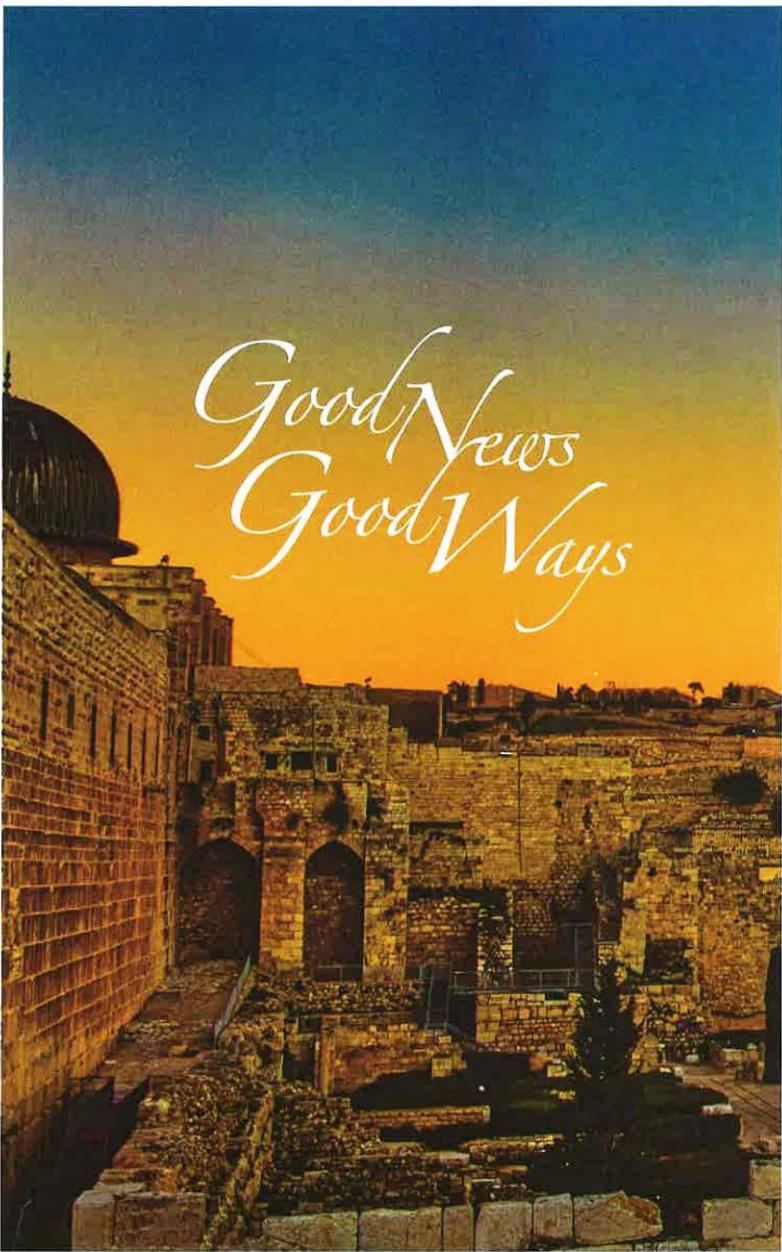


*Good News  
Good Ways*



**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 1<sup>st</sup> 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** 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](http://www.stpeteruccskokie.org)

Rev. Richard Lanford (Pastor): [revlanford@gmail.com](mailto:revlanford@gmail.com)

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**St. Peter's United Church of Christ  
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[www.stpeteruccskokie.org](http://www.stpeteruccskokie.org)  
847-673-8166**

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**OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR  
Sunday, January 23, 2022 10:00 AM  
Third Sunday after Epiphany**

**WELCOME GUESTS!**

\* Indicates all who are able are invited to stand

**PRELUDE**      "Two English Hymn Tunes"      by R. Hobby

**THE RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS**      Jenn Schneider

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (from Psalm 113)

Pastor:      Praise the Lord! Praise, O servants of the Lord; praise the name of the Lord.

*Congregation:* ***Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time on and forevermore.***

P:      From the rising of the sun to its setting the name of the Lord is to be praised.

*C:*      ***The Lord is high above all nations, and God's glory above the heavens.  
Let us worship God!***

\*OPENING RESPONSE: "Lift up your Heads" SSB #9 v. 1



1 Lift up your heads, O might-y gates; be-hold the glo - rious Rul - er waits!  
 2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a tem - ple, set a - part  
 3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to you; here, Christ, a - bide!  
 4 So come, my Sov-ereign; en - ter in! Let new and no - bler life be - gin;



The Sov - ereign One is draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.  
 From earth-ly use for heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.  
 Let me your in-ner pres - ence feel; your grace and love in me re - veal.  
 Your Ho - ly Spir-it guide us on, un - til the glo - rious crown be won.



