A stylized, high-contrast illustration of a crowd of people in white robes, possibly a religious scene, with the text "WHO ARE YOU, JESUS?" overlaid in large, bold, black letters. The background is a mix of white, yellow, and blue, suggesting a bright, outdoor setting. The figures are rendered in a simplified, almost graphic style, with some wearing long white robes and others in more casual attire. The overall composition is dynamic and visually striking.

**WHO
ARE
YOU,
JESUS?**

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, September 12, 2021, 10:00 AM
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME GUESTS!

* Indicates all who are able are invited to stand

PRELUDE "Hyfrydol Happiness" by P. Lehenbauer

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS Jenn Schneider

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Wisdom cries out to tell us that we are
neglecting her holy words.

***Congregation: That sounds like a bad ending if we
keep it up.***

P: We are grateful for the warning and praise
our God.

***C: Jesus also told Simon Peter that he
needed to change his way of thinking.***

P: If we must also, let God transform our
understandings.

***C: So let us come into tune with the Spirit
of the Universe; let us worship God!***

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Our Confession of Sin this morning is a responsive litany. When the pastor ends a petition with the words "Loving God of heaven and earth," please pray aloud, "Hear our prayer and grant us mercy." A time for silent confession will be included, and conclude with the same call-and-response to end our prayer.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

"Now to him who is able to keep you from falling, and to make you stand without blemish in the presence of his glory with rejoicing, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen" (Jude 24, 25).

Used mostly as a benediction, we hear words of forgiveness and change without hearing those specific words. For how are we to be kept from falling and able to stand pure before God's presence if not for the grace of God in Christ washing our sins and guilt away? We are not, but this grace has been given, which becomes real to us by faith. In Christ Jesus God's love forgives our sins and keeps us from falling in this world as well as the next. Will the church on-line and in-person join me in celebrating together by saying . . .

ALL: Alleluia! Amen.

10

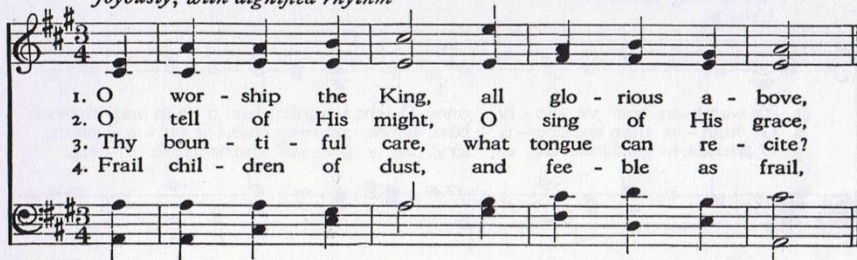
Adoration and Praise

ROBERT GRANT, 1833

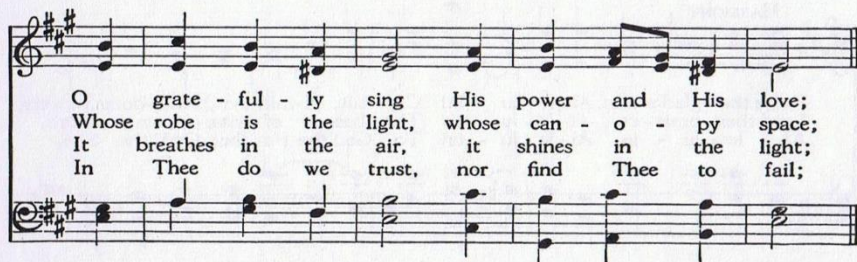
10. 10. 11. 11.

HANOVER

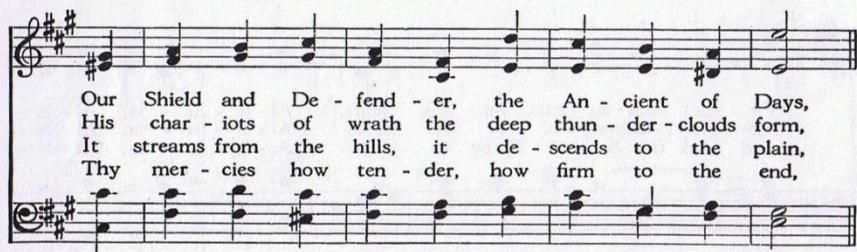
WILLIAM CROFT, 1678-1727

Joyously, with dignified rhythm


1. O wor - ship the King, all glo - rious a - bove,
 2. O tell of His might, O sing of His grace,
 3. Thy boun - ti - ful care, what tongue can re - cite?
 4. Frail chil - dren of dust, and fee - ble as frail,



O grate - ful - ly sing His power and His love;
 Whose robe is the light, whose can - o - py space;
 It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
 In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail;



Our Shield and De - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,
 His char - iots of wrath the deep thun - der - clouds form,
 It streams from the hills, it de - scends to the plain,
 Thy mer - cies how ten - der, how firm to the end,



Pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor, and gird - ed with praise.
 And dark is His path on the wings of the storm.
 And sweet - ly dis - tils in the dew and the rain.
 Our Ma - ker, De - fend - er, Re - deem - er, and Friend! A - MEN.

