The image is a vertical composition. The top half shows a desert landscape with rolling hills under a greenish-yellow sky. A single palm tree stands in the center. The bottom half shows a desert landscape with rolling hills under a reddish-brown sky. A single palm tree stands in the center. The text 'Tensions in the Wilderness' is overlaid in the center, with 'in the' in a smaller font. The background is a composite of a photograph and a map overlay.

Tensions
in the
Wilderness

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, 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.com/merchot/?x=1&from=paypal-merchant-directory) 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

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
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OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR
Sunday, September 20, 2020 10:00 AM
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME GUESTS!

* Indicates all who are able are invited to stand

PRELUDE: "Nun ruhen alle Wälder" by J.S. Bach

THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS Jenn Schneider

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: May God's peace rest on our busy lives
so that we are quieted into prayer.

***Congregation: May God's love flow through our
worship words so that we are
awake to opportunities for service.***

P: May God's grace embrace every need
and may the restless Gospel set our
hearts afire.

C: Amen and amen!

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God who loves us, You have always given us what we need. You have taken care of us even when we could not care for ourselves. You have given us life and breath! Why is it that we still doubt You? Why do we still go on our own way, rebelling against You? Why do we persist in doing everything our own way? God, we have hurt ourselves and others by being so fiercely independent. Give us courage enough to place our trust in You. In the name of Jesus and through the constant presence of the Spirit we pray. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

“Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of Your possession? God does not retain His anger forever, because God delights in showing clemency. He will again have compassion on us; God will tread our iniquities under foot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea” (Micah 7:18-19).

I cannot improve on that! I can add that we especially see God’s merciful compassion demonstrated in the birth, life, suffering, death and rising again of the Son of God, the righteous for the unrighteous. Now what else can we add?

All: Only our words of affirmation and claiming God’s grace: Thanks be to God! Amen.

***HYMN:** "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross" #462 (vv. 1, 2)

462

Miscellaneous Hymns

FANNY J. CROSBY, 1820-1915

7. 6. 7. 6. with Refrain

NEAR THE CROSS
WILLIAM H. DOANE, 1832-1915

1. Je - sus, keep me near the cross; There a pre - cious foun - tain,
2. Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, Love and mer - cy found me;
3. Near the cross! O Lamb of God, Bring its scenes be - fore me;
4. Near the cross I'll watch and wait, Hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,

Free to all— a heal - ing stream—Flows from Cal - vary's moun - tain.
There the bright and morn - ing Star Shed its beams a - round me,
Help me walk from day to day With its shad - ow o'er me,
Till I reach the heav - en - ly land, Just be - yond the riv - er.

REFRAIN

In the cross, in the cross, be my glo - ry ev - er,

Till my rap - tured soul shall find Rest be - yond the riv - er.

WORDS ABOUT OFFERING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Old Testament:

Beth Sterba

Exodus 16: 2 - 15

Epistle:

Philippians 1: 20-30

MUSICAL MEDITATION: "St Brendan's"

(They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love)

by Peter Scholtes

SERMON:

"Living and Dying"

*HYMN: "How Firm a Foundation"

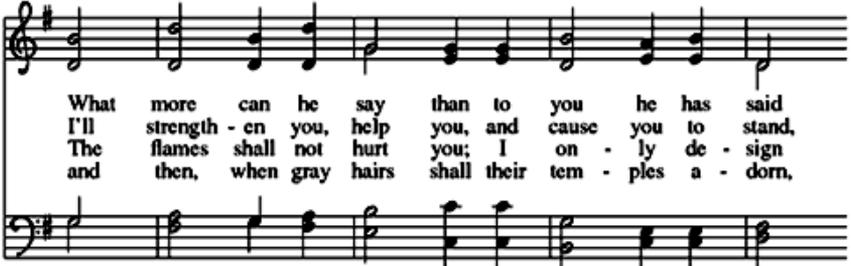
SSB #16



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
 3 "When through fi - ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,
 4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove



is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!
 for I am your God and will still give you aid;
 my grace, al - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply,
 my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can he say than to you he has said
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
 The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign,
 and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,



who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."
 your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."
 like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt.
 Music: FOUNDATION, Early American

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.**

***CHARGE** (from Romans 16):

P: "Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you,

C: Or am absent from and hear about you,

P: I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel,

C: And are in no way intimidated by your, or our, opponents."

