brought it to worship today! We will require masks and social distancing to the extent possible; there'll be limits to the number of people allowed inside at one time; and there are loads and loads of good stuff, especially clothing!

**This Thursday at 1 PM Pastor will be officiating at the memorial service of Bill McQuillan** at Skaja Funeral Home at 1 PM. Bill is the son of Charlotte and William McQuillan, deceased members. Later that afternoon he is committed to a required-by-our-CMA educational training session over Zoom (3 to 5 PM).

According to the schedule next Sunday's lector at Lorel Park is Dan Guenther.

**Our Holiday Bazaar is back and will be November 13<sup>th</sup>! *We are looking for vendors.*** Interested in setting up a table? Email Wendy Svenson at st.peteruccbazaar@gmail.com or call/text her at (847) 528-4545.

**October 30<sup>th</sup> is our next "turn to serve at A Just Kitchen Harvest."** They are still taking donations and doing carryout orders so we will again ask for donations, our goal being \$500.00 which is the cost of the meal to serve so many in need! Please make your checks out to St. Peter's UCC, get them to the office before the middle of October and thanks so much!

**Our Village Inn Fundraiser is the day after the Rummage Sale, Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup>.** Mark your calendars and enjoy a delicious meal you didn't have to cook. Just tell your server you are there for St. Peter's UCC and we get 20% of your bill, and that goes for carryout and delivery too!

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**CHURCH LEADERSHIP**

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

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## FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 5, 2021

Mark 7:24-37

### Be Opened

A woman comes to Jesus, asking for healing. Because this woman does not follow the same religion as Jesus and his followers, he at first turns her away. Did you catch that? It bears repeating in case you did not. Jesus refuses to heal the woman because she does not follow the same religion. Even Jesus cannot see past his notions of right and wrong, black and white, in and out.

But we have this story because the woman startles Jesus into changing his mind. Not only is her child healed, but Jesus and those who followed him then and follow him now are forever changed.

Even Jesus has to change his mind sometimes. Even Jesus has to pivot away from his entrenched beliefs to embrace a new way. Even Jesus has to be uncomfortably challenged before he can imagine a new way of doing ministry and healing those in need in his community.

This story is a powerful encouragement to those in leadership positions in church, who fear that change in this 21st context of ministry is both inevitable and impossible. Like Jesus, may you discover that while the only constant is change, you can be who you need to be to lead in these changing times. Jesus himself went through the process of recognizing that what he had been doing was no longer fruitful. Even Jesus saw that it was imperative that he open his heart and mind to new possibilities.

In her book, *Dynamic Discernment: Reason, Emotion, and Power in Change Leadership*, Sarah B. Drummond notes that she has studied change for more than two decades and in that time, she has “found that even change is changing.” She has uncovered “dramatic shifts in the language we use for the role of leader in bringing about change.” But change itself is not the end of the story. “Throughout the history of God’s interaction with creation, we see God providing the resources to face that which is uncertain and new.”\*

What tools is God providing you in this time of rapid change? How can you make the best use of those tools? What prayer can you offer to our Christ, who shows us how to change our minds?

\*Drummond, Sarah B. - *Dynamic Discernment: Reason, Emotion, and Power in Change Leadership*. The Pilgrim Press, 2019.



8 1/2" x 11" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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## SCRIPTURES FOR THE CONGREGATION

Sept. 5, 2021

### **Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-27**

A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches,  
and favor is better than silver or gold.

The rich and the poor have this in common: the LORD is the maker of  
them all.

Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity, and the rod of anger will  
fail.

Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with  
the poor.

Do not rob the poor because they are poor, or crush the afflicted at the  
gate;

for the LORD pleads their cause and despoils of life those who  
despoil them.

Make no friends with those given to anger,  
and do not associate with hotheads,

or you may learn their ways and entangle yourself in a snare.

Do not be one of those who give pledges, who become surety for  
debts.

If you have nothing with which to pay,  
why should your bed be taken from under you?

Apparently, there have been charges of preferential treatment among  
James' listeners and readers!

### **James 2:1-10, 14-17**

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really  
believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold  
rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor  
person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one

wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

### **Mark 7:24-37**

From there Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet.

Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and

throw it to the dogs." But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs."

Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon (pron. SY-don) towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly.

Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."