

A close-up photograph of two hands clasped together, with the text "Sarah Laughed" overlaid in white. The hands are positioned in the center of the frame, with the fingers of one hand gripping the wrist of the other. The skin is a warm, brownish tone. The background is a soft, out-of-focus white and light pink. The text is written in a simple, white, sans-serif font, with "Sarah" on the top line and "Laughed" on the bottom line, centered over the hands.

Sarah
Laughed

Welcome to St Peter's UCC Virtual Worship

Service! Subscribe to our [YouTube Channel](#) to catch a new service at 10am each Sunday! We also share a [podcast](#) weekly of the scripture readings and sermon.

Open Holy Communion. We have communion 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, 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 two online 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.

- **For one-time donations,** go to [PayPal.me/stpeteruccskokie](https://www.paypal.com/merchstore/showitem?item=STPETERUCCSKOKIE) Uncheck the "Paying for Goods or Services" box to not pass on the fees to St Peters.
- **For regular giving,** 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, that is also an option), select your donation frequency, amount, and add payment info. There is also an option here to offset the processing fee.

You can still mail in a check, if that is easiest for you. 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](#) 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)
847-673-8166

www.stpeteruccskokie.org

Rev. Richard Lanford (Pastor): revlanford@aol.com

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Oakton Street and Laramie Avenue, Skokie, IL
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OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR
Sunday, June 14, 2020 10:00 AM
Second Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME GUESTS!

* Indicates all who are able are invited to stand

PRELUDE: "Nicaea I" arr. Callahan

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS Jenn Schneider

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: There's an old benediction, "May you live
in interesting times."

***Congregation: The people of God have always lived
in interesting, and often frightening,
difficult times.***

P: We are reminded in Scripture that often
God's people are called to repentance.
We are also reminded that Jesus is with
his people always, "even to the end of
the age."

***C: There is no place we can flee from
the presence of God's Spirit. Let us
seek the wisdom, ways, love and***

***strength from God as we worship
the sovereign God of history!***

CALL TO CONFESSION (recalling the Call to Prayer from Lent; sing if you remember it!)

L: O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer,

C: When I call, answer me.

L: O Lord hear my prayer; O Lord hear my prayer;

C: Come and listen to me.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned
against you**

in thought, word, and deed,

**by what we have done and what we have left
undone.**

We have not loved you

with our whole heart and mind and strength.

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

**In your mercy, forgive what we have been,
amend what we are,**

and direct what we shall be,

**so that we may delight in your will and walk in
your ways,**

**through the power of Jesus Christ, in whose name
we pray. Amen.**

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

“The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners . . . He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed” (I Timothy 1:15; I Peter 2:24).

Need I say more? In the blessed name, by God’s grace, we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen!

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God the Father

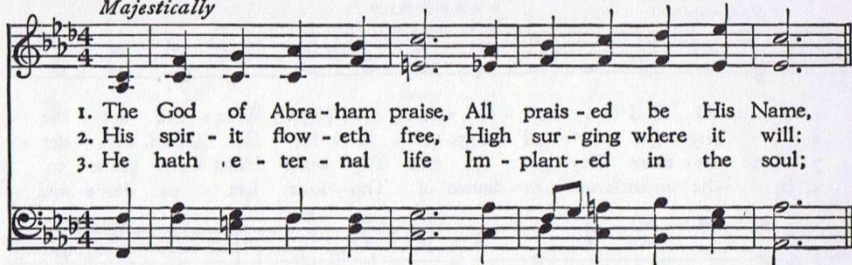
His Eternity and Majesty

YIGDAL (LEONI)

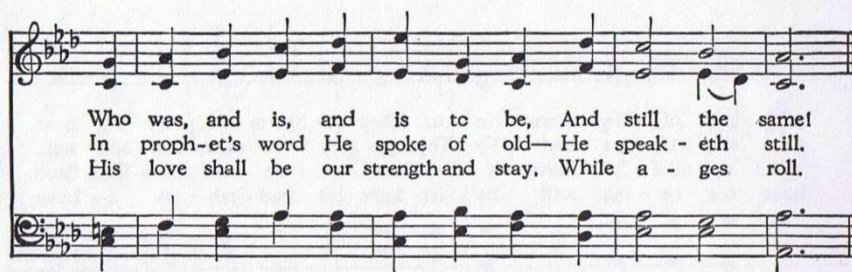
DANIEL BEN JUDAH, 14th century
Revised version of *The Yigdal*

6. 6. 8. 4. D.

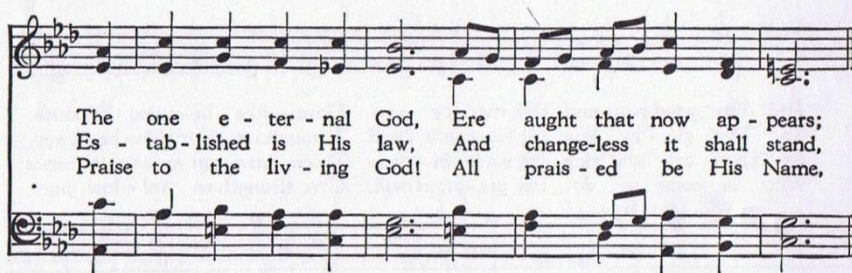
Hebrew Melody

Majestically


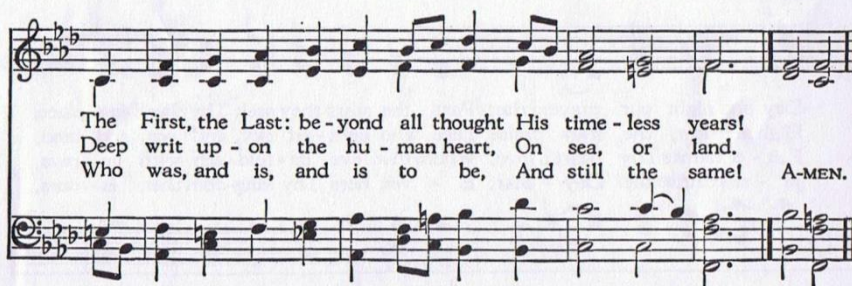
1. The God of Abra - ham praise, All prais - ed be His Name,
2. His spir - it flow - eth free, High sur - ging where it will:
3. He hath e - ter - nal life Im - plant - ed in the soul;



Who was, and is, and is to be, And still the same!
In proph - et's word He spoke of old— He speak - eth still.
His love shall be our strength and stay, While a - ges roll.



The one e - ter - nal God, Ere aught that now ap - pears;
Es - tab - lished is His law, And change - less it shall stand,
Praise to the liv - ing God! All prais - ed be His Name,



The First, the Last: be - yond all thought His time - less years!
Deep writ up - on the hu - man heart, On sea, or land.
Who was, and is, and is to be, And still the same! A - MEN.

WORDS ABOUT OFFERINGS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

David Iannotti

Old Testament:

Genesis 18: 1-15; 21: 1-7

Gospel:

Matthew 9: 35 - 10:8

MUSICAL MEDITATION: "Holy, Holy, Holy"

arr. Brickman

SERMON "Would Sarah be Laughing Now?"

*HYMN "They'll Know We Are Christians"

SSB #14

Guitar capo: 1; play Em

Unison

Em



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.

CALL TO PRAYER:

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

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.**

***HYMN:** "Lead On, O King Eternal"

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Conflict and Victory

ERNEST W. SHURTLEFF, 1888

7. 6. 7. 6. D.

LANCASHIRE
HENRY SMART, 1836

With spirit

1. Lead on, O King e - ter - nal! The day of march has come;
2. Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, Till sin's fierce war shall cease,
3. Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, We fol - low, not with fears;

Hence-
forth in fields of con - quest Thy tents shall be our home.
And ho - li - ness shall whis - per The sweet A - men of peace;
For glad - ness breaks like morn - ing Wher - e'er Thy face ap - pears;

Through days of prep - a - ra - tion Thy grace has made us strong,
For not with swords, loud clash - ing, Nor roll of stir - ring drums;
Thy cross is lift - ed o'er us; We jour - ney in its light;

And now, O King e - ter - nal, We lift our bat - tle song.
But deeds of love and mer - cy The heaven - ly king - dom comes.
The crown a - waits the con - quest; Lead on, O God of might! A - MEN.

***CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

C: Amen.

***POSTLUDE:**

"Nicaea II"

arr. Callahan

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

MINISTER

Rev. Richard Lanford

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Ben Westphal

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thanks to everyone who helped make today's virtual worship on YouTube possible, and thanks to everyone who watches and encourages others to watch! Your words of encouragement and appreciation, and especially when you tell us others have started joining us through word-of-mouth invitation, mean very much!

June is now known around the country (if not the world) as Pride Month, honoring the achievements, gifts and sacrifices made by those in the LGBTQ+ communities. When St. Peter's U.C.C. became an Open and Affirming Congregation almost two years ago, shortly afterward the Church Council voted to join the Chicago Coalition of Welcoming Churches (CCWC). The Coalition is creating a video montage (or "Tribute") for Pride 2020 and has invited member congregations, including St. Peter's, to participate. It will only take a minute (2 minutes max) for our church/community to record and submit a message. The Coalition, keeping social distancing in mind, encourages us to be unique and reflect our community. So Pastor Lanford and perhaps a band of merry others of St. Peter's U.C.C. will

record and submit something before the June 22nd deadline. CCWC will then compile the submissions into a single video message which will be shared for our church to use, as well as placed on Facebook and the CCWC website.

In related Open and Affirming / CCWC news, with the Chicago Pride Parade cancelled due to COVID-19, CCWC plans this: “In lieu of our traditional Pride Brunch, CCWC will be hosting a celebration on Saturday June 27th at 10 AM. The event will be held on Zoom. We are busy working on the details, including an exciting, soul nourishing program. We will also debut the Pride video at the celebration.”

UPDATES: Ginger’s friend (and attendee at some St. Peter’s functions) Marty has been discharged from the hospital. She has gone to a rehab place in Andersonville. Beth Lanford’s brother Dan’s partner Eric was hospitalized over BP / kidney issues but has improved markedly. Tests continued last week. Please include them in prayers! Thanks. Tragically, Karen Christianson’s sister Chris hit her head in a fall, creating a brain-bleed and becoming unconscious. She died Thursday. No further news is available at this writing.

We hope to keep our freshly-repainted entrance doors to the St. Peter’s building clean looking as long as possible, and some new informational / directional signs for being by doors are coming, we ask: Please, don’t anyone tape anything to the doors! Old tape was one of the biggest issues in painting our new doors. We are looking into mounting a “tape rail” – a thin piece of black plastic to

adhere signs etc. to when needed. But for now, PLEASE don't tape anything to the doors!

The Micah 6:8 Committee is organizing a study group based on "White Privilege: Let's Talk—A Resource for Transformational Dialogue," a UCC curriculum for adults designed to invite church members to engage in safe, meaningful, substantive, and bold conversations on race. The group will meet via Zoom one evening a week over a six-week period starting Wednesday, June 24. This study group involves a commitment to complete selected readings and short videos—all available online and distributed at the start of the course—before joining in reflective conversation based on the materials. The reading and videos, to be completed on one's own time, will require a weekly commitment of about an hour before each 60- to 90-minute Zoom discussion. The Rev. John C. Dorhauer, UCC General Minister and President and contributor to the curriculum, put it this way, "Jesus once said those who have eyes to see, see." Rev. Dorhauer continued by saying, the hope is for an ongoing conversation about race—one that enables White allies to better see and understand how privilege works, thereby equipping all for a sacred journey toward racial equity. To receive a study outline and consider joining the discussion, please express your interest in an email to Pastor Lanford or Micah 6:8 Committee member Peggy Reins (McCoy) as soon as possible and no later than June 22.

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!

Pastor's podcasts The Redheaded Preacher, is available online anytime by clicking this link:

<https://soundcloud.com/user-601376219>. Each week we record Pastor's sermon and the scripture readings. Great for walks while you stay safe! 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. 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.

