



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)

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Our network name is: ATTUNITEDCHURCH; Pass:
UNITEDCHURCH8166

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St. Peter's United Church of Christ
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**OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR
Sunday, June 20, 2021, 10:00 AM
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Father's Day**

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

Pastor: Abundant grace flowing to us,

Congregation: a listening ear turned toward us,

P: a generous heart giving us the gifts of
beauty and friends,

***C: a strong arm that helps us up when we
fall,***

P: these are the gifts of our Eternal God and
our earthly parents,

C: and are worthy of our praise!

***CALL TO CONFESSION** (from Psalm 80)

P: "O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry
with your people's prayers?"

***C: You have fed them with the bread of tears,
and given them tears to drink in full measure.***

P: Restore us, O God of hosts; let Your face shine, that
we may be saved."

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

So often, great God, when we try to learn what You want us to do at various times in our lives, we mostly keep our questions and prayers strictly between You and me. We may ask a few valued people, we may do some reading, even go on retreat, to figure out Your call or Your wisdom. We confess that we rarely turn to a community of faith to hold us up in prayer too. We admit that a church community of ours is not where we often look for Your answers to us. As a people, a society and even as a body of believers, we have given too much weight and love to the ethos of individualism. Forgive us when this has been foolish, when it has grieved Your Spirit, and when it has been an obstacle to You in reaching out effectively to us. Change us to see again the value and treasure of the

**gathered faith community. As the Psalm sings, save us!
In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

“But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe, the best one, and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.”

The father forgave the son as the son came back; so does our God forgive us when we drop our previous mis-directions and return to our welcoming Father and shelter. Here is healing, here is love restored, here is rejoicing and resurrection. In Jesus Christ the love of God made flesh, crucified and risen, our sins are washed away.

C: Thanks be to God forever! Amen!

***HYMN:**

"Open the Eyes of my Heart"

SSB #25

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). It consists of nine staves of music with lyrics underneath. Chord symbols are placed above the notes. The lyrics are: "O - pen the eyes of my heart, Lord. O - pen the eyes of my heart. I want to see you, I want to see you. I want to see you. To see you high and lift - ed up, shin - ing in the light of your glo - ry; pour out your pow'r and love as we sing "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly." O - pen the eyes of my heart, Lord. O - pen the eyes of my heart. I want to see you, I want to see you."

Chord symbols include: E⁵ (no 3), B/D#, A²/C#, A², B^b sus/E, E, E sus, B sus/E, E, B, C#m, A², B sus, B, C#m, F#m¹¹, B sus, B sus, B⁵ (no 3), B/D#, A²/C#, A², B sus/E, E.

Text: Paul Baloche, b. 1962
Music: Paul Baloche
Text and music © 1997 Integrity's Hosanna! Music/ASCAP

WORDS ABOUT OFFERINGS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

The Prophet:

New Testament:

Molly Uchtman

Isaiah 63:7-10

Acts 4:32-27; 15:1-22

MUSICAL MEDITATION "Open the Eyes of My Heart"

GOSPEL:

Luke 2:41-51

RESPONSE:**"Thy Word"**

SSB #33



Thy word is a lamp un-to my feet and a light un-to my path.



1 When I feel a-fraid, think I've lost my way, still you're there right be-



side me, and noth-ing will I fear as long as you are near.



Please be near me to the end.



2 I will not for-get your love for me, and yet my heart for-ev-er is



wan-der-ing. Je-sus, be my guide and hold me to your side, and



I will love you to the end.

Text: Psalm 119:105, Amy Grant, b. 1960

Music: THY WORD, Michael W. Smith, b. 1957

Text and music © 1984 Word Music, Inc. (ASCAP) and Meadowgreen Music Co./ Bug and Bear Music (ASCAP), admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing

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 II"

HYMN:

"Lift Every Voice and Sing"

NATIONAL SONGS

563

Lift Every Voice and Sing

LIFT EVERY VOICE Irregular

James Weldon Johnson, 1921

J. Rosamond Johnson, 1921

Introduction

1. Lift ev - ery
2. Ston - y the
3. God of our

voice and sing till earth and heav - en ring, Ring with the har - mo -
road we trod, bit - ter the chas - tening rod, Felt in the days when
wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears, Thou who hast brought us

nies of lib - er - ty. Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the
hope un - born had died; Yet, with a stead - y beat, have not our
thus far on the way; Thou who hast by Thy might led us in -

lis - tening skies; Let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
wea - ry feet Come to the place for which our *fa - thers sighed?
to the light; Keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.

*Or "parents."

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us
 We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - ter
 Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met Th

Sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought
 We have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh
 Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get

us; Fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be
 tered, Out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at
 Thee; Shad-owed be - neath Thy hand may we for - ev - er

gun, Let us march on, till vic - to - ry is won.
 last Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
 stand, True to our God, true to our na - tive land.

CHARGE (from John Wesley)

P: Do all the good you can, by all the means that you can,

C: *In all the ways that you can, in all the places that you can,*

P: At all the times that you can, to all the people that you can,

ALL: As long as ever you can.

***BENEDICTION**

ALL: Amen!