***SUNG BENEDICTION:**

"God be with you 'till we Meet Again"

SSB #28 (vv. 1, 3)

1 God be with you till we meet a-gain; by good coun-sels guide, up-hold you,
 2 God be with you till we meet a-gain; ho-ly wings se-cure-ly hide you,
 3 God be with you till we meet a-gain; when life's per-ils thick con-found you,

with a shep-herd's care en-fold you;
 dai-ly man-na still pro-vide you; God be with you till we meet a-gain.
 put un-fail-ing arms a-round you;

Refrain

Till we meet, till we meet, till we
 till we meet. till we meet a-gain,

meet at Je-sus' feet; till we meet, till we
 till we meet, till we meet, till we

meet, God be with you till we meet a-gain.
 meet a-gain,

Text: Jeremiah L. Rankin, 1828-1904
 Music: GOD BE WITH YOU, William G. Tomer, 1833-1896

***POSTLUDE:**

Selected

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

MINISTER

Rev. Richard Lanford

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Ben Westphal

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Good Morning! “The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing,” writes Paul, “but to us who are being saved it is the power of God” (1 Corinthians 1:18, NRSV). This is why we’re here!

HOSPITALIZED: June Peterson remains in hospice care at Bella Terra; 8425 Waukegan Road, MG, IL 60053. Jane Abramchik had outpatient surgery on her T11, 12 vertebrae last Tuesday (kyphoplasty). Please keep them in your prayers, along with others whom we lift up together today.

RUMMAGE SALE Update! You should already know that we are holding the sale on Sept 25 & 26, by appointment only, in 2-hour blocks limited to 10 shoppers each. These are all filled! So we have added extra sale days!! ***Tuesday, 9/29 from 6:30-8:30 and Saturday, October 3, 9:00 - 1:00.*** Please find the shopping instructions at the end of the announcements AND the Volunteer sign up link in the next article. Church members are already welcome to shop in person 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 (wear a mask, keep 6’ or more physical distance, wash hands).

Did we say this already? We need volunteers to make this sale successful, so please sign up!! Sign up to work the sale here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904094ca8ab2fa5f85-rummage>. The link for shoppers outside the church family to shop on the sale days 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. Openers for the week are: Annie on Monday, Maria Tuesday, Kathy Wednesday and Mandy Thursday.

We are always grateful for any and all offerings to the church. No amount is too small! So many thanks to everyone who's been keeping us going with your donations! See inside the bulletin front cover for details on donating.

The Church Council is meeting via Zoom after our virtual worship service today. The time is 11:15 AM. The link is in an email sent out Monday by Church President Jenn Schneider.

UNDY 500 is back! Since the Indy 500 was postponed due to COVID-19 concerns we also did not hold the annual Undy 500, until now with a special virtual edition. We are encouraging members to either make monetary donations directly to The Night Ministry via their website:

<https://thenightministry.ejoinme.org/MyPages/DonationPage/tabid/79631/Default.aspx?fbclid=IwAR3-nGJXojUh8ApiwB75GvwwbTcrO1GisZzW914rS-vB4wQX4raqPBOoabU>; or by ordering women's, men's,

and/or youth underwear online and choosing to have it delivered directly to The Night Ministry. The address is below and remember, colors only please, all sizes needed. The Night Ministry, 1735 N Ashland Ave; Suite 2000, Chicago, IL 60622.

Save the date: Rummage clean-up will take place on October 10th. We will be packing all the household items and loading them into a trailer to be picked up by the Cancer Federation. We will be keeping all soft items to go to Savers in February. We will continue to collect soft goods through the end of January. Savers will pay us \$0.20/pound for these items. Soft goods include clothing, shoes, purses, linens, stuffed animals, hats, belts and scarves.

Village Inn Fundraiser Update! Thank you to everyone who's been participating; the first event totals were \$113.71, the second one brought in \$107.07! Our next Village Inn Fundraiser will be ***Sunday, September 27th from 11 AM to 11PM.*** All you have to do is order food on that day any way you like, and tell your server it's for the St. Peter's UCC Fundraiser. We get 20% of whatever you spend - it's that easy!

Our Office Manager and Custodian Laura Olson will be taking some vacation time from Wednesday, September 23rd through Sunday the 27th. She will also be gone Monday and Tuesday, October 12th and 13th.

The deadline for submissions to the October issue of the Announcer is tomorrow.

Having birthdays this week are Megan Caras, Ryan Puckett, and Mandy Steegmueller.

Next week the scheduled Lector is Carolyn Van Til.

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CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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

St Peter's Member (family and friends) Shopping Instructions

1) When can members shop?

Members with keys are welcome to go into the gym to shop anytime starting Tuesday, Sept 15. Those who do not have keys can contact Annie Noorts or the office to schedule a time to shop. Family and friends are welcome to shop WITH church members. Shoppers are always invited to come by during sorting times as well. Keep in mind all the items will not be out until the sale days, so feel free to come by more than once.

2) How will the honor system sale work?

Upon entering the gym, please use the hand sanitizer that is on the table to the right. Also wear face covering while you are in the building. The sale is set up very differently than in years past in an effort to allow for physical distancing, and everything being in the gym. There is a small boutique set up near the entrance to the gym rather than on the stage. Most items are not priced, except those in the boutique. Price sheets will be sitting next to the hand sanitizer.

3) How do I pay for my purchase?

Members can pay by cash or check and leave it in the box labeled "payments." There are envelopes in the box to put payments into. You can also pay thru PayPal or the Text to Give app.

Text Your payment. Text the amount you are paying to **844-997-2346**. If you haven't done this before you will need to add your credit card information.

PayPal – log into your PayPal account. Go to [PayPal.me/stpeteruccskokie](https://www.paypal.com/merchot/?x=1&from=seller=&to=buyer=&source=merchot). Enter the amount of your payment, and send it.

If you will be shopping more than one time, feel free to fill out an index card and put it into the file box. Payment will be due in full at the end of the sale.

4) Are there bags and packing materials?

There are bags under the table and packing material at the far end of the table where hand sanitizer is. Help yourself to whatever you need.

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 20, 2020

Exodus 16:2-15

Tensions in the Wilderness *Just Peace Sunday*

In a congregational meeting, during which the congregation was discerning about becoming a Just Peace congregation, someone once asked, "How can we say we are just for peace? We are for so much more than that."

Just Peace as a designation does not mean that a congregation is merely "for peace." It means that the congregation understands that Justice and Peace are inevitably bound together - so closely entwined that it is impossible to separate them.

Peace and justice both require careful tending and loving attention. As the scripture reading this morning reminds us, peace is easily lost. The people grumble among themselves and with their leaders. But they are not just grumbling out of dissatisfaction or irritability. They are grumbling because they are hungry. The peace issue (conflict among the people) cannot be addressed until the justice issue (people need enough to eat) is met. Justice and Peace, hand in hand, are then able to move forward into the wilderness.

The Just Peace website, (https://www.ucc.org/justice_just-peace) states, "Justice and Witness Ministries is committed to a revitalized Just Peace Church movement and to empowering and resourcing congregations to create a stronger justice and peace witness. Now is the time to rekindle our commitment to Just Peace and make visible our longstanding witness to this approach...Does your church consider itself to be a Just Peace congregation? What is your church doing to live out its calling to be a Just Peace Church? What does it mean to be a Just Peace Church in times like these? I hope you will take the time to update your church's information on our site and offer your responses to these questions. Your energy and voice is needed to reinvigorate and shape the direction of our collective movement."

If your congregation is not a Just Peace Church, maybe now is the time to begin a conversation about this important movement for merging justice and peace to be about the creation of God's reign here on earth.



SCRIPTURES FOR THE CONGREGATION

Sept. 20, 2020

EXODUS 16:2-15

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

Then the LORD said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.” So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your complaining against the LORD.

For what are we, that you complain against us?” And Moses said, “When the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the LORD has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the LORD.”

Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, ‘Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.’” And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. The LORD spoke to Moses and said, “I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.’”

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it,

they said to one another, “What is it?” □ For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat.

PHILIPPIANS 1:20 - 30

It is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be put to shame in any way, but that by my speaking with all boldness, Christ will be exalted now as always in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by

side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.