*Georg Weisse, a Lutheran pastor, served a church in Königsberg, East Prussia. He wrote some twenty hymns, most of them for the great festivals of the church year. This hymn was written for Advent.*

Tune: TRURO L.M.  
*Thomas Williams' Psalmody Evangelica, 1789*

## **\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Merciful God, we go about our days failing to proclaim your saving power with our voices or with our actions. We do not live as ones saved, but rather as people filled with fear and doubt. We often choose what is expedient, not what is right. We close our eyes and ears to those who are in need, and close our hearts to those we claim to love. We are quick to hurt others, and slow to right our wrongs, and that is if we even realize them!**

**Forgive us, O God, for all the ways we have not lived into our relationship with you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

## **\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Friends, "God does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us" (Ps. 103:10-12). In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Will the congregation join me in thanking God for this inexpressible gift by saying . . .

**ALL: Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen.**

**\*HYMN:** "Lift up your Heads" SSB #9 (vv. 2,3,4)

1 Lift up your heads, O might-y gates; be-hold the glo - rious Rul - er waits!  
2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a tem - ple, set a - part  
3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to you; here, Christ, a - bide!  
4 So come, my Sov-ereign; en - ter in! Let new and no - bler life be - gin;

The Sov-ereign One is draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.  
From earth - ly use for heaven's em - ploy, a - donred with prayer and love and joy.  
Let me your in-ner pres - ence feel; your grace and love in me re - veal.  
Your Ho - ly Spir-it guide us on, un - til the glo - rious crown be won.

*Georg Weissel, a Lutheran pastor, served a church in Königsberg, East Prussia. He wrote some twenty hymns, most of them for the great festivals of the church year. This hymn was written for Advent.*

Tune: TRURO L.M.  
*Thomas Williams' Psalmodia Evangelica, 1789*

## WORDS ABOUT OFFERING

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Beth Sterba

Old Testament:

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Epistle:

I Corinthians 12:12-31a

**\*MUSICAL MEDITATION** "On Light and Love" by J. Eckart

**\*GOSPEL:**

Luke 4:14-21

**\*RESPONSE:** “Alleluia!”

#495

## **\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:**

## The Heidelberg Catechism, Question 1

P: What is your only comfort, in life and in death?

*C: That I belong -- body and soul, in life and in death -- not to myself but to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ, who at the cost of his own blood has fully paid for all my sins and has completely freed me from the dominion of the devil; that he protects me so well that without the will of my Father in heaven not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, that everything must fit his purpose for my salvation. Therefore, by his Holy Spirit, he also assures me of eternal life, and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.*

## **\*GLORIA PATRI**

#493

## **PASTORAL PRAYER 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:**                  "Fulfilling Scripture"

**\*HYMN:** "Sing Out! Sound the Trumpets! Proclaim Jubilee!"  
(Please sing to the tune of "To God be the Glory" with refrain)

**Sing out! Sound the trumpets! Proclaim jubilee!  
Through words from Isaiah, we came to be free;  
For blest by the Spirit, Christ read from that scroll,  
Proclaiming his mission: To make our lives whole.**

**Refrain:**

**Hear the word! Sing it out! It's good news to the  
poor!**

**Christ has come! Let us shout! We are captive no  
more!**

**Lost sight is restored, and God's world is set free:  
Christ came to our world to proclaim jubilee.**

**But still, women struggle for lives free and fair,  
And children are hungry, and loved ones despair.  
Still, those long-oppressed or in prisons of fear  
Are longing to call this their jubilee year.**

**Refrain**

**O God, through your Christ you knelt down to the  
earth,**

**And by your own Spirit, you give us new birth.**

**May we as your church have a passion to share  
Your jubilee love with the world everywhere.**

## **Refrain**

(Text: Copyright © 1998 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. Copied from Gifts of Love: New Hymns for Today's Worship by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette (Geneva Press, 2000), from which permission is given to owners of the book like our Pastor to use in single worship services).

## **\*CHARGE**

P: Act, with faith;

**C: Believe, with humility;**

P: Love one another, and love those whom nobody loves;

**C: Serve the Lord.**

## **\*BENEDICTION**

**C: Amen!**

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**\*POSTLUDE:** "Joy" by P. Lehenbauer

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FOR WORSHIP TODAY

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MINISTER	Rev. Richard Lanford
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Maria Altmayer
COUNTERS	Ginger Kalensky/?
NURSERY	Beth Lanford

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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**Good Morning!** We gather for worship because, echoing Nehemiah, "the joy of the Lord is [our] strength" (8:10). Welcome!

**Thanks to everyone who helped make today's hybrid worship on YouTube possible,** and thanks to everyone who attends in person, or watches and encourages others to watch!

**The Annual Report for 2021 has been emailed and mailed out to those on our regular Announcer mailing list;** there are very limited paper copies in the Narthex, chairlift hallway and Memorial Room. If you take a paper copy you must bring it with you to the meeting as there may not be any hard copies left.

