



Holy Welcome

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 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](#) 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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St. Peter's United Church of Christ
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OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR
Sunday, June 28, 2020 10:00 AM
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME GUESTS!

* Indicates all who are able are invited to stand

PRELUDE: "Your Love, O God, Is Broad"
by Las Åke Lundberg and Anders Frostenson

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS Jenn Schneider

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 67:1-3)

Pastor: "May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make His face to shine upon us,

***Congregation: that Your way may be known upon
earth, Your saving power among all
nations.***

P: Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all
the peoples praise You,"

***C: and today let the praise begin with
us!***

CALL TO CONFESSION

P: These days, O Lord, have reminded us that the quest for a more just world has a long way yet to travel. Today we remember that also applies to fairness for LGBTQ+ persons.

C: The urgency for broad and deep shalom presses at the doors and windows of our spirits!

P: Wanting and needing to do our part to change, let us confess our sins in the name of Jesus the Christ.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Great God, the world is full of worry, agitation, questions and animosity! For this, we offer our lament. We also confess our complicity, for our iniquities include apathy, inaction, fear and lack of knowledge of Your words through the prophets and Jesus. We easily reduce things to partisan or cultural terms instead of human terms. We need You to help us reframe our perceptions and our questions. We confess too our unwelcoming acts and attitudes, our passivity, lack of compassion and of understanding, as regards our LGBTQ human family and Christians. Forgive us, and create in us new hearts and minds, grounded in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

"For thus says the high and lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with those who are contrite and humble in

spirit, to revive the spirits of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite . . . I will heal them” (Isaiah 57:15, 18a). When God forgives us and revives our souls again to follow the Way, we are healed inside to do our part in bringing healing outside to others. In the name of Jesus our crucified and risen Lord, God’s love forgives our sins and sends the Spirit to heal and transform us. Alleluia! Amen.

***HYMN:** "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"
#476 (vv. 1 and 3)

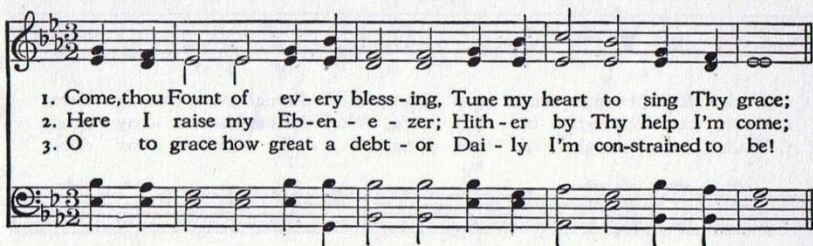
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Miscellaneous Hymns

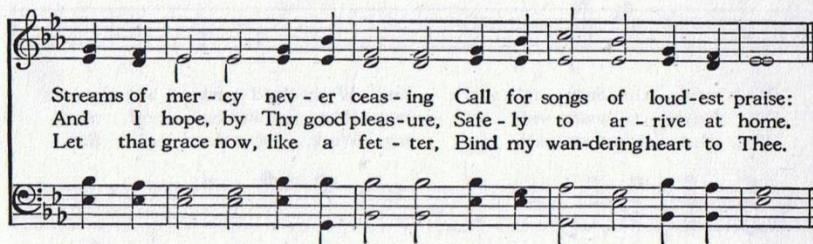
ROBERT ROBINSON, 1758

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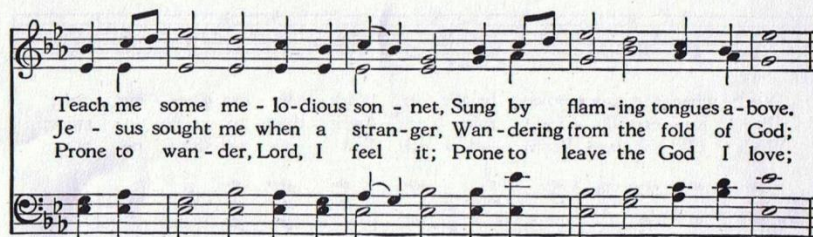
NETTLETON
JOHN WYETH, 1812



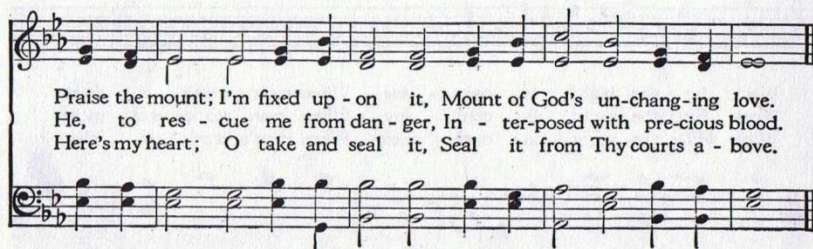
1. Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
2. Here I raise my Eb-en - e - zer; Hith-er by Thy help I'm come;
3. O to grace how great a debt - or Dai - ly I'm con-strained to be!



