



LOVE  
ENFOLDED BY

**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**

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(Oakton and Laramie)

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**OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR  
Sunday, April 25, 2021, 10 AM  
Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**WELCOME GUESTS!**

\* Indicates all who are able are invited to stand

**PRELUDE** "Psalm 23" by Hector Gordon

**THE RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS** Jenn Schneider

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (from The Revelation, Chs. 5 and 7)

Pastor: Jesus Christ, the Passover Lamb who was slain, lives!

***Congregation: Worthy is the Lamb to receive power and wisdom and glory and blessing!***

P: Myriads of the faithful, freed and called to be a nation of priests of God, sing praise:

***C: May we praise You and not be silent!  
Blessing and honor, glory and power  
be unto God, for ever and ever.  
Amen!***

**OPENING RESPONSE: "Awesome God" SSB #21 (x2)**

Our God is an awe - some God, he  
reigns from heav - en a - bove with wis - dom,  
pow'r, and love— our God is an awe - some God!  
Our God is an awe - some God! Our God is an awe - some God!

Chords: Em, C, G/B, G, D, Em, D/E, Em, C, G/B, G, Am, Em/B, Bm7, Em, Am, Em/B, Bm7, Em.

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God of mercy and love, Who commands us in turn to be merciful and loving, hear our prayers as we confess to falling short of Your mark for us. We realize there is much more work to be done to advance racial justice and equity in our country, including in the world of law enforcement, access to quality health-care, fair housing and improved educational opportunities. We confess that most of us nod our head at the ideas, the dreams, but do nothing more. Sometimes it is hard for us to just get through the day!, but the command to love our**

**neighbors calls Your church to be intentional and proactive, against the inertia of status quo comfort zones. Forgive us our rationalizations for being insular when our society needs more love and justice, pandemic or no. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." So said Jesus in John 10. By this laying down of His life for the sheep on Calvary, Jesus paid the penalty for our sins with the body and blood of the Lamb of God. We meet God's deep grace and forgiveness, not only in the crucifixion and death of Jesus, but also in His being raised from the dead, to be a living Savior distributing benefits like that forgiveness, life-transformation, hope and eternal life. In laying full-throated claim to this, let the congregation gathered wherever you are join me in saying . . .

**All: Thanks be to God! Amen!**

**\*HYMN:** "Lord, You are my Shepherd"  
(Sing to the tune of 'To God be the Glory, great things He hath done')

**Lord, you are my shepherd and so I am blessed;  
You make me lie down in green pastures to rest.  
You lead me beside the still waters, O Lord;  
In you I find peace and my soul is restored.**

**Refrain:**

**In this world, there is much that can tempt me  
away,**

**Yet in you, I'm content, as you guide me each day.**

**O Lord, I don't need to feel lost or alone;**

**For you are my Shepherd and I am your own.**

**You lead me to do what is just, in your name;**

**You guide me through valleys of death and deep  
pain.**

**I'll fear nothing evil with you by my side;**

**Your rod and your staff, Lord, will comfort and  
guide.**

**Refrain**

**You set me a table right here by my foes;**

**You bless me with joy till my cup overflows.**

**Your goodness and mercy will follow me through;**

**I'll live in your presence, forever with you.**

**Refrain**

(Tune: William Howard Doane, 1875. Text: Copyright ©  
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permission).

**A CALL TO MISSION/OFFERING**

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

The Psalter

The Apostle:

Carolyn Van Til

Psalm 23

I John 3:16-24

## **MUSICAL MEDITATION**

“The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want”

by Jessie Seymour Irvine

## **GOSPEL:**

John 10: 11-18

## **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:**

“Love is a Verb”



**HYMN: They'll Know We Are Christians by our Love" SSB #14**

Guitar capo: 1; play Em  
Unison



1. We are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord,  
 2. We will walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand,  
 3. We will work with each oth - er, we will work side by side,  
 4. All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,



we are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord,  
 we will walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand,  
 we will work with each oth - er, we will work side by side,  
 and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,



and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:  
 and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:  
 and we'll guard each one's dig - ni - ty and save each one's pride:  
 and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:



And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our love,



yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love.

## CHARGE & BENEDICTION

P: Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us,

**C: *So let us be swift to love, make haste to be kind,***

P: And go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Amen.

**C: *Amen!***

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**\*POSTLUDE:** "We Are One In the Spirit" arr. R. Joyce

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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 as we continue to rejoice in the good news of Christ's resurrection.

**HOSPITALIZED:** HOSPITALIZED: Carol Burmeister remains at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, 1775 W. Dempster Avenue, Park Ridge, IL 60068. She has shown signs of solid improvement with lots further to go. Harry Kuras (II) was brought to Evanston Hospital last week for more tests. Tomorrow Pastor Lanford receives his 2nd dose of the Pfizer vaccine.

