

**WHEN
ALL
SEEMS
LOST**



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
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OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR
Sunday, August 9, 2020 10:00 AM
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME GUESTS!

* Indicates all who are able are invited to stand

PRELUDE: "Hyfryfol" arr. Chris Rice

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS Jenn Schneider

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 92)

Pastor: It is good to give thanks to the Holy One,

***Congregation: to sing praises to Your name, O
Most High,***

P: to declare Your steadfast love in the
morning

C: ***and Your faithfulness by night.***

ALL: **For You, O God, have made us glad
by Your work!**

- **CALL TO CONFESSION**

P: No matter how young or old we are, fear comes easily to us.

C: Not all fear is bad. But we know it can taint our relationship with God.

P: Agreed. Let us confess to that obstacle's power in our lives, and other ways we depart from God's ways.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (unison)

Loving God, these are hard, uncertain times for us. Will we get sick? Will we get laid off, or find a new position, or will the kids return to in-person learning? Will our money last? Will society truly change for the better, or slide backwards? Fear is behind a lot of our questions. We confess to giving in to fear, and some of that conflict with our faith in Your grace and Lordship. We can be like the disciples on the boat during a storm at night, and seeing Jesus we are dumbstruck, not knowing what to make of Your presence or what You tell us.

Free us from too much worry and fear; renew our soul-strength so our faith will rise to the occasions we must face, so we face them wisely and graciously. Grant us mercy, and the courageous faith we need for the living of these days. Forgive us all the ways we have grieved Your Holy Spirit! In the name of the Risen Christ Jesus we pray. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Speaking to a dispirited, exiled people God said, "I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak . . . I will feed them with justice" (Ezekiel 34:15-16).

Our God is a God of compassion, healing, and seeking-out-love, longing to do what is in God's power to bring us back. Forgiveness is part of what God can do to truly bring us back and restore our relationship with God. This love we know in Jesus Christ crucified and resurrected, and this not only for our own selves but also for the purposes God has created for us! This is fantastic news.

**All: Yes it is! Grace always is. Thanks be to God!
Amen.**

***HYMN:** "Crown Him with Many Crowns" #176(vv. 1, 2, 3)

176

Our Lord Jesus Christ

MATTHEW BRIDGES, 1851

S. M. D.

DIADEMATA
GEORGE J. ELVEY, 1868

Joyously, but with great dignity

1. Crown Him with man - y crowns, The Lamb up - on His throne;
2. Crown Him the Lord of love; Be - hold His hands and side;
3. Crown Him the Lord of peace; Whose power a scap - ter sways
4. Crown Him the Lord of years, The Po - ten - tate of time;

Hark! how the heaven-ly an - them drowns All mu - sic but its own:
Rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, In beau - ty glo - ri - fied:
From pole to pole, that wars may cease, Ab - sorbed in prayer and praise:
Cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, In - ef - fa - bly sub - lime:

A - wake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee, And
No an - gel in the sky Can ful - ly bear that sight, But
His reign shall know no end; And round His pierc - ed feet Fair
All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For Thou hast died for me: Thy

hail Him as thy match-less King Through all e - ter - ni - ty.
down-ward bends His burn-ing eye At mys - ter - ies so bright.
flowers of Par - a - dise ex - tend Their fra - grance ev - er sweet.
praise shall nev - er, nev - er fail Through-out e - ter - ni - ty. A-MEN.

WORDS ABOUT OFFERING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Epistle:

Beth Lanford

Philippians 4: 4-9

Gospel:

Matthew 14: 22-33

MUSICAL MEDITATION: Selected

SERMON

“A Path to Peace”

CALL TO PRAYER (repeat once)

Em G/D Am/C D Em C B7

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me. O

5 Em G/D Am/C D Em B7 Em *Last Time*

Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me. O *Last Time*

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems. The first system contains the first line of the prayer, and the second system contains the second line. Chords are indicated above the staves. The piece ends with a 'Last Time' instruction and a repeat sign.

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;**

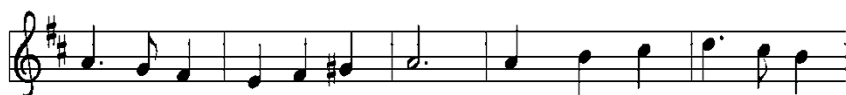
**for Thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever. Amen.**

***HYMN:** "Great is Thy Faithfulness"

SSB #2



- 1 Great is thy faith - ful-ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no
- 2 Sum-mer and win - ter and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon, and
- 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thine own dear



shad-ow of turn-ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com -
stars in their cours-es a - bove join with all na - ture in
pres-ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright



pas-sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.
man - i - fold wit-ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
hope for to - mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be - side!

Refrain



Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by



morn-ing new mer - cies I see; all I have need - ed thy



hand hath pro - vid - ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un - to me.

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866-1960

Music: FAITHFULNESS, William M. Runyan, 1870-1957

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*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

***POSTLUDE:** "Diademata" arr. Charles Callahan

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

MINISTER

Rev. Richard Lanford

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Ben Westphal

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Good Morning! Welcome to worship at St. Peter's United Church of Christ as we gather in the name of our heavenly Father, Jesus our Savior and the life-giving Spirit. Amen.

To repeat, the Church Council met on Sunday, July 19th and made this decision on regathering: "The strong consensus, and then the official vote, was in favor of NOT returning to in person worship at this time. We will NOT be gathering in person today, or the following Sunday either. 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."

Our plans to shift to live-streaming worship when we are back in-person is still our hope but we are increasingly aware of its requirements, including 2 or 3 persons to manage the equipment weekly, and upgrades to certain things that could be pretty expensive. We will keep you posted.

HOSPITALIZED: June Peterson remains at Bella Terra. Please keep her in your prayers! Beth Lanford's brother Dan's partner Eric is now at home recovering in Texas and Marty is at Wesley Place but still has BP and oxygen issues. Please hold them up too.

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!

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_MTJAr6mvrNxkUZ_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 \$250 more dollars in the next couple of weeks so the Kitchen staff can buy the groceries and prepare the food on their schedule.

Pastor wants to hold 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!

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 Carol Burmeister, Kim Loach Bruhn, Olivia Altmayer, Linda Haig's granddaughter Ariana Stateczny, and Elliott Kerbel. We apologize to the Palucks for not getting in their son Clay's first birthday in last

week’s announcements. He was baptized here this past March. Same for Jenn and Jeff Loach, Melissa and Andy Paluck, Gail and Jack Hoellerich and Kim (Loach) and Patrick Bruhn for their anniversaries last week. We have no wedding anniversaries this week.

Our best wishes for God’s blessings go to Sophia Baeza and Moussa Maatouk who were united in holy matrimony here yesterday in a small ceremony (masks were worn). The bride said the clinching factor for having their wedding here was our “Be the Church” banner hanging in the sanctuary!

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.

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



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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

When All Seems Lost

Human trafficking is a real, terrible and often invisible component of our daily life. The United Church of Christ is working to shine light on this hidden human rights crisis.

According to the UCC's justice webpage, https://www.ucc.org/justice_womens-issues_human-trafficking,^{*} "As of 2016, an estimated 24.9 million people were in modern slavery, not including the 15.4 million that were forced into marriage. Traffickers prey on those from vulnerable communities and force them into labor, and/or exploit them into commercial sexual enterprises. The influx of immigrants crossing the border into America are most susceptible to modern slavery, as traffickers use their vulnerability as immigrants as tools to manipulate and coerce.

Trafficking in persons is a crime against humanity and ultimately a sin. Human trafficking denies the values of human life, exposes victims to serious health risks, endangers the mental well-being of victims and impedes the ability of victims to reach their full God-given potential. As Christians, we believe that every human being is created in the image and likeness of the divine Creator, of God. The prophets cried out against the exploitation of the poor and of laborers who are not treated fairly and compensated justly (Job 24:1-12, for example).

The United Church of Christ has consistently upheld the rights and dignity of workers and of women and children, believing that God calls us into community with each other as sisters and brothers, not as exploiters and exploited. The violence done to the physical, psychological and spiritual wellbeing of children and women who are forced into prostitution, the pornography industry, sex tourism and other forms of exploitation are violations of the call of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to love our neighbors as ourselves. The kin-dom of God among us requires us to provide protection for those most vulnerable and to seek conditions which support wholeness and health for everyone."

In today's reading from Genesis, Joseph is sold into slavery by his brothers and trafficked across national borders. For him, this was the first step on the road to a new life, but he needed a lot of helping hands to get him there. May we, as a denomination, as local congregations, and as individuals be that helping hand for those who need it.

^{*}Accessed January 2020. https://www.ucc.org/justice_womens-issues_human-trafficking



SCRIPTURES FOR THE CONGREGATION

August 9, 2020

Philippians 4:4-9

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.”

Matthew 14:22-33

Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind

ceased.

And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."