

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.

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

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OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR
Sunday, August 2, 2020 10:00 AM
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME GUESTS!

* Indicates all who are able are invited to stand

PRELUDE: "Now that the Daylight Fills the Sky"
arr. Carl Schalk

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS Jenn Schneider

CALL TO WORSHIP Annie Noorts

Leader: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

***Congregation: We yearn to be filled with the bread
of heaven.***

L: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

***C: We want to sip life from the cup of
salvation.***

L: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

***C: We have tuned in to give thanks for
the many blessings of life, to
confess our sins, to hear the
Scriptures being read and***

proclaimed, and to partake of the feast where all are fed and no one is turned away.

L: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

C: ***We have gathered where we are to worship God!***

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (unison)

O Holy God, we confess our lack of love. We do not love ourselves nor our neighbors. We pass by suffering and misfortune because of fear or busyness or preoccupation. We hold prejudices against people as deep as those against the Samaritans in Jesus' day.

Heal our pains, amend our faults, and guide us into dangerous compassion, for we pray in the name of Jesus, our most beloved neighbor, who cared for us even to the cross. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Matthew records, "While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said 'Take, eat; this is my body.' Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins'" (Ch. 26).

In Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, God's love has forgiven our sins and replaced them with the Spirit of life, who changes us over time to become more and more like Christ's own Self. That is the good news!

All: Alleluia! Amen.

*HYMN:

"Lift Up Your Hearts!"

#27 (vv. 1, 2, 3)

27

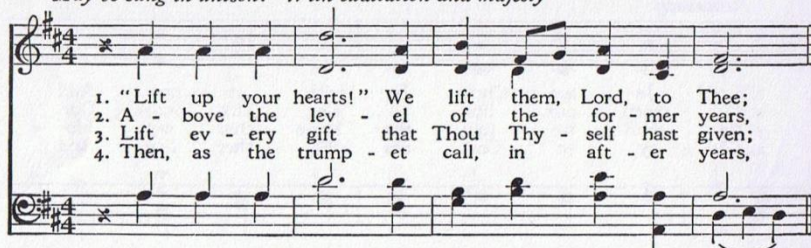
Beginning of Worship

HENRY MONTAGUE BUTLER, 1881

10. 10. 10. 10.

WOODLANDS
W. GREATOREX, 1916

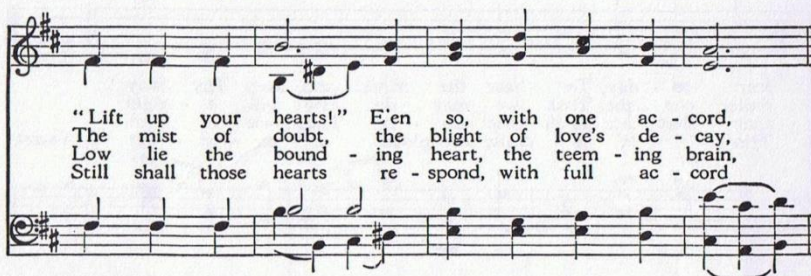
May be sung in unison. With exaltation and majesty



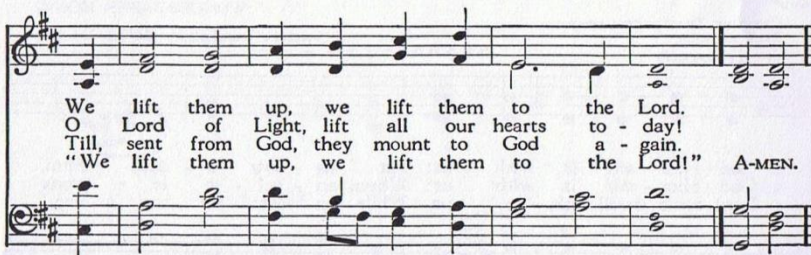
1. "Lift up your hearts!" We lift them, Lord, to Thee;
2. A - bove the lev - el of the for - mer years,
3. Lift ev - ery gift that Thou Thy - self hast given;
4. Then, as the trump - et call, in aft - er years,



Here at Thy feet none oth - er may we see;
The mire the sin, the weight of guilt - y fears,
Low lies the best till lift - ed up to heaven:
"Lift up your hearts!" rings peal - ing in our ears,



"Lift up your hearts!" E'en so, with one ac - cord,
The mist of doubt, the blight of love's de - cay,
Low lie the bound - ing heart, the teem - ing brain,
Still shall those hearts re - spond, with full ac - cord



We lift them up, we lift them to the Lord.
O Lord of Light, lift all our hearts to - day!
Till, sent from God, they mount to God a - gain.
"We lift them up, we lift them to the Lord!" A-MEN.

Music by permission of Mr. W. Greatorex.

WORDS ABOUT OFFERING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Hebrew Scriptures:

Genesis 32:22-31

Gospel:

Matthew 14:13-21

MUSICAL MEDITATION: "O Perfect Love"


Joseph Barnby

SERMON "Wrestling & Disorientation"

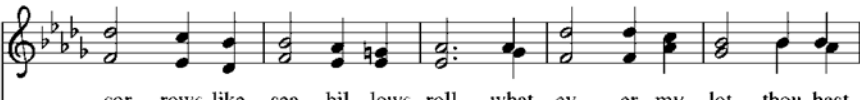
The Rev. Brittany Caine-Conley

***HYMN** "Peace Like A River (It is well)"

SSB # 24 (vv. 1, 2, 4)



1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when
 2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let
 3 He lives—oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my
 4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the




sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast
 this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my
 sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I
 clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.
 help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
 bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
 Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.

Refrain



It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.
 It is well with my soul.

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828–1888

Music: VILLE DU HAVRE, Philip P. Bliss, 1838–1876

PASTORAL AND SILENT PRAYERS

***HYMN:** "Let us Talents and Tongues Employ" SSB #3



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:
2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,
3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im man u el) ev 'ry where!

Refrain



Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Music: LINSTAD, Jamaican folk tune, adapt. Doreen Potter, 1925-1980

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Exhortation and Invitation

Prayers of Thanksgiving

Prayer of Consecration (responsive)

L: Eternal God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts, that Christ may be present as we share this meal, that our eyes may be opened and that we may recognize him in our midst.

All: **Bless this bread and cup and bless us, that in the fullness of time every cup will be filled to overflowing, every table will be one of welcome, and every life will be filled with**

**abundant love. In Christ's name we pray.
Amen.**

**The Words of Institution
Participation**

***CLOSING PRAYER**

All: God who is with us, thank you for the ways you show up in our midst. May your Spirit of solidarity lead us through disorientation and toward transformation, so that all things may be made well. And now we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us, saying. . .

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.**

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

P: Be transformed in the desert, you people of God

C: We will seek compassion and transformation

P: Be convicted of justice, you people of God

C: We will seek solidarity in the way of Christ

***POSTLUDE:** "Fugue in G" Dietrich Buxtehude

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

MINISTER	Rev. Richard Lanford
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Good Morning! The Lord invites all people, "Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters" (Isaiah 55:1, NRSV). So we gather to quench our spiritual thirst with the Living Water. Welcome.

We welcome back the Night Ministry's Rev. Brittany Caine-Conley! She is its Community and Congregational Relations Coordinator and makes her second visit to St. Peter's U.C.C., although the visit this time is via virtual worship and YouTube! Welcome, Brittany!

Today is a Communion Sunday! Please remember to have Communion elements ready when the service starts so you don't have to scurry away and miss something.

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 on August 9 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 is now at Bella Serra for physical therapy and care (not Oakton Pavilion, where she had been before suffering a major gash in her thigh there, requiring 20 some stitches). Please keep her in your prayers! Beth Lanford's brother Dan's partner Eric is now in a physical therapy/rehab place in Texas and Ginger's friend Marty is at Wesley Place but still has BP and oxygen issues. Please hold them up too. This may be out dated as Pastor prepared it before leaving July 23rd.

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 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. Laurie Mitchell is scheduled to open on Tuesday and Beth Sterba is scheduled for Wednesday.

Having birthdays this week are Sharon Johnson. Erik Altmayer, Rich Steegmueller, Marlene Russell, Kathy Zipperer and young Arthur Daniel Svenson. Anniversaries are being celebrated by Jack and Gail Hoellerich, Jennifer and Jeff Loach, and Andy and Melissa (Erickson) Paluck. May blessings be upon all of you on your birth-anniversary / wedding-anniversary days!

Pastor Richard returns from vacation Wednesday, August 5th. He is taking Tuesday the 4th as a day off. If pastoral services are needed or desired while he is away, contact Laura Olson, Jenn Schneider or Judy Paige. They have the contact info for some pastors who are willing to be contacted in emergencies while he's gone.

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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

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 2, 2020

Matthew 14:13-21

Face to Face

“(Jesus) took the five loaves of bread and the two fish, looked up to heaven, blessed them and broke the loaves apart and gave them to his disciples. Then the disciples gave them to the crowds.”

-Matthew 14:19, Common English Bible Translation

Jesus blessed the bread before he shared it and the result was abundance for himself, his disciples, and the strangers who flocked around them. How might we expand our vision if we gave thanks every time we ate? Try one of these simple meal blessings or another one of your choosing before your next meal.

Prayer for breakfast:

Thank you for this breakfast food.

Strengthen me/us to do your good.

All this day and all the next.

Remind me/us that Your love is best.

Hallelujah!

Prayer over lunch:

God, bless this food.

Bless this pause in the busy business of the day.

Strengthen me/us to work for your justice

for those who don't have enough to eat

or who eat alone today. Amen.

Prayer over dinner:

Jesus, you met your friends around a table.

Meet me/us here and help me/us to hear your promises:

I am/We are forgiven and you are with me/us always. Amen.

Prayer over a snack:

Creator God, you made everything, large and small.

You made it all and called it good -

every rock and person, plant and animal,

and this little snack. Thank you. Amen.



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

SCRIPTURES FOR THE CONGREGATION

8 / 2 / 2020

Our first reading is from the 32nd chapter of Genesis, verses 22 through 31. Jacob and his entourage have been returning to his old home country, and has heard that his brother Esau is sending his own people to him tomorrow. Fearing the worst, Jacob makes a move before this meeting, and the story picks up there.

Genesis 32:22-31

The same night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak.

When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob."

Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have

prevailed." Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him.

So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

This story happens right after Jesus has found out that his friend and relative John the Baptist has been beheaded by King Herod.

Matthew 14:13-21

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick.

When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat."

They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full.

And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.