The background is a textured, warm-toned surface (peach or light orange) featuring a complex, overlapping pattern of human figures. These figures are rendered in a variety of colors including yellow, orange, red, and purple, creating a sense of movement and depth. The figures appear to be in various poses, some with arms raised, suggesting a dynamic or celebratory scene. The overall effect is one of energy and vibrancy.

Bold Moves

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 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, 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.me/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. And now there's a third option of texting a gift!

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

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
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OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR
Sunday, August 16, 2020 10:00 AM
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME GUESTS!

* Indicates all who are able are invited to stand

PRELUDE: "Praeludium, Op. 87 No. 3" Simon Sechter

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS Jenn Schneider

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Let us rejoice, for morning has dawned.
A new day is born, and we are newly
alive to enjoy it!

***Congregation: We celebrate the beauty of creation
and the wonder of human family.
We remember those whose love has
shaped our lives, and those whose
struggles for justice and peace have
been unsleeping in spite of
opposition.***

P: We are here, wherever we are, to worship God, to share prayers and give gifts, to pledge ourselves again to God's work in the world.

C: *May God bless us, so that what we do in this time may be honest, sacred, and filled with hope!*

- **CALL TO CONFESSION**

P: The prophet Jeremiah cries to God, "Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me and I shall be saved; for You are my praise."

C: *Confessing our sins is like seeking healing, for when we fall away, our soul is not well.*

P: Let us then ask for mercy and for mending. Let us pray.

- ***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

P: Soon we will hear the climax of the story of Your servant Joseph, O God. We learn of his great forgiveness and the joy of reconciliation. In some ways he is like this unattainable model of dropping grudges and finding Your will amidst personal oppression. How can we reach Joseph's spiritual maturity? We confess that we compare ourselves to others spiritually at times; and, if we fall short, fall into discouraged despair. If our comparison treats us well

in our eyes, we are liable to spiritual arrogance.
Deliver us, O God!

C: May we be as forgiving as Joseph, as gracious as Jesus. We ask You to wash away all the things we have left undone, and things we have done, which have gone against Your desires for us. That includes things we have selfishly said, and those words not said when You wanted us to speak up. May You embrace us as strongly as Joseph, as we pray for reconciliation with You, with Your people, and with Your purposes.

ALL: In the name of the One who gave everything to make this possible, Jesus of Nazareth, we pray. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Paul wrote to Titus, "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all . . . while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who were zealous for good deeds" (2:11, 13-14).

The grace of God, the undeserved open-hearted, pursuing compassion of God we meet in Jesus Christ brings us

forgiveness of our sins by his death on the cross, and both forgiveness and a transformed life for us by his being raised from the dead! In addition to a grateful, merciful life we now live as an offering, let's shout out a moment of praise shall we?

All: Alleluia! Come, Holy Spirit! Amen!

***HYMN:** "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

SSB # 35 (vv. 1, 2, 4)

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
 all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!
 thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824-1908, alt.
 Music: ST. DENIO, Welsh traditional; arr. John Roberts, 1807-1876

WORDS ABOUT OFFERING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Old Testament:

Gospel:

Rich Schneider

Genesis 45:1-15

Matthew 15:10-20

MUSICAL MEDITATION: "Voluntary" by Maurice Green

SERMON

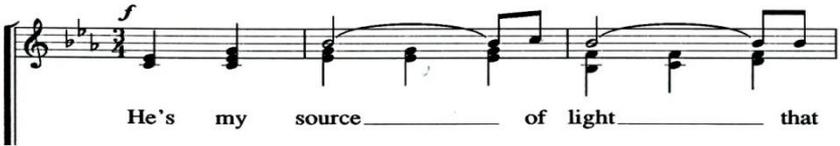
"A Perspective in Providence"

***RESPONSE:** "He's My Source"

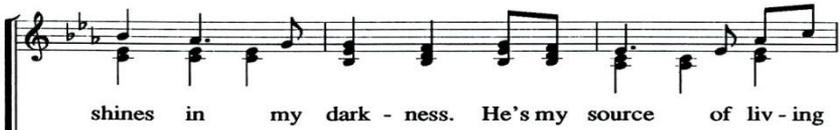
SSB #17

Preceded by these lyrics sung by the Pastor: "Some people are driven by the wind / some are driven by their madness / But I'm driven by the man who had nails driven in his hands."

(Words from Annie Herring, under the copyright license for this song listed in our SSB).



He's my source of light that



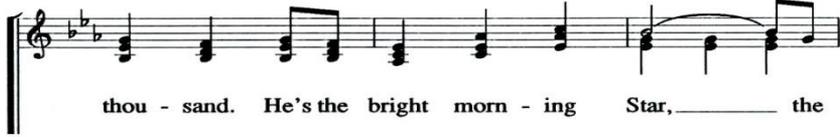
shines in my dark - ness. He's my source of liv - ing



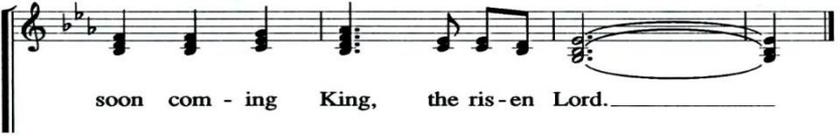
wa - ter that I need ev - 'ry day. He's my



sword and my shield, the fair - est of ten



thou - sand. He's the bright morn - ing Star, the



soon com - ing King, the ris - en Lord.

CALL TO PRAYER

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with your spirit.