Alternative Tune, Lyons

WORDS ABOUT OFFERINGS/MISSION MOMENT

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Old Testament:

Epistle:

Dan Guenther

Proverbs 1:20-33

James 3:1-12

MUSICAL MEDITATION

“Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire”

***GOSPEL:**

Mark 8:27-38

***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:

“Set Our Minds”

465

Miscellaneous Hymns

FRANCIS H. ROWLEY

8. 7. 8. 7. with Refrain

HYFRYDOL
ROWLAND HUGH PRICHARD, 1811-1887

1. I will sing the won-drous sto - ry Of the Christ who died for me,
 2. I was lost, but Je - sus found me, Found the sheep that went a - stray;
 3. I was bruised, but Je - sus healed me; Faint was I from many a fall;
 4. Days of dark - ness still come o'er me, Sor-row's paths I of - ten tread,

How He left His home in glo - ry For the cross on Cal - va - ry.
 Threw His lov - ing arms a - round me, Drew me back in - to His way.
 Sight was gone, and fears pos - sessed me, But He freed me from them all.
 But the Sav - iour still is with me, By His hand I'm safe - ly led.

REFRAIN

Yes, I'll sing the won-drous sto - ry Of the Christ who died for me,

Sing it with the saints in glo - ry, Gath-ered by the crys-tal sea.

***CHARGE** (from Hebrews 13)

P: "Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels unawares.

C: *Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them. Let marriage be held in honor among all.*

P: Keep your lives free of the love of money, and be content with what you have, for God said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.'"

***BENEDICTION** (continued from above)

ALL: "So we can say with confidence, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?'" Thanks be to God!

***POSTLUDE:** "Lyons" arr. C Callahan

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

MINISTER Rev. Richard Lanford
MUSIC DIRECTOR Ben Westphal

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Good Morning! Welcome to worship, Christian education and fellowship. We gather as beloved children of God, members of the body of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

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!

The Rummage Sale (no Bake Sale, sorry!) is THIS WEEKEND, on Friday, Sept. 17th and Saturday the 18th, from 9 AM to 3 PM. We are no longer accepting rummage. 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!

We'll be sorting rummage this week Sunday the 12th after worship, 11 AM to 1 PM; Monday through Thursday 10 AM - 2 PM; and Monday through Thursday 6:30 to 8:30 PM.

PLEASE COME AND HELP, it's our biggest fundraiser of the year, and so needed right now. We have more stuff than ever, and we really can use extra, extra hands.

Non-Perishable Food Items needed!! It sounds like our "Mini-Pantry" will make its debut at the Rummage Sale!! So we really need some food to fill it up with. Donations can be brought to the office back counter or the Computer Room to keep from mixing it up with Rummage stuff. Please donate if you are able, asap!!

The Church Council meets after worship next Sunday the 19th. If you are responsible for a report, please submit it as soon as you can this week via the Dropbox if you can, or see Laura in the church office as soon as you can.

Sunday School begins at 9 AM next Sunday!

Our Village Inn Fundraiser is NEXT SUNDAY, the day after the Rummage Sale, Sunday, September 19th. 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!

Having birthdays this week are: Judy Williford, Dylan Kahn and Errol Mitchell. Maribel (Powers) and Joey Laarveld and Jackie (Meyer) and Dave Rosenthal celebrate their wedding anniversaries, too. May God shine on them on their days!

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

October 30th 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!

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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

Who Are You Jesus? *Faith Formation Sunday*

The word “mandala” means a “special circle.” In many different countries people create mandalas as a way of praying or showing something about their beliefs. Some doctors have their patients make a mandala to help them express feelings they have trouble talking about. In Tibet, mandalas for peace are created in sand. The Navajo create similar sand paintings to heal sickness. When they are finished, they take the picture apart and sweep up the sand. Sometimes they sweep it into some water as a special blessing. They do this to remind themselves that everything in the world is always changing and the sand won’t stay the same forever. It starts out just as sand, then becomes a beautiful work of art, and then goes right back to being sand. But when they’re finished, the sand is special because it came from their art and it knows their prayers.

You can make a mandala on your own or with a group. First, gather supplies:

- items that can be used to create patterns within the mandala, such as buttons, marbles, checkers, bottle caps, building blocks, washers, scrabble tiles, mosaic tiles, pebbles, beads, seed pods, leaves
- paper circle cut from an 8½” x 11” sheet of paper.

A meditation before making a mandala. Sit comfortably and close your eyes. Take three, slow deep breaths and imagine God’s Spirit filling you with love from head to toe. Think about something sad that is happening in the world, something that you want to see change. Imagine God’s Spirit moving in the world to answer that prayer. Imagine God’s Spirit bringing love into that situation. Now, imagine God’s Spirit forming a big circle, a circle of love in that place. Imagine what the circle looks like and what it feels like. When you are ready, open your eyes. Use the items you have gathered to make a picture of your circle. You can do whatever you wish with your circle. Don’t worry about making mistakes. Trust that God is with you in creating the right mandala for today.

Today’s activity, on this Faith Formation Sunday, is adapted from Faith Practices: Praying and Making Ritual, Copyright © 2012 The Pilgrim Press. Faith Practices is an easily adaptable and inexpensive faith formation curriculum for all ages available at thepilgrimpress.com.



SCRIPTURES FOR THE CONGREGATION

September 12, 2021

Proverbs 1:20-33

Wisdom cries out in the street; in the squares she raises her voice.

At the busiest corner she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks:

"How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple? How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge?

Give heed to my reproof; I will pour out my thoughts to you; I will make my words known to you.

Because I have called and you refused, have stretched out my hand and no one heeded,

and because you have ignored all my counsel and would have none of my reproof,

I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when panic strikes you, when panic strikes you like a storm, and your calamity comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you.

Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently, but will not find me.

Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the LORD,

would have none of my counsel, and despised all my reproof, therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way and be sated with their own devices.

For waywardness kills the simple, and the complacency of fools destroys them;

but those who listen to me will be secure and will live at ease, without dread of disaster."

James 3:1-12

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

Mark 8:27-38

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets."

He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must

undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?

Indeed, what can they give in return for their life?

Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."