**NEXT SUNDAY the 30th** is our Annual Congregational Meeting and we need a quorum of at least 20% of our current active membership number of 125, which is 25. An active member is a joined member who has been in worship at least once, taken Communion at least once, or made a financial contribution at least once, in the past 12 months. The plan is for this to be hybrid, but physical attendance is really requested if you have been fully vaccinated / boosted, keep social distance outside your family unit, sanitize or wash hands before entering the Memorial Room, and wear a mask.

**We are always grateful for any and all offerings to the church.** No amount is too small! As is said in the opening of the bulletin, 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. Thank you very much for giving! Thanks also go very much to everyone who was able to respond to the year-end / Christmas appeal from our Board of Finance last month!

**Thank you to everyone who was able to participate in last Sunday's Village Inn Fundraiser!** And, thanks to anyone who was able to come last Thursday to work on our upcoming Savers donation and sort out things for the Rummage Sale instead!

**FUNDrive: YOU HAVE UNTIL JANUARY 23<sup>rd</sup>!** We're collecting gently used clothing, bedding, shoes, hats, purses, linens, belts, stuffed goods and more. Our goal is 1,000 lbs! *Items are being collected right inside the door. Please note, do not bring the items to the stage per Annie.* Drop off during office hours, on Sunday when we are open for worship, or call us and we'll make arrangements that work for you if we can (and you don't already have a key). If you have any questions on whether your items are donatable, contact Annie Noorts. **On January 29th starting at 9 AM we need lots of helpers to load all the donations into a truck and haul them to Saver.**

**Thanks to everyone who continues to donate to our mini-pantry.** Just as we thought we were getting stocked up, the pantry was almost empty Thurs morning, it is really being used by our community! So keep those donations coming, if you are able. You can bring them Sundays or during the week and leave your items in the narthex or downstairs on the shelves by the offices. Thank you so much for your generosity!

**HOSPITALIZED:** Dorothy Panzke remains at the Harmony House for physical therapy after her broken leg surgery; she may be released soon! Ursula Dworak was in ICU at Glenbrook Hospital last Sunday; as of this midweek writing she remains at

Glenbrook and is doing slightly better. Please continue to lift them up in your prayers.

Having birthdays this week are: Richard William Anthony Schaller (Alice and Bill's grandson), Layla Costello (Younger of Jamie Iannotti's 2 daughters), and Ethan Caras, son of Megan (Knowles) and Steven Caras. May God bless their days!

According to the schedule next Sunday's lector is Carolyn Van Til, and the Nursery will be attended by Heidi Tarzian.

**Pastor's podcast is available wherever you listen to podcasts!** Just type in "The Redheaded Preacher" and you'll find us! Pastor's weekly podcasts include the prior Sunday's scriptures & sermon, and some words and prayer from Pastor just for the listeners of the podcast! Check it out!

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### **CHURCH LEADERSHIP**

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

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## Good News, Good Ways Ecumenical Sunday

Today, Ecumenical Sunday, falls smack dab in the middle of the “Week of Prayer for Christian Unity”. One of the ways that Christian unity has found an expression is through ecumenical councils and associations. Because of our denomination’s prayer that “they may all be one,” members of the United Church of Christ are often deeply invested in these organizations.

The Wisconsin Council of Churches (WCC) is headed by Executive Director Rev. Kerri Parker, a United Church of Christ clergy member. Like many such organizations, the WCC generally works on a variety of projects and advocacy locally helpful in Wisconsin. When the council began as an informal gathering of (all male) clergy in the 1930’s, those original members could not have imagined that ninety years later their organization would be headed by a woman who would become one of the most dependable nation-wide voices for church leadership during these past years of global pandemic.

The WCC’s guide “COVID-19 and our Christian Witness” is a clear and reliable source of information and support that was widely shared and utilized by churches far outside the WCC’s usual constituency during the pandemic months. As their website says, “Churches around the world are learning how to be imaginative in their ministry in order to be present to those in need in a time of social disruption. From the experiences of communities facing crises around the world, we know that faith leaders can play a transformational role in calming fear, disseminating accurate information, and modifying religious practices to help keep people safe while providing spiritual care and honoring important community traditions.”\*

Today, we give thanks for the Wisconsin Council of Churches and their role in being a voice of faith and reason both locally and nationally during the global pandemic. If you are not in Wisconsin, what do you know about the ecumenical organization in your area? What impact are they having, locally or more broadly? How can you be involved in this important work?

\*“Coronavirus – Wisconsin Council of Churches.” *Wisconsin Council of Churches*, [www.wichurches.org/2020/03/11/coronavirus/](http://www.wichurches.org/2020/03/11/coronavirus/).



## SCRIPTURES FOR THE CONGREGATION

### January 23, 2022

#### **Nehemiah 8:1 – 3, 5-6, 8-10**

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel.

Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.

And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, “Amen, Amen,” lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.” For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, “Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for

this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.”

### **1 Corinthians 12:12 – 31a**

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body.

If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be?

But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one

another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ, and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts.

### **Luke 4:14 – 21**

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”