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:** "God Be With You Till We Meet Again"

SSB #28 (vv. 1, 3)

1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; by good coun-sels guide, up - hold you,
 2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; ho - ly wings se - cure - ly hide you,
 3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; when life's per - ils thick con - found you,

with a shep - herd's care en - fold you;
 dai - ly man - na still pro - vide you; God be with you till we meet a - gain.
 put un - fail - ing arms a - round you;

Refrain

Till we meet, till we meet, till we
 till we meet. till we meet a - gain.

meet at Je - sus' feet; till we meet, till we
 till we meet, till we meet, till we

meet, God be with you till we meet a - gain.
 meet a - gain,

Text: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1828-1904
 Music: GOD BE WITH YOU. William G. Tomer. 1833-1896

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE:** "God Be With You Till We Meet Again"

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

MINISTER

Rev. Richard Lanford

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Ben Westphal

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Good Morning! Family of God, welcome to this time of worship and fellowship. The peace of the Lord be with you.

To repeat, the Church Council met on Sunday, July 19th and made this decision on regathering: "We will continue to provide worship via YouTube, and record the services on Saturdays. We do not anticipate gathering at St. Peter's for worship before September, and the likelihood of gathering in person for worship will not happen until later in the fall. We endeavor to remain flexible, and monitor this global health crisis, with an eye to the needs of our members and the ministries we support."

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).

But wait, there's another option now, and that is to contribute via Give+ Text message! To give via Give+ Text on your cellular phone, text the amount you want to donate to 844-977-2346, and click on the link in the Reply to enter your credit card information. You will get a text back when your donation is complete. Donations are processed through our secure vendor, Give+ by Vanco. There is a bulletin 'insert' giving you the basics you need to know. Thanks to our Board of Finance and Officers for arranging this! Thank you very much for giving!

Instead of having a second Congregational Meeting like we held last year, reports are due into the Dropbox or emailed to Jenn or Laura by Sunday. We will be sharing the report out to the congregation via email and snail mail sometime next week. There's a separate line in the Drop Box for Council / August where you will find mid-year reports from the Pastor, your church President, Boards, Officers, Committees, and maybe more!

Mission Work! Our life blood and reason-to-be: Our next day to serve at A Just Harvest Community Kitchen is fast approaching -- it's Saturday, August 29th! As we did last May, the Micah 6:8 Committee will be organizing financial support for a curbside meal that the Kitchen prepares. The method we used in May for donations to be made and tracked (to make sure we did or didn't have the needed \$500) was not as useful as it might have been. A member of the Committee created a document that anyone on the internet can access through this link:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/136II525BkJwJdIvvKDvN_MTJAr6mvrNxxkUZ_2VuJbk0/edit?usp=sharing.

You may find it is not easy to sign up on a mobile device which is how some of our members will receive the information. Right now we need around \$150 more dollars in the next couple of weeks so the Kitchen staff can buy the groceries and prepare the food on their schedule.

Pastor will be holding a "New Members / Seekers Class" over Zoom before (or during) the end of the summer. If you are interested in participating, and perhaps later join St. Peter's United Church of Christ, please contact him soon!

HOSPITALIZED: June Peterson remains at Bella Terra, 8425 Waukegan Road, Morton Grove, 60053. Dan's partner Eric is improving at home in Texas; Marty is having therapy a Whitehall of Deerfield. Julie Jernberg has requested prayers for her department manager Sydney Hubbs who's facing serious knee surgery soon and is in pain but still at work. Please remember them in your own prayers!

Rummage Sorting is happening! It is Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. Obviously we are also receiving rummage as well.

Having birthdays this week are Tom Schaller, Rich Miller, Dan Guenther, Elizabeth Hoellerich, and turning 97, Clara Melone. Anniversary celebrators are Ron and Stephanie Lundeen out in Washington, Bonnie and Mark Loach, Barb

and Jim Todd, and Dan and Heather (Schuhrke) O'Hara. God bless you all this week!

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.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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



FAST, EASY GIVING WITH A TEXT

Have you tried our text giving option? In a matter of seconds, you can make a weekly offering or respond to a special appeal.

By giving electronically, you can:

- Donate anytime, anywhere.
- Easy debit/credit card registration through your phone.
- Fast one-time donations or set up recurring gifts.

To donate by text, send your contribution amount to 844-977-2346

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 16, 2020

Genesis 45:1-15

Bold Moves

Holy God,
We know that union with all people is your will for us.
Hear our prayer for re-union.

We pray for re-union across class and economics.
Grant to those who have abundance
the wisdom and courage to share
in order to strengthen those who have less.
Grant to those who live in scarcity,
the strength to organize and speak.
Hear our prayer for re-union.

We pray for re-union across national borders.
Where we have erected walls,
and made political division more important
than human rights, heal us we pray.
Help us to remember that all people,
no matter the color of their skin
or the language they speak
or the opportunities into which they were born,
are your beloved children.
Hear our prayer for re-union.

We pray for re-union among families.
Heal us, we pray, so that we not
Pass the sins of our fathers and mothers
Forward to the next generation.
Send your healing love like a balm
on those families separated
by violence or misunderstanding.
In your name, we pray, Amen.



SCRIPTURES FOR THE CONGREGATION

August 16, 2020

Genesis 45:1 - 15

1Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, “Send everyone away from me.” So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. 2And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. 3Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

4Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. 5And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. 6For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. 7God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. 8So

it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. 9Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. 10You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. 11I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’

12And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. 13You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.” 14Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. 15And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Matthew 15:10 - 20

10Then Jesus called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand: 11it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” 12Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?” 13He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. 14Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind.□ And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.” 15But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.” 16Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding? 17Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? 18But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. 19For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. 20These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”