



GUIDED  
in  
PRAYER

**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 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

---

**OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR  
Sunday, May 16, 2021, 10:00 AM  
Seventh Sunday of Easter**

**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: We gather to worship as God brings the earth to life again.

***Congregation: We worship with a sense of expectation.***

P: Let us offer up to God the dead, dry places in our lives.

***C: Let us receive God's gift of renewal and rebirth!***

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

P: Each of us is allotted a ministry only we can carry out.

**C: *When we betray this trust and turn aside to pursue our own limited agendas, who will share the story only we can tell?***

**ALL: Who will testify to the God who gives us life through Jesus Christ?**

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

P: In the name of Jesus Christ, we pour out our prayer of confession. We have been called together into the church to live the resurrection faith, to embody Easter and touch lives like Jesus did. We have not done this well.

**C: *Our vision has been narrow and limited. Our testimony has been timid and self-protective. We listen to the wrong advisors and complain when things do not go our way.***

P: Forgive our limited commitment and low expectations that deny the Body of Christ as the strong force for good that we are meant to be.

**ALL: Help us rediscover the delight and joy of full discipleship! Amen.**

## **\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

“For this is like the days of Noah to me: Just as I swore that the waters of Noah would never again go over the earth, so I have sworn that I will not be angry with you and will not rebuke you. For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed, says the Lord, who has compassion on you” (Isaiah 54:9, 10).

God has compassion, and a love that lasts longer and stronger than the mountains of the earth God created. In Jesus Christ we find not only a declaration of forgiveness but forgiveness embodied and accomplished through His suffering, death, and resurrection for us. By grace we are forgiven, by the Spirit we are to be transformed into steadfast disciples of Christ. In claiming this good news, I ask you to join me in saying out loud,

**ALL: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**\*RESPONSE: "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"**

#21 (vv. 1,2,3)

21

## Adoration and Praise

HENRY VAN DYKE, 1907

8. 7. 8. 7. D.

HYMN TO JOY  
LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN, 1824

*With exultation*

1. Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;  
2. All Thy works with joy sur - round Thee, Earth and heaven re - flect Thy rays,  
3. Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,  
4. Mor - tals, join the hap - py cho - rus Which the morn - ing stars be - gan;

Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore Thee, Open - ing to the sun a - bove.  
Stars and an - gels sing a - round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
Well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean depth of hap - py rest!  
Fa - ther love is reign - ing o'er us, Broth - er love binds man to man.

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the dark of doubt a - way;  
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, Flow - ery mead - ow, flash - ing sea,  
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Broth - er, All who live in love are Thine;  
Ev - er sing - ing, march we on - ward, Vic - tors in the midst of strife,

Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, Fill us with the light of day.  
Chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, Call us to re - joice in Thee.  
Teach us how to love each oth - er, Lift us to the Joy di - vine.  
Joy - ful mu - sic leads us Sun - ward In the tri - umph song of life. A - MEN.

Words used by permission of Chas. Scribner's Sons.

## **WORDS ABOUT OFFERINGS**

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

The Psalm:

The Epistle:

Peter Svenson

Psalm 1

I John 5:9-13

### **MUSICAL MEDITATION** Selected

**\*GOSPEL:**

John 17:6-19

## **PASTORAL AND SILENT PRAYERS**

### **THE 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**

**HOMILY:** "A Tree Grows in Skokie"



**HYMN:** "O God, In Your Love  
(Sing to the tune of "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise",  
SSB # 35)

**O God, in your love, you have made us unique:  
In gifts and traditions, in service we seek,  
In race and in culture and family design  
Diverse are the branches in Jesus the Vine.**

**Lord Jesus, you came to bring God's love on earth;  
You welcomed the outcasts and showed us our  
worth.  
You reached out to people whom others despised  
You said all are precious in God's loving eyes.**

**O Christ, with your welcome your church feels  
unease:  
We stand at closed doors tightly holding the keys.  
Yet this is your body, the church that you love  
O Lord, do you weep for your church from above?**

**So may your church welcome in loving accord  
All people who want to serve Jesus our Lord.  
O Spirit, unite us in Jesus the Son  
In mission and ministry, God, make us one.**

Text: Copyright © 1998 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. Copied  
from Gifts of Love: New Hymns for Today's Worship by  
Carolyn Winfrey Gillette (Geneva Press, 2000).” Ownership  
of this book by Pastor Lanford allows our use of this text  
with permission.

## CHARGE & BENEDICTION

*C: Amen.*

\***POSTLUDE:** Selected

---

### FOR WORSHIP TODAY

---

MINISTER

Rev. Richard Lanford

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Ben Westphal

---

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

---

**Good Morning!** “God gave us eternal life,” says the writer of 1 John, “and this life is in his Son” (5:11, NRSV). We gather to worship the Giver of life. Welcome!

**Thanks to everyone who helped make today’s live stream worship on YouTube possible,** and thanks to everyone who watches and encourages others to watch!

**We are always grateful for any and all offerings** to the church. Thank you very much for giving!

**Church Council** via Zoom is today!

**The UNDY 500 is back all of May!!** Start your shopping carts now, we are collecting new pairs of ladies and men’s underwear color only in all sizes including PLUS sizes. You can leave your donations in the narthex on Sundays during in-person worship, or drop them off by the office doors during the week once Pastor is back in the office.

**Village Inn Food Fundraiser!** Next Sunday, May 23rd from 1 PM to 11 PM is your next chance to give yourself a day off from cooking and help two beloved Skokie staples! All you have to do is mention us when ordering anytime on May 23rd and we get 20% of your total. Good for carryout, delivery and dining in.

**Wishing God's blessings to Sean Loach** who graduated from UIC with a degree in Art History last weekend. **Wishing God's blessings to Jessica Schneider**, who will be graduating from Maine West High School next weekend. She'll be going to Viterbo University in Wisconsin. We're so proud of you both! If you have a graduation and/or celebration coming up please let the office know, we'd love to celebrate with you!

**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!

**IN MEMORIAM:** We are sad to report the sudden death of Ken Burmeister, son of Carol and Ralph, who confirmed his faith here in 1985. There was a graveside service Friday afternoon at our St. Peter's cemetery. Please hold his family in prayer. Thank you.

**Having birthdays this week are:** Jessica Schneider, Annie Noorts, Gail Hoellerich and Pastor Richard. Celebrating ten years of marriage today are Christine and Maykel Salvatierra of Skokie, who were married and whose two sons were baptized here. We wish God’s blessings on all of them!

**According to the schedule,** next Sunday’s lector is Olivia Altmayer.

**Our mission continues:** Our Micah 6:8 Committee is going forward, as last week’s Quarantine Weekly announced, with the UNDIE 500 underwear purchase and collection! Please check your email for last week’s Weekly, or find the details out on our web page. This collection, which will go the Night Ministry, lasts the entire month of May. Please help if you can!

**Office Manager / Custodian Laura Olson** will taking off Friday May 21st, Monday May 24th and Tuesday May 25th. Ben Westphal will also be taking vacation time this coming Sunday the 23rd.

Our Call to and Prayer of Confession are reprinted by permission of United Church Press from Led by Love by Lavon Bayler. Copyright 1996 by United Church Press.

---

**CHURCH LEADERSHIP**

---

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

---

## SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 16, 2021

John 17:6-19

### Guided in Prayer *Mental Health Sunday*

*Myra lives with her husband Howard in the home they have shared for 43 years. A year ago, Howard started forgetting words and losing things more than usual. Now, he has been diagnosed with dementia and he gets more confused every day.*

*Pastor Deb is the only other person in the congregation who knows that Joel's brother Carl died by suicide. Even though it's been more than a decade since his death, every year on the anniversary of Carl's death, Joel becomes depressed and angry.*

*After his tour in Afghanistan, Raoul began having nightmares that would wake him from sleep. He sometimes breaks into a sweat and starts shaking in crowded places.*

*Several years ago, Angela had surgery on her back and was prescribed pain medicine. She became addicted to their numbing effects and has struggled to keep a job.*

*When the church secretary arrives at the building in the morning, she sometimes finds Doreen sleeping in the outside stairwell. Doreen talks to people that no one else can see and, even when information is offered to her, refuses to go to the shelter.*

These people and scenarios are imagined, but the reality of dementia, addiction, PTSD and mental illness almost certainly touch the lives of people in your congregation. Although the church community wants to help in situations like this, it's hard to know what to do.

Fortunately, the mental health network of the United Church of Christ has created toolkits for congregations who yearn to be places of safety and caring in these and countless other situations. You can find the toolkits, and much more at <https://www.mhn-ucc.org/congregational-toolkits/>.



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

Bulletin artwork and backpage stories copyright © 2021 United Church of Christ

## SCRIPTURES FOR THE CONGREGATION

May 16th, 2021

### Psalm 1

1 Blessed are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked,  
or take the path that sinners tread,  
or sit in the seat of scoffers;

2 but their delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and on his law they meditate day and night.

3 They are like trees planted by streams of water,  
which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither.  
In all that they do, they prosper.

4 The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives  
away.

5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,  
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

6 for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked will perish.

### 1 John 5:9 - 13

9 If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater;  
for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son.

10 Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their  
hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by  
not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his  
Son.

11 And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is  
in his Son.

12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of  
God does not have life.

13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of  
God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

## **John 17:6 - 19**

Jesus prayed, "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.

7Now they know that everything you have given me is from you;  
8for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me.

9I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours.

10All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them.

11And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

12While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled.

13But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves.

14I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world.

15I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one.

16They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world.

17Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

18As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.

19And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth."