



Spirit-Led
Living

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 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
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OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR
Sunday, August 30, 2020 10:00 AM
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Recorded in Lorel Park

WELCOME GUESTS!

* Indicates all who are able are invited to stand

PRELUDE: "Joyful, Joyful" arr. Lani Smith

THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS Jenn Schneider

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Moses was called by God using a burning bush.

Congregation: We are called by this weekly anniversary of the Resurrection.

P: The Holy Spirit dwelling inside faithful hearts calls you and me as well.

C: We need no burning bush, but a heart warm with the praise of God

calls us to worship just as well! So let's do it!

- **CALL TO CONFESSION**

P: So often we are complainers, not seekers. We proclaim our innocence and justify our anger when so much in life does not go the way we had hoped.

C: We blame God or others for conditions entrusted to our stewardship. Unintentionally, we come stumbling blocks, not facilitators, of God's design.

P: Let us then seek reconciliation with our God. Let us join in the spirit of prayer and confess our falling short of the path.

- ***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Merciful One, these months of the Virus are getting long; affecting our hopes, our moods, our patience and how we bear the fruits of the Spirit -- or not. It is to this we confess, and You know us better than we know ourselves because You made us, and our times are in Your hand.

Paul tells us the fruits of the Spirit are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, and four other traits. These days of isolation, of different ways of teaching and learning, of worshipping and

expressing affection are stressful, and so our love, joy, peace, patience and kindness have at times flown the coop and we have grieved Your heart. Forgive our times of weakness and self-will. Restore to us a full measure of Your graciousness so we may share it gladly and gratefully with all whom we meet. In the majestic name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

“God does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities,” sings the Psalmist. “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 God removes our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear Him. For God knows how we were made; God remembers that we are dust” (103:10-14).

I cannot add onto that, except to say that we are convinced of this love by the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God’s Son our Savior. So please, fellow disciples, wherever we are let us give thanks with our lives, and with these words . . .

All: Alleluia! Amen.

*HYMN: "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

#21 (vv. 1, 2, 3)

21

Adoration and Praise

HENRY VAN DYKE, 1907
With exultation

8. 7. 8. 7. D.

HYMN TO JOY
LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN, 1824

1. Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
2. All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, Earth and heaven re - flect Thy rays,
3. Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,
4. Mor - tals, join the hap - py cho - rus Which the morn - ing stars be - gan;

Hearts un - fold like flow - ers be - fore Thee, Open - ing to the sun a - bove.
Stars and an - gels sing a - round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
Well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean depth of hap - py rest!
Fa - ther love is reign - ing o'er us, Broth - er love binds man to man.

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the dark of doubt a - way;
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, Flow - ery mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Broth - er, All who live in love are Thine;
Ev - er sing - ing, march we on - ward, Vic - tors in the midst of strife,

Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, Fill us with the light of day.
Chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, Call us to re - joice in Thee.
Teach us how to love each oth - er, Lift us to the Joy di - vine.
Joy - ful mu - sic leads us Sun - ward In the tri - umph song of life. A - MEN.

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WORDS ABOUT OFFERING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Old Testament:

Epistle:

Katy Schuhrke

Exodus 3: 1-15

Romans 12: 9-21

MUSICAL MEDITATION: "Oceans"

Sung by: Jessica Schneider

by Hillsong

GOSPEL:

Matthew 16: 21-28

SERMON "Among the Overcomers"

***RESPONSE:** Our God, You Called to Moses"

(Sing to the tune of "Lead On, O King Eternal")

Our God, you called to Moses to set your people free.

What wrongly some suppose is: he answered easily.

"I'm not the one you're seeking!" he seemed instead to say.

"My strength is not in speaking; God, find another way!"

And yet, O Lord, you told him to trust in what you said.

Your strength would surely hold him through all those days ahead

Though many would oppose him, by your own name he'd know:

You were the one who chose him to help your people go.

You call each congregation to serve those lost and poor.

We doubt our own vocation; we ask, "Lord, are you sure?"

Yet you give gifts for sharing, you show us what to say.

Your Spirit gives us daring to serve Christ every day.

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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:** "God of Grace and God of Glory" #287 (vv. 1-3)

287

HARRY EMERSON FOSDICK, 1930

8. 7. 8. 7. 8. 7.

REGENT SQUARE
HENRY SMART, 1867

In moderate time, with dignity



1. God of grace and God of glo - ry, On Thy peo - ple pour Thy power;
2. Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us Scorn Thy Christ, as - sail His ways!
3. Cure Thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness, Bend our pride to Thy con - trol;
4. Set our feet on loft - y pla - ces; Gird our lives that they may be



Crown Thine an - cient church's sto - ry; Bring her bud to glo - rious flower.
From the fears that long have bound us Free our hearts to faith and praise:
Shame our wan - ton, sel - fish glad - ness, Rich in things and poor in soul.
Ar - mored with all Christ - like gra - ces In the fight to set men free.



Grant us wis - dom, Grant us cour - age, For the fac - ing of this hour.
Grant us wis - dom, Grant us cour - age, For the liv - ing of these days.
Grant us wis - dom, Grant us cour - age, Lest we miss Thy king - dom's goal.
Grant us wis - dom, Grant us cour - age, That we fail not man nor Thee! A-MEN.



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***CHARGE** (from Hebrews 12)

P: "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us,

C: looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who, for the joy that was set before him, endured the cross, disregarding its shame,

P: and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God."

***BENEDICTION**

C: Amen!

***POSTLUDE:**

"Lord When We Praise You With Glorious Music"

by Bryan Jeffrey Leech

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

MINISTER
MUSIC DIRECTOR

Rev. Richard Lanford
Ben Westphal

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Good Morning! Jesus calls us to deny self and follow him in the way of the cross. May this worship strengthen us to serve our neighbors in love. Welcome.

Thanks to everyone who made this service, and bringing it to you, possible.

The Mid-Year Report went out via email attachment with the Weekly Update last Monday as well as mailed out to those on our mailing list. Let us know if you didn't receive a copy.

HOSPITALIZED: June Peterson remains in hospice care at Bella Terra; 8425 Waukegan Road, MG, IL 60053. Please keep her in your prayers, along with others whom we lift up together today.

There are scheduled meetings this coming week! Our Micah 6:8 Committee is Zooming this coming Thursday, September 3rd at ??? PM. The Communication Committee and the Board of Elders met over Zoom or teleconference call last week.

We are always grateful for any and all offerings to the church. No amount is too small! You can support our work (and thus, your work too) by mailing in a check, signing up for electronic giving, and 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). There is now a new option to donate by text! Information for all of these are at the start of your bulletin. Thank you!

Thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone who generously gave to the Kitchen of A Just Harvest this month so that, in our place during COVID, the staff could buy the ingredients and parts of our usual meal at AJH and serve it curbside yesterday! Our next 5th Saturday this year is, believe it or not, October 31st!

Rummage Sorting is happening! It is Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. Obviously we are also receiving rummage as well.

Rummage Sale Update! A very large announcement, with a lot of information in it, went out on Friday via email regarding the Rummage Sale. If you haven't seen it yet, please check it out – 99% of your questions can be answered there! The main items to note are that we WILL hold the sale on Sept 25 & 26, by appointment only, in 2-hour blocks limited to 10 shoppers each. No Bake Sale and no Bag Sale this year. Church members are welcome to shop in person any time after September 15th using the honor system, and are welcome to bring their friends and family as long as they stay with them while they're in the building and follow our safety protocols. Donation drop off deadline is Sept 13th. There is a Signup Genius for both public shopping times and also for volunteers to work the sale. That link is:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080e4dafab29a0fb6-annual>. Please contact Annie Noorts with questions,

or if you'd like to schedule a time to shop, and you don't have a key! We continue to sort on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 6:30-8:30pm.

Having birthdays this week are Helen Mauer, Bill Schaller and Ursula Dworak; Anthony and Jennifer (Mau) Gemignani have a wedding anniversary this week! God bless all of them.

Next week the scheduled Lector is Karen Christianson. Next Sunday we also celebrate the Lord's Supper -- so be prepared with a bite and a beverage for consecration!

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.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 30, 2020

Romans 12:9-21

Spirit-Led Living

Imagine a day living as commanded by Paul in today's passage from Roman's 12. What would it be like if his bold and brave commands were as much a part of daily living as your other chores and duties? What would your daily to-do list look like? Maybe something like this:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wake up and brush teeth. | <input type="checkbox"/> Extend hospitality to strangers. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exercise. | <input type="checkbox"/> Afternoon desk work. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hate what is evil. | <input type="checkbox"/> Bless those who persecute you. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shower. | <input type="checkbox"/> Grocery store. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hold fast to what is good. | <input type="checkbox"/> Pick up kids. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Breakfast. | <input type="checkbox"/> Do not claim to be wiser than you are. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Love one another with mutual affection. | <input type="checkbox"/> Dinner. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Do not lag in zeal. | <input type="checkbox"/> Do not repay anyone evil for evil. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Catch the train for work. | <input type="checkbox"/> Pay bills. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rejoice in hope. | <input type="checkbox"/> Watch news. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Morning meeting. | <input type="checkbox"/> Live peaceably with all. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lunch. | |

It can seem absurd or ridiculous to mix up Paul's big commands with our everyday life. But maybe it makes you wonder how would it change your day if you took Paul's list of to-dos from Romans as seriously as you take the rest of your list? How will you know unless you try it?



SCRIPTURES FOR THE CONGREGATION

August 30, 2020

Exodus 3:1 - 15

1Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. 2There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. 3Then Moses said, “I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.” 4When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” 5Then he said, “Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” 6He said further, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

7Then the LORD said, “I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their

taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, 8and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. 9The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. 10So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.” 11But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” 12He said, “I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.”

13But Moses said to God, “If I come to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” 14God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.”□ He said further, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” 15God also said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the Israelites, ‘The LORD,□ the God

of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you': This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations."

Romans 12:9 - 21

Paul wrote, 9Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; 10love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. 11Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord.□ 12Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. 13Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

14Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

15Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

16Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly;□ do not claim to be wiser than you are.

17Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. 18If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. 19Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God;□ for it is written, "Vengeance

is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” 20No, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” 21Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Matthew 16:21 - 28

21From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. 22And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” 23But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

24Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 25For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. 26For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or

what will they give in return for their life? 27“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. 28Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”