Streams of mer - cy nev - er ceas - ing Call for songs of loud-est praise:
And I hope, by Thy good pleas-ure, Safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, Bind my wan-dering heart to Thee.



Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, Sung by flam-ing tongues a - bove.
Je - sus sought me when a stran-ger, Wan-dering from the fold of God;
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; Prone to leave the God I love;



Praise the mount; I'm fixed up - on it, Mount of God's un-chang-ing love.
He, to res - cue me from dan - ger, In - ter - posed with pre-cious blood.
Here's my heart; O take and seal it, Seal it from Thy courts a - bove.

WORDS ABOUT OFFERINGS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Old Testament:

Mark Loach

Genesis 22:1-14

Epistle:

Romans 5: 1-8

MUSICAL MEDITATION: “Ubi Caritas”

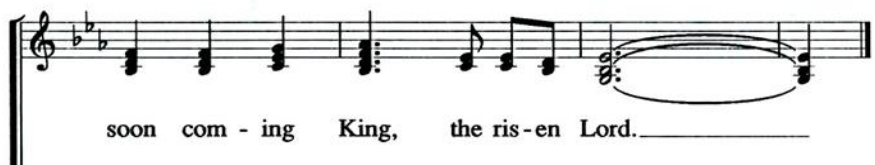
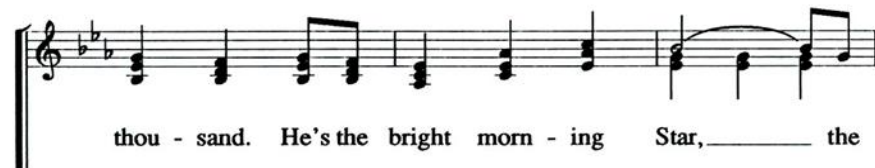
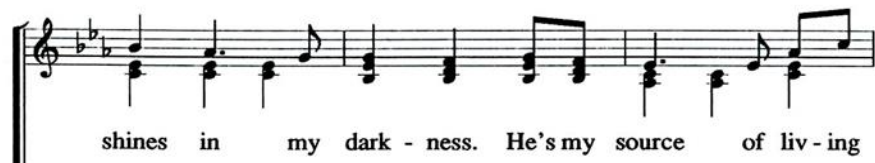
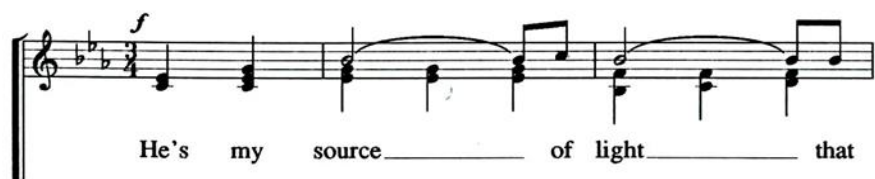
arr. Callahan

GOSPEL:

Matthew 10: 40-42

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

SSB #17



*** AFFIRMATION OF ST. PETER'S U.C.C. OPEN AND AFFIRMING COVENANT** (read in unison)

We the parishioners of St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Skokie, make before God and ourselves, a promise to live our daily lives with love, honor and respect, believing that since we're all made in God's image, all people are created equal. And thus, all people are to be treated, loved and welcomed equally, regardless of gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, creed, color, race, economic status, or physical/mental ability. We therefore welcome all people to share our Church for the purposes of worship, marriage, baptism, funeral and fellowship, with full participation in the life and ministries of the Church, asking that those who come have no intent to do harm and welcome others to our church as well. People shall be embraced with love and the knowledge that we are all one in the eyes of God. Amen.

SERMON "Testing Positive for Faith"

***HYMN** "When Abraham Went Up"
(Sing to the tune of "The God of Abraham Praise")

**When Abraham went up to offer you his son
O God, we grieve to think of what he might have
done.**

**And yet we know it's true: to follow has a price.
To do what we are called to do means sacrifice.**

**The sacrifice that day was not a father's boy,
But being willing to obey and bring you joy.
O Lord, what you desire won't rise to you above
In violent act or smoke or fire; it's found in love.**

**The way to worship you is with an open hand —
With willingness to gladly do what you have
planned.
You call us to let go, to let you be our guide,
For when we do we'll surely know that you
provide.**

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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:** "There is Room in God's Great Welcome"
(Sing to the tune of "What a Friend we have in Jesus")

There is room in God's great welcome; See! The doors are open wide!

Here on earth as in God's heaven, hear the call to come inside!

There is so much room for difference — men and women, gay and straight.

In God's love, the rooms are countless, but there is no room for hate.

There is room in our good nation if we stand on justice-ground.

God has made a good creation; colors, cultures all abound.

Welcome, sister! Welcome, brother! All those yearning to breathe free!

There is room for one another but no room for bigotry.

There is room for understanding, for the outcast and the poor;

For the Christian, Jew and Muslim — there is room for these and more.

For the people on the fringes, for the ones with long career,

There is room for building bridges, but there is no room for fear.

**There is room in faithful churches for the wounded
and oppressed:**

**Women who've been told they're worthless,
refugees who feel distressed,**

**Immigrants who fear the future, people scorned
and pushed and shoved.**

**God, may we seek what you treasure: may we all
make room for love.**

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by permission).

***CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

C: Amen.

***POSTLUDE:**

“Nettleton”

arr. Callahan

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

MINISTER

Rev. Richard Lanford

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Ben Westphal

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Good Morning, Welcome! Let us join with the psalmist who declares: "I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever" (Psalm 89:1, ESV).

About today's prelude: In considering the music for this Sunday, a verse from one of my favorite Scandinavian hymns popped out to me:

"But there are walls that keep us all divided;

We fence each other in with hate and war.

Fear is the bricks-and-mortar of our prison,

Our pride of self, the prison coat we wear.

Your love, O God, is broad like beach and meadow, wide as the wind, and our eternal home."

God's love knows no walls, or borders, or boundaries. I hope when we meet again, that I may introduce this hymn to all of you! In my opinion, it is one we all should know!

-Ben Westphal, Music Director

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!

Last Sunday the Church Council revisited our plans for eventual reopening of Saint Peter's to its 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 on July 19th, as will our decision to continue keeping the offices closed for another month. There is more to share but that will be in an email from our Church President letting you know “the full” of the Council decision about this.

HOSPITALIZED: June Peterson remains at Advocate Lutheran General following her ankle surgery just a week ago. Beth’s brother Dan’s longtime companion Eric Keiser remains hospitalized following spine surgery last week. Marty is back at Wesley on Foster for rehab. Please remember them in prayer!

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!

Who has anniversaries this week? Linda and Bruce Mau (July 3rd). **Who has birthdays this week?** Gena Zelenka (29th), Kristine Hoellerich (30th), Randy Altmayer and the Burmeisters' granddaughter Mia Speicher (July 1st), Ann Aler, Beth Lanford, Mandy Taheny MacDonald / brother Mike Taheny (the 3rd), and Judy Paige's grandson Danny Mahoney (4th).

The "White Privilege: Let's Talk" sessions began on Zoom last Wednesday the 24th and is scheduled to go through the final Wednesday in July (the 29th). Peggy Reins McCoy and Olivia Altmayer are the co-facilitators.

Please keep in your prayers Jennifer Castillo, Maribel Powers, Angela Washek Kuras and now also 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.

According to the schedule next Sunday’s lector slot is now open. Anyone interested in being the Lector for Sunday, July 5th please contact Pastor Richard ASAP. Thank you!

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

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 28, 2020

Matthew 10:40-42

Holy Welcome *Open and Affirming Sunday*

Today, on *Open and Affirming Sunday*, we celebrate the United Church of Christ's "Holy Welcome" to the full diversity of LGBTQ+ people. One of the blessings of this work is that our denomination does not go it alone. Consistent with our motto "That they may all be one," we join the welcoming movements of many other denominations in working for full inclusion of LGBTQ+ people in houses of worship and faith communities across the nation.

You and others in your church community are invited to join this ecumenical movement, by hosting or attending a "Building an Inclusive Church" training.

According to the Institute for Welcoming Resources (<http://www.welcomingresources.org/communityorg.htm>), *"The Building an Inclusive Church trainings help you design and implement a process for your congregation to publicly and intentionally welcome people of all gender identities and sexual orientations. Building an Inclusive Church equips you with ways to create dialogue, deepening relationships throughout the congregation rather than sparking debate and division.

You will have opportunities to engage through a mix of presentation, hands-on practice, and small group discussion. Many of the tools you will learn come from faith-based relational organizing, such as the one-to-one visit and strategic storytelling. Grounded in scripture and discipleship, this training allows you to explore your own Christian call to hospitality and evangelism.

If you are currently in a welcoming process, if you are thinking about starting a welcoming process, or if you fear what would happen if you began openly discussing a welcome to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people, this training could be for you! Feel free to invite your clergy and other members of your congregation to attend with you. And because this curriculum is shared across the ecumenical Welcoming Church Movement, feel free to share this with friends from other denominations."

* Accessed January 2020. <http://www.welcomingresources.org/communityorg.htm>



SCRIPTURES FOR THE CONGREGATION

June 28, 2020

Genesis 22:1 - 14

1After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” 2He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you.” 3So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. 4On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. 5Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you.” 6Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. 7Isaac said to his father Abraham, “Father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” He said, “The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” 8Abraham said, “God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So the two of them walked on together.

9When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. 10Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill □ his son. 11But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” 12He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.” 13And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. 14So Abraham called that place “The LORD will provide”; □ as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.” □

Paul has just written about being justified before God by our faith, not our deeds, and this way of being right with God was pioneered by Abraham. Remember, Abraham had faith in God’s promises so that, as God directed him, he left his land and his people to go where God would point him. We too who believe, Paul says, are in good standing now with God, through Jesus Christ and what he has done for us out of grace.

Romans 5:1-8

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained

access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.

And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

Matthew 10:40 - 42

Jesus said, 40“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. 41Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; 42and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”