***POSTLUDE:** "We are Singing for the Lord is Our Light!"

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

MINISTER

Rev. Richard Lanford

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Ben Westphal

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Good Morning! A blessed Father’s Day to the dads and father figures among us, and a blessed Sabbath day to all! Welcome to worship.

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 Church Council meets after worship in-person today, in the Memorial Room!

Our Women’s Guild held its first in-person gathering since March 2020 last Wednesday at its annual lunch. Yay!

Having birthdays this week are Laurie Mitchell, Ron Schuhrke's daughter Lisa Martinek, and her son, Alexander Martinek (both baptized here). May God bless them and their families!

According to our schedule the Lector next Sunday is Mandy Steegmueller.

Next Sunday the pastor's sermon series on "Trying to Know What God Wants Me to Do" concludes with a message basically about the spirit of "not my will but Thine be done" as well as taking into account Pride month, and God's 'long game' when seeking an answer to the sermon's implied question.

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!

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

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 20, 2021

Mark 4:35-41

Pushing the Boat Out *Father's Day*

What names for God did you learn as a child? Many Christians were raised to call God by the name Father. Today, on this Father's Day, give some thought to that name for God. Is it nurturing for you? Or is it difficult for you to picture a loving Father God?

If calling God "Father" is hard for you, don't worry. The Bible contains many names and images for God, and the United Church of Christ encourages expansive language in naming and praising the Holy. Turning to scripture as a way to expand our images of God is a gift to everyone. Those who call God by the name "Father" are welcomed and encouraged to continue doing so. And those who call God by other names are welcomed and encouraged, too. Worshipping side by side using many names instead of one enriches worship for all of us.

If you regularly use the same name for God in your prayer or worship life, how can you expand and enrich your relationship with God? How might using some new names for God make something new happen for you, too? If you are looking for ideas, consider instead some of these, from the UCC brochure "Expansive Language with Reference to God, Inclusive Language with Reference to God's People."

Midwife *Ps 22:9-10*

Mother *Num 11:12-13, Deut 32:18, Job 38:28-29, Ps 131:2, Isa 42:14, Isa 46:3-4, Isa 49:15, Isa 66:9, Hos 11:3-4, Jn 16:21, Rom 8:22, I Pet 2:2-3*

Mother bear *Hos 13:8*

Shepherd *Jn 10:11,14; Ps 23*

Woman *Lk 15:8-10, Ps 123:2*

Baker *Mt 13:33, Lk 13:20-21*

Eagle *Deut 32:11-12, Ex 19:4*

Hen *Mt 23:37, Ruth 2:12, Ps 57:1, Ps 61:4, Lk 13:34, Ps 17:8*

Fire *Deut 4:24, Acts 2:3*

Wind *Acts 2:2, Jn 3:8*

Rock *Is 17:10, Deut. 32.18*

Water *Jer 17:13*

Light *Jn 8:12, Isa 60:2-3*

Bread *Jn 6:33-35*

Vine *Jn 15:1*

Word *Jn 1:1*

Wisdom *Lk 11:49, I Cor 1:24*

I Am *Ex 3:14*

Potter *Jer 18: 1-11, Job 10:8-9*



SCRIPTURES FOR THE CONGREGATION

June 20th, 2021

Isaiah 63:7-9

Isaiah wrote, "I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD, the praiseworthy acts of the LORD, because of all that the LORD has done for us, and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of God's steadfast love.

For God said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely"; and he became their savior in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but God's presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; the Lord lifted them up and carried them all the days of old."

Acts 4:32-37

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any

had need. There was a Levite, a native of Cyprus, Joseph, to whom the apostles gave the name Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"). He sold a field that belonged to him, then brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

Acts 15:1-22

Then certain individuals came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to discuss this question with the apostles and the elders. So they were sent on their way by the church, and as they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, they reported the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the believers.

When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them. But some believers who belonged to the sect of the Pharisees stood up and said, "It is necessary for them to be circumcised and ordered to keep the law of Moses."

The apostles and the elders met together to consider this matter.

After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, "My brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that I should be the one through whom the Gentiles would hear the message of the good news and become believers. And God, who knows the human heart, testified to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us; and in cleansing their hearts by faith he has made no distinction between them and us. Now therefore why are you putting God to the test by placing on the neck of the disciples a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear? On the contrary, we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will."

The whole assembly kept silence, and listened to Barnabas and Paul as they told of all the signs and wonders that God had done through them among the Gentiles. After they finished speaking, James replied, "My brothers, listen to me. Simeon has related how God first looked favorably on the Gentiles, to take from among them a people for his name. This agrees with the words of the prophets, as it is written,

'After this I will return, and I will rebuild the dwelling of David, which has fallen;
from its ruins I will rebuild it, and I will set it up,
so that all other peoples may seek the Lord—
even all the Gentiles over whom my name has been called.

Thus says the Lord, who has been making these things known from long ago.'

Therefore, I have reached the decision that we should not trouble those Gentiles who are turning to God, but we should write to them to abstain only from things polluted by idols and from fornication and from whatever has been strangled and from blood. For in every city, for generations past, Moses has had those who proclaim him, for he has been read aloud every sabbath in the synagogues."

Then the apostles and the elders, with the consent of the whole church, decided to choose men from among their members and to send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They sent Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas, leaders among the brothers.

Luke 2:41-51

Now every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it.

Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the

teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.