



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
Oakton Street and Laramie Avenue, Skokie, IL
www.stpeteruccskokie.org
847-673-8166

OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR
Sunday, December 12, 2021, 10:00 AM
Worship for the Third Sunday of Advent

WELCOME GUESTS!

* Indicates all who are able are invited to stand

PRELUDE "Creator of the Stars of Night"

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS Jenn Schneider

LIGHTING THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

Lighting the Candle of Love and speaking on Love this morning is our Music Director Ben Westphal.

***RESPONSE:** "The Candle of Hope," Verse 3
(Please sing to the tune "O Worship the King, All Glorious
Above")

**"The candle of love tells what we are worth:
God loves us so much, God came to the earth!
An angel brought news of a child who would be
The one who would save us and set us all free."**

(Text Copyright 2015 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. Used by
permission).

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Pastor: The advent of Christ brings the love of
God's presence into our midst!

***Congregation: We sing praises to God for the
salvation Christ brings to us!***

P: Because of Christ, the weak are
strengthened, the fearful are encouraged,
and the unrighteous are redeemed!

***C: Love came down when God came
down to us. God has come to us in
Christ to walk with us in the paths of
righteousness!***

**All: As we continue our preparations for
Christmas, may our celebrations
renew our faith and fill us with God's
love. Amen.**

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

P: Friends, we are in the presence of the ineffable and holy God. Let us humbly confess our neediness and ask for grace and mercy. Let us pray:

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

P: We confess to You, O God, that we have fallen asleep. We often go through the motions and live our daily lives without much thought outside of ourselves.

C: Forgive us for our shortsightedness. Forgive us for not being awake to the wonders and signs that You are doing something new in our world and in our lives.

P: Help us to seek You in the face of others.

C: Call us into Your ways of love and justice, so that we might be fully awake, watching and waiting for Your return in our world and in our lives in a new way.

ALL: In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

God told Israel after the return from the Babylonian exile, "The Lord has taken away the judgments against you . . . the Lord your God is in your midst . . . God will rejoice over you with gladness and renew you in His love; God will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival" (Zephaniah 3:15ff).

God is pro-forgiveness, reconciliation, and renewal in love. We hear it for Israel; we know it even more universally and sacrificially in the God's great gift of love, Jesus Christ. Christ, who came to take away our sins and renew us in mind, body and soul. Let us praise God for this gift of grace and transformation:

C: Thanks be to God! Alleluia, amen!

***HYMN:** "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" #95
 (You may wish to sing, in verse 2, line 2, "Yea, let us each our heart prepare" in place of "Yea, let us each his heart prepare.")

95 CHARLES COFFIN, 1736
 Tr. JOHN CHANDLER, 1837
Not too slowly

WINCHESTER NEW
 L. M. *Musikalisches Handbuch, Hamburg, 1690*

1. On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An -
 2. Then cleansed be ev - ery Chris - tian breast, And
 3. For Thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, Our

noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and heark - en,
 fur - nished for so great a Guest! Yea, let us each his
 ref - uge and our great re - ward; Once more up - on Thy

for he brings Glad ti - dings from the King of kings!
 heart pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.
 peo - ple shine, And fill the world with love di - vine. A-MEN.

Alternative Tune, Germany.

WORDS ABOUT OFFERINGS
PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Prophecy:
 Epistle:

David Iannotti
 Zephaniah 3:14-20
 Philippians 4:4-7

MUSICAL MEDITATION: "An Advent Reflection"

***GOSPEL:**

Luke 3: 7-18

***RESPONSE:**

"Alleluia!"

#495

PASTORAL PRAYER 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:

"What Then Should We Do?"

