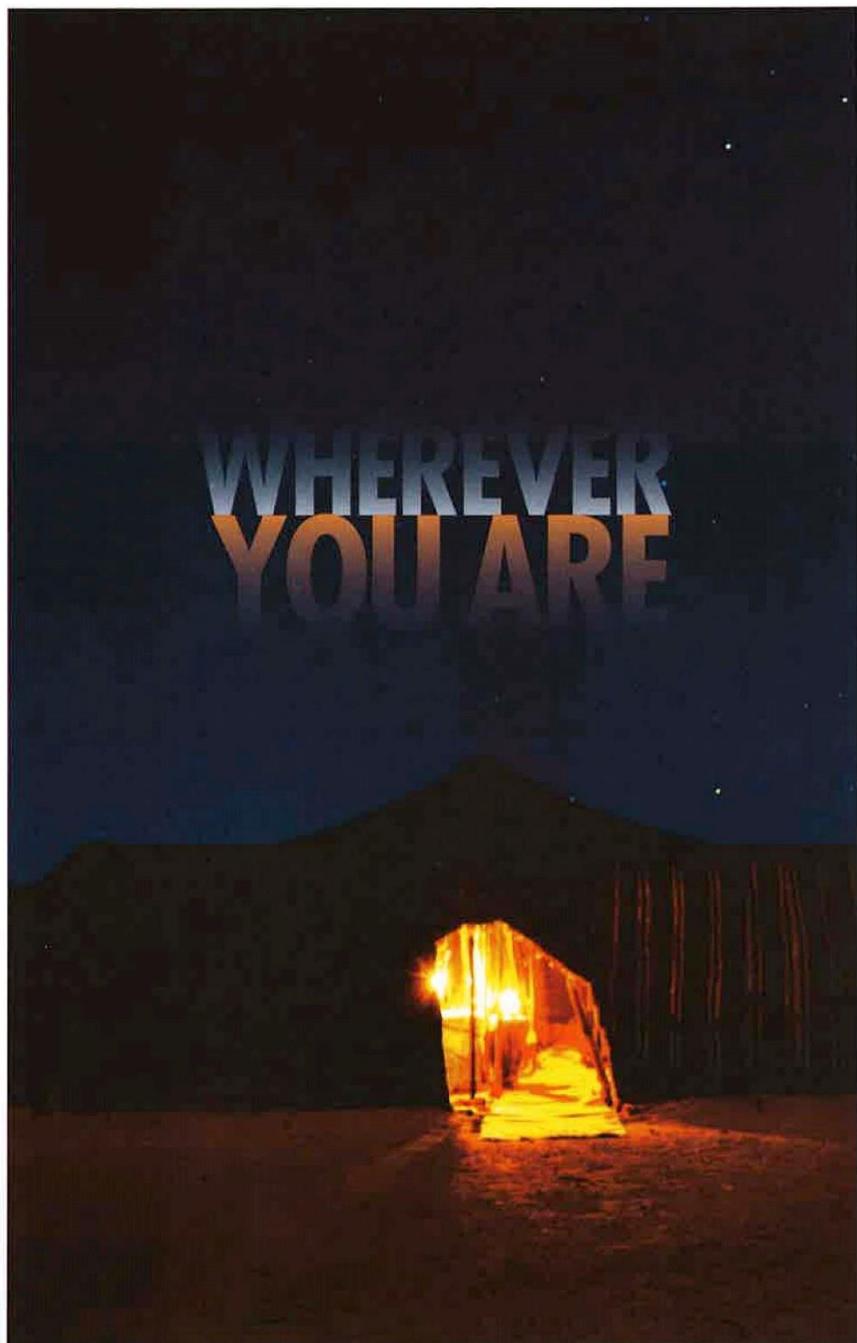


WHEREVER
YOU ARE



Welcome to St Peter's UCC In-Person and Livestream Virtual Worship Service! Subscribe to our **YouTube Channel** to catch a new service at 10 am each Sunday! We also share a **podcast** weekly on our website of the scripture readings and sermon. The podcast can also be found on most podcast catchers & platforms, under "The Redheaded Preacher." Give us a like and 5-star rating to help others find us!

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, membership, 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 several 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:

- **Text Your Gift.** Text the amount you want to donate to **844-997-2346**.
- **PayPal.** Visit [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.
- **Vanco Give+ App.** 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), select your donation frequency, amount, and add payment info. There is also an option here to offset the processing fee.
- **Mail a Check.** 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

Our network name is: ATTUNITEDCHURCH; Pass:
UNITEDCHURCH8166

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
www.stpeteruccskokie.org
847-673-8166

OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR
Sunday, July 18, 2021, 10:00 AM
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME GUESTS!

* Indicates all who are able are invited to stand

PRELUDE "A Festive Piece" by Leuben

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS Jenn Schneider

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Center minds and bodies in holy space.

Congregation: ***We center ourselves, breathing in the Spirit of God.***

P: Center hopes and dreams in holy time.

C: ***We center ourselves, breathing in the Word of God.***

P: Center focus and energy in holy life.

C: ***We center ourselves, breathing in the love of God!***

***RESPONSE:** "Gathered Here in the Mystery of this Hour"

(sing 2x)

Text and music: Phil Porter, 1990

The musical notation is written on two staves in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive. The first staff contains the first two phrases, and the second staff contains the next two phrases. The lyrics are: "Gath-ered here in the mys-tery of this hour, gath-ered here in one strong bod - y, gath-ered here in the strug-gle and the power, Spir - it draw near." The numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4 are placed above the first note of each phrase.

This chant may be sung as a round.

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

We hear in the Scriptures, O God, Your anger with those who destroy and scatter what You want to keep together and whole. In our land, or workplace, home or elsewhere, we admit to sometimes contributing to divisions between people, people whom you long to be united. We admit to not always believing in our hidden hearts that all of Your disciples are one in Jesus Christ, but instead nurse biases, self-righteousness, or resentments. We need to be healed into more mature, generous and receptive followers of Jesus Christ and members of His Church, in whose name for forgiveness and change we humbly pray. Amen.

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

“Also after supper, Jesus took the cup, saying ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood

poured out for the forgiveness of sins.”

Friends, God is more ready to forgive than we are to confess.

God is more loyal to us than we are to God.

In Jesus Christ, given even broken for us, our sins are forgiven.

There is in this place a new covenant of grace, accompanied by the Holy Spirit to bind us into it! In claiming the stunning good news of reconciliation and forgiveness, let the congregation say . . .

ALL: Thanks be to God.

***HYMN:** "Heaven and Earth"

#45 (vv. 1,2,3)

45

From Psalm xix
 JOACHIM NEANDER, 1650-1680
May be sung in unison. With spirit

GOTT SEI DANK DURCH ALLE WELT
 7. 7. 7. 7. Freylinghausen's Gesangbuch, Halle, 1704

1. Heaven and earth, and sea and air, All their Mak - er's praise de - clare;
 2. See the glo - rious orb of day Break - ing through the clouds his way;
 3. See how He hath ev - ery - where Made this earth so rich and fair;
 4. Lord, great won - ders work - est Thou! To Thy sway all crea - tures bow;

Wake, my soul, a - wake and sing: Now thy grate - ful prais - es bring.
 Moon and stars with sil - very light Praise Him through the si - lent night.
 Hill and vale and fruit - ful land, All things liv - ing, show His hand.
 Write Thou deep - ly in my heart What I am, and what Thou art. A - MEN.

WORDS ABOUT OFFERINGS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Barb Todd

The Old Testament:

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Epistle:

Ephesians 2:11-22

MUSICAL MEDITATION "A Simple Song"

by Giaonotti

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**

SERMON: "He is our Peace: The New Humanity"

***HYMN:** "In Christ there is no East or West" #406
 (You may wish to sing in v.2, line 2, "close binding humankind"
 instead of "all mankind." In verse 3, line 1, "members of the
 faith" instead of "brothers of the faith" and line 2 "as God's
 child" instead of "as a son.")

406
 JOHN OXENHAM, 1908 C. M. ST. PETER
In moderate time ALEXANDER R. REINAGLE, 1836

1. In Christ there is no East or West, In Him no South or North;
 2. In Him shall true hearts ev-ery-where Their high com-mun-ion find;
 3. Join hands, then, broth-ers of the faith, What-e'er your race may be.
 4. In Christ now meet both East and West, In Him meet South and North;

But one great fel-low-ship of love Through-out the whole wide earth.
 His serv-ice is the gold-en cord Close bind-ing all man-kind.
 Who serves my Fa-ther as a son Is sure-ly kin to me.
 All Christ-ly souls are one in Him Through-out the whole wide earth. A-MEN.

Words from *Bees in Amber*. Used by permission of the American Tract Society.

***CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

P: Go in peace,

C: *Keep the faith,*

P: Love one another,

C: *Serve the Lord!*

P: And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,

C: *and the love of God,*

P: And the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Amen.

C: *Amen!*

***POSTLUDE:**

“Walk in the Light”

S. Pethel

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

MINISTER

Rev. Richard Lanford

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Ben Westphal

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to worship! Jesus urged his disciples, “Come away ... and rest a while” (Mark 6:31). He calls us also to leave our busyness for a time of Sabbath. Welcome to worship and rest.

We are always grateful for any and all offerings to the church! They too are a very big part of our ability to remain here for you and our community.

Pastor Richard leaves on his 13-day vacation Thursday the 22nd, and returns to the office on Wednesday, August 4th.

Having birthdays this week are A. J. Tarzian, Kaitlin Garcia and Justin Mitchell. May God bless all these!

This month of July has 5 Saturdays -- that means it is our turn to partner with the staff at the Community Kitchen of A Just Harvest for our 'turn to serve' on Saturday, July 31st. Each time since COVID restrictions came into place, we have not been cooking the sloppy joes and bringing them in, and then purchasing the rest of the meal we are responsible for, but have ask for financial commitments beforehand which accumulate to \$500 for their curbside service. ***We have raised about \$480.00, we just need \$20.00 more!***

The deadline for articles to be in the August Announcer are DUE TOMORROW. Please if you have something to share or report, do not make Laura have to call and wait for you to submit it after the deadline.

Rummage Sorting Openers for this upcoming week are:
Monday 7/19 - 6:30-8:30 Laurie; Wednesday 7/21 - 6:30-8:30 Carol; Friday 7/23 - 10-Noon Sharon.

The deadline for articles to be in the August Announcer are DUE tomorrow, July19th. Please if you have something to share or report, do not make Laura have to call and wait for you to submit it after the deadline.

Pastor's "The Redheaded Preacher," can be found anywhere you listen to podcasts! Filled with prayer, thoughts, Sunday's scripture reading and sermon, this podcast is a great way to reinforce what you're learning weekly, and help you pass the time when doing chores, or walking, or taking a drive. 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. Check it out!

Wider but still local Church News: Christ U.C.C., Des Plaines, lost its long-term pastor Rev. Virginia Ericson to retirement. Now serving in an interim role there is pastor Gilberto Martinez, who is a Member in Discernment of the Chicago Metropolitan Association for ordination. Before one is ordained, and after one has gone through the CMA's procedures of preparation for it, the last step of approval is the Ecclesiastical Council. Although Pastor Richard cannot attend due to being out of state for vacation, Pastor Gilbert's Ecclesiastical Council will be held on Saturday, July 24th, via Zoom, at 11 AM. The presence of lay church members is more vital than clergy participation, for getting a quorum to conduct the event. Please, if someone is willing and interested in representing St. Peter's U.C.C., Skokie, for this young man's last requirement toward ordination, please contact our Pastor Richard before he leaves. You will be asked to read his ordination paper ahead of time, which will be on-line at the CMA website and can also be emailed to you directly.

The 33rd General Synod of our United Church of Christ is going on right now, and goes through July 20th. It is held via Zoom! If anyone wants the link, tell Pastor and he'll email it to you. Among the speakers this year are new Sojourners President Adam Russell Taylor. 50 workshops covering topics from privilege to preserving our planet, from opioid addiction to workshops centering on the youth of the church.

According to our schedule the Lay liturgist / Lector next Sunday is Mark Loach.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

PRESIDENT	Jenn Schneider
VICE-PRESIDENT	Judy Paige
TREASURER	Chad McCoy
SECRETARY	Carolyn Kuechler
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Marcia Hilliard

Wherever You Are

Today's scripture tells the story of the Ark of the Covenant, the holy place where scripture was kept (and kept moving) in ancient times. The ark helped the people to see that God's Word was on the move. Like our ancestors, our modern interpretation of and witness to God is not confined to our church buildings.

For example, pastor Oby Ballinger of Edina Morningside Community Church in Edina, Minnesota was heartbroken at the unnecessary discomfort caused to those who lost access to a driver's license due to immigration status. He took the good news out of the church building, and into his local legislature, delivering the following message of faith and justice:

"...In my ministry I have seen the grief and loss caused when a driver's license is taken away. Without a license, one person has to settle for the minimum wage job that's within walking distance. Another has lost the freedom to attend worship or get groceries independently. Children become chaperones as their parents talk about the loss of dignity that comes without a license. None of these people are new to Minnesota, but theirs is the experience of any immigrant who was here when drivers' licenses were taken away, causing untold grief, job-loss, and harm to human decency.

We start worship every Sunday by saying, "No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here." We do so not because it's a politically-correct, warm-and-fuzzy thing to say. We do so because the God we follow and serve has made all people welcome, has made us welcome, and has called us to offer that welcome to every person in Christ's name. Like Jesus, we believe each person is made in the image of God with creativity, purpose and joy, regardless of what they look like, where they were born, or what boundaries they have crossed or stayed inside. Indeed, our Savior broke laws and fearful customs that denied God's image in others by denying them health, dignity, and safety. He healed on the Sabbath, ate with the disrespected, spoke with outcasts, and caring for those who were not like him. Christ taught us that the greatest commandment—the purpose of all the other laws—is to love God, and love your neighbor as yourself.

It is past time to restore the right to drive to immigrants who bear the image of God just as you and I do. The current law must change, so that the higher law of honoring God's image in each person can be fulfilled. "No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here." God has made it so; let us follow."



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

SCRIPTURES FOR THE CONGREGATION

July 18, 2021

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD.

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Ephesians 2:11-22

So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called "the uncircumcision" by those who are called "the circumcision"—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands— remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place

of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it.

So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.