**Next Sunday, May 2, is when St. Peter's celebrates its 154th birthday!** That is the day we are re-gathering for worship on what we hope will be a weekly basis; your Quarantine Weekly from last Monday will have details, but the basics are that we are not gathering after worship; continuing the wearing of masks and keeping 6' distance

from those not in your household, wash or sanitize hands upon entering the building, certain spaced pews remain marked off for distance, and New Life Church is following us so we cannot linger in the sanctuary. Catching up conversations are to be taken outside, please. We'll celebrate Communion together in the sanctuary for those who can come in person! There is a sign-up/pre-registration link here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080e4aa8aa29abfa7-inperson> and you can also call the office phone # to make a reservation.

**Loving our neighbors is something we do each time we partner with A Just Harvest Community Kitchen.**

The generosity of members and friends of St. Peter's helps A Just Harvest Community Kitchen provide delicious, hot meals—a service to the community that has continued in spite of the pandemic. According to our contacts at the Kitchen, dine-in service won't return until November but a delicious, to-go community meal is served daily. Our turn to partner with Kitchen is Saturday, May 29th. We are accepting financial contributions for the meal served that day. While we can't offer our typical meal of sloppy joes and side dishes and we don't need to recruit dining room helpers, we still need your support for this hands-on ministry. Please give generously so that the Kitchen can purchase and prepare food for our hungry neighbors. We need at least \$500 to support our community meal. Please follow this link to let us know you can donate:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1h->

[w4KMmxVAshWG8pjDmY4AFwGRvlgBDeQBoW5TbLaLY/edit?usp=sharing](https://www.w4KMmxVAshWG8pjDmY4AFwGRvlgBDeQBoW5TbLaLY/edit?usp=sharing). The collective generosity of St. Peter's keeps this mission partnership with A Just Harvest Community Kitchen strong!

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**Marking birthdays this week are** Susan Garcia (today), Elisa Meggs, Roman Salvatierra (baptized here), David Rees and H. Dayle Zelenka. Bob and Sue Leshner have a wedding anniversary too! May they all experience the grace of God this week.

**Following today's service, later in the morning** Rev. Lanford will officiate at the baptism here of Evelyn Georgia Loach, daughter of Jeff and Jennifer (Wirth) Loach and first grandchild of Bonnie and Mark! It will not be on our livestream.

**CYT’s The Wizard of Oz, starring Jessica Schneider in her FINAL CYT show as both Auntie Em and Glinda the Good Witch!**

Unfortunately thanks to limited seating, all of the tickets for Jessica’s final show for CYT have been sold out. Also, they thought they’d be able to live stream one of the shows, but could not due to licensing issues. However, the Schneider Family has purchased a video link that they will receive about a month after the show, and will work out a way to share it with people who’d like to see it ... perhaps a “viewing party” on the new tv in the Memorial Room? More details to follow about this later.

**Our Chicago Metropolitan Association’s (CMA) annual meeting is taking place over Zoom this coming**

**Saturday, May 1st, from 12 Noon to 2 PM.** There will be a time of devotion, a panel discussion on "The Post-Pandemic Church," including the discussion of health and safety issues and worship technology, a time for CMA business as well as Illinois Conference business. The Rev. Molly Carlson, Illinois Conference Minister, will make a presentation on the Illinois Conference budget. If interested, contact Pastor Richard!

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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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## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 25, 2021

John 10:11-18

### Enfolded by Love

### *Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries Sunday / Break the Silence Sunday*

Break the Silence Sunday (BTSS) is an opportunity for survivors of sexual assault to share their stories in a safe and supportive environment. By Breaking the Silence about such assaults, survivors are granted courage and hope.

One of the ways that survivors can be supported in telling their stories is through Strings of Strength. The website: <https://breakthesilencesunday.org/strings-of-strength/>, says:

\*“Strings of Strength is a project to provide comfort items to survivors who share their stories with the Break The Silence Sunday team. More than 800 stories have been shared since BTSS began in 2015, and we wanted to find a way to tangibly honor those stories, to help survivors remember that they are believed, that they are strong, and that they are not alone. By creating shawls, scarves, and other items we hope to be able to provide those who share their story with something soft that will remind them of our common strength as survivors of sexual violence.

#### HOW IT WORKS

1. You (and maybe your group) create items of support like a quilt or prayer shawl.
2. You record the initials of the creator, and the fiber content on each item.
3. You post them to BTSS (see below).
4. We add a nifty little tag with your initials, fiber and care information, and a phrase of love and support (currently it will have the BTSS logo and say something like “your story is heard, believed, and held in love and grace”).
5. We distribute them to survivors who share their stories at events like church conference meetings.
6. You enjoy the connection you’ve made to a survivor who now feels less alone in the world.
7. You create more objects and we repeat this process until rape and sexual violence are no more.”

\*(<https://breakthesilencesunday.org/strings-of-strength>)



## SCRIPTURES FOR THE CONGREGATION

April 25, 2021

### **Psalm 23 (New Revised Standard Version / NRSV)**

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures;

he leads me beside still waters;

he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,

I fear no evil; for you are with me;

your rod and your staff— they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

### **First John 3:16-24**

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us -- and we also ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and God knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from God whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is the commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

**John 10:11-18**

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."