***HYMN:**

"Star-Child"

RESPOND

Star-Child

174

$\text{♩} = 110$

D A/C# Bm G/B D/F# F#m

1. Star - Child, earth - Child go - be-tween of God,
 2. Street child, beat child, no place left to go,
 3. Grown child, old child, mem-ory full of years,
 4. Spared child, spoiled child, hav - ing, want - ing more,
 5. Hope - for - peace Child, God's stu - pen - dous sign,

Em D/F# G Em/B Bm Asus A

love Child, Christ Child, heav-en's light - ning rod.
 hurt child, used child, no one wants to know.
 sad child, lost child, sto - ry told in tears.
 wise child, faith child, know-ing joy in store.
 down - to - earth Child, Star of stars that shine.

Chorus

D A/C# Bm Em/G A/C# Dsus² D D/F#

This year, this year, let the day ar - rive when

G A⁷ G/B A/C# Dsus² Dsus²/F# D/F# G A A⁷ D

Christ - mas comes for ev - ery - one, ev - ery - one a - live!

***CHARGE**

P: Nothing is impossible with God. Nothing is impossible.
Depart in peace, spread the story of Christmas in all
you do and say.

***BENEDICTION**

P: May the Creator who gives birth in the heart of a
servant give birth within you.

**C: *May the Christ who comes to live with us walk
beside you.***

P: May the Spirit who sang within Mary's heart also sing
within your own.

C: *Amen!*

***POSTLUDE:** "Puer Nobis Nascitur"

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

MINISTER	Rev. Richard Lanford
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Beth Sterba
COUNTERS	Beth Lanford/Maria Altmayer
NURSERY	Carolyn Van Til

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Good Morning! The prophet Zephaniah declares: "Rejoice and
exult with all your heart. ... The King of Israel, the Lord, is in
your midst" (3:14-15, ESV). Welcome to worship.

Thanks to everyone who served in the ministries of the Church this morning, in a wide variety of ways and places!

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.

Today after worship we invite you to go downstairs for a coffee-and-refreshment-free 'coffee hour' for those who want to spend some time catching up with others!

Thank you to everyone who helped bag, tag, count and box all the items for the Night Ministry last Sunday; to the Altmayers for getting the great boxes for us; and to everyone who came through with cookies, cocoa, winter hats, scarves, gloves, socks, and long underwear top and bottoms! We cannot do it without all of you!

Our Sunday School will again be collecting baby items during Advent as we prepare for the arrival of Baby Jesus! Donated items will be given to Niles Township Food Pantry, and smaller items will supply our Mini Pantry as well. You can bring your items during worship and place them under our tree, or bring them during the week during office hours. **IMPORTANT CHANGE** – the Food Pantry has asked that, due to Covid restrictions, no clothing or blankets be donated – only consumable goods like diapers, wipes, formula, or lotion. Thank you so much for your generosity!

FUNDrive: Soft Goods wanted: we are collecting soft goods from now until January 9th. Items like clothing, bedding, shoes, hats, purses, linens, belts, stuffed goods are being sought after now for Savers as we get paid by the pound. Our goal is 1,000 lbs! Items are being collected in the gym near the stage. Drop off during office hours, on Sunday when we are open for worship, or call us and we'll make arrangements that work for you if we can (and you don't already have a key). If you have any questions on whether your items are donatable, contact Annie Noorts. ***We will be doing a minimal sorting of these items on December 17th, 10-noon and again on January 9th after church. On January 15th we need lots of helpers to load all the donations into a truck and haul them to Saver.***

Wishes for birthday blessings go out to Judy Paige this week!

The Church Council meets next Sunday! If you are responsible for a report, please submit it to the Council Drop-Box as soon as you can. This allows everyone attending the meeting to have as much time as possible to read the reports before the meeting. Thank you!

Join us for Candlelight and Carols on Christmas Eve! Christmas Eve worship with Communion is at 7 PM on Friday, December 24th. See the December newsletter for extra info.

There is Sunday worship on December 26th, including Pastor Lanford baptizing Hayley Ann Bruhn, daughter of Kimberly (Loach) and Patrick Bruhn, who now live in Texas but will be up for Christmas with family.

According to the schedule, next Sunday’s Lector is Karen Christianson, and the Nursery Attendant is Kathy Zipperer.

2022 Wall Calendars available: You can find them in the Memorial Room or by the office doors. Please take AS MANY as you’d like, we always end up with a lot leftover. Lol they make great gifts!

2022 Offering Envelopes are in the Memorial Room! If you do not have them and wish too, please let Pastor and/or Laura in the office know, and we’ll get you some ASAP!

Pastor’s podcast is available wherever you listen to podcasts! Just type in “The Redheaded Preacher” and you’ll find us! Pastor’s weekly podcasts include the prior Sunday’s scriptures & sermon, and some words and prayer from Pastor just for the listeners of the podcast! Check it out!

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 12, 2021

Luke 3:7-18

Look Forward

A prayer inspired by Luke 3:7-18

Holy One,

In this sacred season of the year, blinded as we are by the lights and the parties, deafened as we are by the songs and celebrations, we pause for a moment to look and to listen. We see the muddy prophet, crying on the riverbank. We hear, as John's listeners did long ago, the crackling fire of truth and repentance. And we ask, as they did, "what should we do now?"

Holy One,

In this sacred season, we stop and breathe as we look and listen. Too often, we put our belief in the past, too often we ally ourselves with a tradition that is dead and gone. In all times, but in Advent especially, you desire for us to embrace the new life being born, to look toward the future with hope, and to be co-creators with you of that future.

Holy One,

In this sacred season, may all we do be a prayer. We prepare gifts for those we love. Let that preparation be a prayer that propels us to be your generous people to all who are in need of opportunities to give and to receive. We celebrate with special food and drink. Let those celebrations be a prayer that helps us to live fully the wisdom of moderation. We repose in relative comfort. Let us have open eyes to see how much of what seems like safety is purchased at the terrible cost in violence and oppression.

Holy One,

In this sacred season, we stand on tiptoes and peek into the manger, hoping for a glimpse of the baby, sweet and small. When we see and hear you as you really are, roaring truth and demanding justice, grant us the wisdom and the courage to welcome you into our churches, into our celebrations, into our lives.

Amen.



BUC0202

8.5" x 11" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE
Bulletin artwork and backpage stories copyright © 2021 United Church of Christ

SCRIPTURES FOR THE CONGREGATION

December 12, 2021

ZEPHANIAH 3:14-20

- 14 “Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
Shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!
- 15 The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,
He has turned away your enemies.
The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.
- 16 On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.
- 17 The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
He will rejoice over you with gladness,
He will renew you in his love;
He will exult over you with loud singing
- 18 on a day of festival.
I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.
- 19 I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.
And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.
- 20 At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;

for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the LORD.”

PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7

“4Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.
5Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.
6Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and
supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made
known to God. 7And the peace of God, which surpasses all
understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ
Jesus.”

LUKE 3:7-18

“7John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized
by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the
wrath to come? 8Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not
begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our
ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise
up children to Abraham. 9Even now the ax is lying at the root
of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit
is cut down and thrown into the fire.”
10And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” 11In
reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share
with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do
likewise.” 12Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they
asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” 13He said to them,
“Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.”
14Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He

said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

15As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, 16John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 17His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” 18So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.”



FUNDrive® Coordinator

Laura Olson
(847) 673-8166
office@stpeteruccskokie.com

Our Goal: \$1000

278 Tall Kitchen Bags + Large Yard
Bags

Fundraiser Dates:

12/01/2021 - 01/09/2022

Clean out your closets for St Peters United Church of Christ-Skokie!

We are a small church raising money for our general fund which covers everything from paying bills to community outreach.

Donations can be dropped off weekdays when the office is open, 10 am - 2 pm.

We Are Collecting

Clothes

men's, women's and children's clothes, coats, shoes, scarves, handbags, wallets, fashion accessories, ties, belts, backpacks, etc.