Having birthdays this week are: Zach Muhrer, Barb Gack, Clementine Muhrer Hoeing, Laurie Mitchell and Lisa (Schuhrke) Martinek. David and Karen Zafrane Iannotti have a wedding anniversary today, and Valerie (Paige) and Chris Mahoney celebrate theirs on Wednesday. We wish God's blessings on all of them.

The Micah 6:8 Committee met over Zoom last Wednesday and plans another such meeting at 5:30 PM this week unless announced otherwise.

The Board of Elders had a phone meeting last Thursday and is scheduled for another on June 25th.

ICYMI (In Case You Missed It): The pastor promised the names and authors of the books he listed his Pentecost Sunday sermon as resources for self-teaching through reading (and perhaps further conversation) and here they are: Anxious to Talk About It: Helping White Christians Talk Faithfully about Racism by Carolyn Helsel.

White Fragility by Robin DiAngelo.

Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?: And Other Conversations About Race, in a newer edition by Beverly Daniel Tatum.

Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America and

How to Be an Antiracist -- both of these two are by Ibram X. Kendi.

I'll also add Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates.

Please keep in your prayers Jennifer Castillo, Maribel Powers, Angela Washke Kuras and now also Barb and Jim Todd's granddaughter Kathryn Camardo, all of whom are serving in hospitals as nurses or anesthesiologists, including work with COVID patients, and their families. Cristy Lopez, Merle Tilos and Charlie Rasmason are also health care workers.

Let us know if there are others we are missing whom we can add for prayers!

The Church Council meets via Zoom after worship next Sunday; if you are responsible for a report, please prepare it and submit it to the Council drop box for the month of June during the week. The earlier the better, please, as that gives the rest of the Council more time to read reports before Sunday! Thank you.

According to the schedule next Sunday's lector is Karen Christianson.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

PRESIDENT	Jenn Schneider
VICE-PRESIDENT	Judy Paige
TREASURER	Mandy Steegmueller
SECRETARY	Carolyn Kuechler
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Marcia Hilliard

Sarah Laughed

Sarah laughed when she heard the news that, in her advanced age, she would bear a child. She did not expect that she had much life left to give. Too often, our culture reflects Sarah's belief that there is not much life left in our elders.

United Church Homes (UCH) has another vision. According to their website <https://www.unitedchurchhomes.org/>, the UCH vision, *where the Spirit creates Abundant Life in Community*, reflects their faith-inspired ties with the United Church of Christ, and propels this organization into new ways of thinking and talking about aging. United Church Homes celebrates older adults as they explore evolving healthcare and senior living options to appeal to a new generation of people living longer, more active lives after retirement.

*“We help UCH residents define what living abundantly means to them as individuals, providing experiences that lead to more joy, and purpose, in their interactions with others. That is why United Church Homes is:

- an Open and Affirming provider of healthcare and housing services for older adults
- a thought leader in driving conversations around what abundant life means
- leading culture change to transform older adult services from institutional-directed care to person-directed care that promotes choice, dignity, respect, self-determination and purposeful living

We've expanded quite a bit from our first “home for the aged” built in Upper Sandusky, Ohio, in 1916,” their website proclaims, “Today, United Church Homes owns or manages more than 70 communities in 14 states and two Native American nations. We provide affordable housing, independent living, assisted living, long-term care, rehabilitative care and memory care to thousands of older adults.”

As our population ages, so does the need for creativity in finding new ways to not just survive our retirement years, but to thrive in them. For United Church Homes, abundant life at all ages is no laughing matter.

Find out more about United Church Homes in your area by checking their website <https://www.unitedchurchhomes.org/> or calling their national offices (866-279-5125).

*Accessed January 2020. <https://www.unitedchurchhomes.org/>



SCRIPTURES FOR THE CONGREGATION

June 14, 2020

Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7

The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said."

And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him.

Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?" The LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' Is anything too wonderful for the LORD? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son." But Sarah denied, saying, "I did not laugh"; for she was afraid. He said, "Oh yes, you did laugh."

21:1-7

The LORD dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as he had promised. Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him. And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. Now Sarah said, "God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me." And she said, "Who would ever have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."

Matthew 9:35-38, 10:1-8

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and

curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment."