



**A HOUSE
DIVIDED**

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.com/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
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OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR
Sunday, July 12, 2020 10:00 AM
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME GUESTS!

* Indicates all who are able are invited to stand

PRELUDE: Chorale and Variation on
"Warum sollt' ich mich denn grämen" by Johann Walter

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS
THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS Jenn Schneider

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: God's Word is a lamp to our feet and a
light to our path. Open yourselves this
day to receive the Word.

***Congregation: We have committed ourselves to
follow the Light. We tune in now to
be instructed by God's law.***

P: Minds set on the flesh, Paul said, are
hostile to God. Let us, therefore, open
ourselves to the Spirit.

C: *We reach out for more than we can see and hear. We long to know Love's embrace deep within.*

P: The Spirit of God raised Jesus from the dead. The Spirit dwells in you and offers you new life.

C: *We praise God, who saves us and gives us hope. God cares for the earth and for each one of us.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

P: We have gathered, wherever we are, to find release from the cares of life which sap our energy and depress our spirits. We have come seeking deeper roots for our faith and the ability to survive and thrive amid life's thorny pathways.

C: *We open all the hidden places of our lives to the light of God's forgiving love, that we might be cleansed, healed, and set free from sin. God knows our need for this time of confession. Let us pray.*

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

We admit, great God, to falling into the sin of Esau. We lose the ability to judge correctly; we are eager to do, say, or take what we can without much thought for the cost, the next day, or how our choices may hurt other people. We disregard the value of a future that is in line for us, even a future with You, when confronted with a powerful

temptation which meets our current hunger. We have acted selfishly, recklessly, getting joy for the time being but trading away things or relationships we regret deeply later. Heal us, Jesus! Cleanse our minds and hearts, Holy Spirit! Give us patience and wisdom. In Christ's powerful name we pray. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

"If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for us all, will he not also give us all things with him? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? . . . Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? . . . I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:31ff).

Thanks to the love of God in Jesus crucified and risen, our sins are forgiven. Amen!

***HYMN:**

"There is a Balm in Gilead"

SSB #23

Refrain

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;

there is a balm in Gil-c-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.

1 Some - times I feel dis - cour - aged and think my work's in vain.
2 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can - not pray like Paul.
3 Don't ev - er be dis - cour - aged, for Je - sus is your friend;

Refrain

but then the Ho - ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.
you can tell the love of Je - sus and say, "He died for all."
and if you lack for knowl - edge, he'll ne'er re - fuse to lend.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: BALMIN GILEAD, African American spiritual

WORDS ABOUT OFFERINGS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Old Testament:

Marcia Hilliard
Genesis 25: 19-34

Epistle:

Romans 8: 1-11

MUSICAL MEDITATION: "Slane" arr. Charles Callahan

HOMILY "Esau, Inheritances, Good News"

HYMN*"Be Thou My Vision"**

SSB #20

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 4 Light of my soul, al - ter vic - to - ry won,

naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!

thou my best thought by day and by night,
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, thou my high tow'r,
 thou, and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall.

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light,
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish 8th–10th cent.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.
 Music: S. ANÉ, Irish tune

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: "A Mighty Fortress is our God" #281 (vv. 1, 3, 4)**

281

The Christian Life

MARTIN LUTHER, 1529
Tr. FREDERICK H. HEDGE, 1853

8. 7. 8. 7. 6. 6. 6. 6. 7.

EIN' FESTE BURG

MARTIN LUTHER, 1529

May be sung in unison. In majestic style

1. A might - y fort - ress is our God, A bul - wark nev - er fail - ing;
2. Did we in our own strength con - fide, Our striv - ing would be los - ing;
3. And though this world, with dev - ils filled, Should threaten to un - do us;
4. That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, No thanks to them, a - bid - eth;

Our help - er He a - mid the flood Of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing.
Were not the right man on our side, The man of God's own choos - ing.
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to tri - umph through us.
The Spir - it and the gifts are ours Through Him who with us sid - eth.

For still our an - cient foe Doth seek to work us woe; His craft and power are
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Je - sus, it is He, Lord Sab - a - oth His
The Prince of dark - ness grim, We trem - ble not for Him; His rage we can en -
Let goods and kin - dred go, This mor - tal life al - so; The bod - y they may

great; And, armed with cru - el hate, On earth is not his e - qual.
name, From age to age the same, And He must win the bat - tle.
dure, For lo! his doom is sure, One lit - tle word shall fell him.
kill; God's truth a - bid - eth still, His king - dom is for - ev - er. A - MEN

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** (from First John 3)

P: "Little children," John wrote, "let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.

C: *And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.*

P: All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them.

All: **And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us." Amen!**

***POSTLUDE:** "Ein feste Burg" arr. Charles Callahan

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

MINISTER

Rev. Richard Lanford

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Ben Westphal

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Good Morning! Isaiah declares that the word of God will surely accomplish God's purpose (55:11). May we eagerly hear God's message so we might also live it. Welcome to worship.

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!

On June 21st, the Church Council revisited our plans for eventual reopening of Saint Peter's to our members and friends for worship and meetings. The bottom line is, if our area does not go backwards in the metrics of the growth of COVID-19, our tentative, cautious plan is to gather as a congregation for a prayer service on our front lawn Sunday, August 9th (probably after the Farmers Market and New Life Church are gone) with no definite time set yet. Then we hope to return to the very sanitized sanctuary and building for 10 AM worship on August 16th. This decision will be revisited at the Council meeting next Sunday, as will our decision to continue keeping the offices closed for another month.

The Micah 6:8 Committee plus 3 others continue the Wednesday 6:30 PM Zoom sessions with the UCC's "White Privilege: Let's Talk" curriculum.

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!

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: Shari Meggs (now living in Seattle), Jeremy Steegmueller, Sydney Kerbel and Dorothy Taylor's granddaughter Mary Taylor. **Celebrating anniversaries today are** Gregory and Gail (Peterson) Thomas, Beth and Richard Lanford, and later this week Beth and Paul Brzozowski, Eric and Lisa (Schuhrke) Martinek and John and Gail (Dennis) Balling.

The Board of Elders had a conference call meeting last Thursday at 4 PM.

HOSPITALIZED: June Peterson is at Oakton Pavilion for physical therapy for walking and strength (not Oakton Arms, where her apartment is). Please keep her in your prayers! Beth Lanford's brother Dan's partner Eric is now in a physical therapy / rehab place in Texas. Please hold them up too.

Please keep in your prayers Jennifer Castillo, Maribel Powers, Angela Washek Kuras and 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!

According to the schedule next Sunday's lector is Barb Todd.

We do have Guest Preachers for July 26th and August 2nd! Coming to St. Peter's for the first time is the Rev. Catherine Watkins, a member of First Congregational U.C.C., Evanston and engaged in ministry and agency work with those living with mental health challenges. Then on August 2nd we get to enjoy again the Rev. Brittany Caine-Conley of the Night Ministry!

Pastor is interested in exploring having a “New Members / Seekers Class” over Zoom before the end of the summer. If you are interested in participating in this, and perhaps later join St. Peter’s United Church of Christ, please contact him!

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CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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

July 12, 2020

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

A House Divided

The story begins,

“Listen! A sower went out to sow...”

And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up...

There was the time I did not get very far. I had just started on the path, just begun to follow Christ, when I got scared and stalled out. I was eaten up by worry and doubt.

Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away...

There was a time when I believed if only I studied or thought enough, I would be able to understand Christ’s way. I did not know that Christ’s way had to be grounded in my heart as well as my head. My faith withered away.

Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them.

Another time, I tried to turn toward Christ, but became distracted. It wasn’t too long before I was choking on the expectation of our consumerist culture and my own grasping heart.

Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

And yet again, I arrived in a community, a congregation like this one. Sometimes there were weeds and rocks. But like rich soil, that community nurtured me, helped me to grow strong in my faith.

Let anyone with ears listen!

We aren’t, any of us, only one thing. Most of us have had all of these experiences at one time or another. Let this be our prayer: “Whether we get carried away or wither, suffocate or grow strong, help us to remember that you are with us always, Holy God. Amen.”



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

SCRIPTURES FOR THE CONGREGATION

July 12th, 2020

GENESIS 25:19-34

"These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she was barren; and the LORD granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived.

The children struggled together within her; and she said, "If it is to be this way, why do I live?" So she went to inquire of the LORD.

And the LORD said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples born of you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the elder shall serve the younger."

When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!" (Therefore he was called Edom.)

Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright."

Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?"

Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright."

ROMANS 8:1-11

"There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is

hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law--indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you."