

Make Ready



**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](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](http://www.stpeteruccskokie.org)

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**OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR**  
**Sunday, December 5, 2021, 10:00 AM**  
**Worship for the Second Sunday of Advent**

**WELCOME GUESTS!**

\* Indicates all who are able are invited to stand

**PRELUDE**                    "Bereden väg för herran, setting I"

**THE RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS**                    Jenn Schneider

**LIGHTING THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE**

Lighting the Candle of Peace this morning is Beth and Pastor Richard Lanford are lighting the Advent Candle of Peace.

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Pastor: From the flurry of holiday busyness,

**Congregation:** ***We come longing for peace,***

P: Yearning for lasting joy,

**C:** ***Hoping to find our rest in God.***

P: From full calendars and hectic schedules,

**C:** ***We come to taste the Bread of Life,***

P: Drink the cup of blessing,

**C:** ***Sing the songs of Advent hope.***

P: From the worry of our days,

**All:** **We come to be set free,**

P: Be made new,

**All:** **Follow the Prince of Peace, the joy of every longing heart.**

**\*RESPONSE:** "The Candle of Hope," Verse 2

(Please sing to the tune "O Worship the King, All Glorious Above")

**"The candle of peace shines bright with God's plan;  
The wolf will lie down and dwell with the lamb.  
Our guns and our weapons, our hatred and war  
Will give way to gardens that heal and restore."**

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## **\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

(This Sunday we are returning to a silent prayer for our prayer of confession, this time using a centering breath-prayer: For three separate times, we quietly inhale deeply and silently pray "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God," and then in exhaling, silently pray "have mercy on me, a sinner." No need to rush between breaths; it is meant to be thoughtful using body, soul, heart and mind. We've done this recently, on October 31st.)

## **\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits -- who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy" (Psalm 103:1-4).

In the days of the Psalmists it was known that Yahweh is a forgiving God. You and I in the Christian faith see this forgiveness dramatically shown in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus; for us, he is the truth and revelation of God. We meet a God of steady love, mercy, healing and forgiveness; and this is for you from God's own Self. We are forgiven! Alleluia! Amen.

\*HYMN:

"People Look East"

JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT

142

People, Look East



1. Peo - ple, look east, the time is near of the  
2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more  
3. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more  
4. An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who



crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are  
seed is plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to  
light the bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y  
brings new life to earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley



a - ble, trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.  
nour - ish, that in course the flower may flour - ish.  
weath - er, bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.  
hum - ming with the word, the Lord is com - ing.



Peo - ple, look east and sing to - day:



Peo - ple, look east:

Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
Love, the Star, is on the way.  
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Peo - ple, look east:



**WORDS ABOUT OFFERINGS**  
**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Prophecy:  
Epistle:

Barbara Todd  
Malachi 3: 1-4  
Philippians 1: 3-11

**MUSICAL MEDITATION:** "Bereden väg för herran, setting II"

**\*GOSPEL:**

Luke 3: 1-6

**\*RESPONSE:** "Wait for the Lord"

Ostinato Refrain

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND SILENT PRAYERS**

**HOMILY:** "The Word of God came to John"

# THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

## Exhortation and Invitation

### Sursum Corda:

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts!

**C: We lift them up to the Lord!**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

## Prayer of Thanksgiving Sanctus (Singing, #521) Prayer of Consecration

RESPOND  
**153** Eat of This Bread

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are: "Eat of this bread, drink of this wine; come and be fed, come now and dine. Eat of this bread, drink of this wine; here all are fed, here all may dine." The chords are: Eb, A b, Ddim, Gm, Cm, Fm, Fm7, B b sus, B b, Eb, A b, Ddim, Gm, Cm, Fm, B b, Eb. There are triplets of eighth notes in each staff.

Eat of this bread, drink of this wine;  
come and be fed, come now and dine.  
Eat of this bread, drink of this wine;  
here all are fed, here all may dine.

## The Words of Institution Participation

## **CLOSING PRAYER AND**

### **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:**

"Star-Child"

RESPOND

Star-Child

174

$\text{♩} = 110$

D A/C# Bm G/B D/F# F#m

1. Star - Child, earth - Child go - be-tween of God,  
 2. Street child, beat child, no place left to go,  
 3. Grown child, old child, mem-ory full of years,  
 4. Spared child, spoiled child, hav - ing, want - ing more,  
 5. Hope - for - peace Child, God's stu - pen - dous sign,

Em D/F# G Em/B Bm Asus A

love Child, Christ Child, heav-en's light - ning rod.  
 hurt child, used child, no one wants to know.  
 sad child, lost child, sto - ry told in tears.  
 wise child, faith child, know-ing joy in store.  
 down - to - earth Child, Star of stars that shine.

Chorus

D A/C# Bm Em/G A/C# Dsus<sup>2</sup> D D/F#

This year, this year, let the day ar - rive when

G A<sup>7</sup> G/B A/C# Dsus<sup>2</sup> Dsus<sup>2</sup>/F# D/F# G A A<sup>7</sup> D

Christ - mas comes for ev - ery - one, ev - ery - one a - live!

**\*CHARGE and BENEDICTION**

P: May the Lord make you increase in love for one another, nurturing one another in our community of faith, uplifting one another in times of struggle or sorrow, sharing with one another in all that you possess.

**C: *May the Lord make you abound in love for all, giving of yourselves the way Christ gives to you, witnessing to the ever-widening circles of God's love, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit, who breathes life into all of God's children.***

P: May the Lord make love grow within you and extend to all around you, as together we await his coming.

**C: *Amen!***

**\*POSTLUDE:** "Bereden väg för herran, setting III"

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FOR WORSHIP TODAY

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|                |                               |
|----------------|-------------------------------|
| MINISTER       | Rev. Richard Lanford          |
| MUSIC DIRECTOR | Ben Westphal                  |
| DEACON         | Dan Guenther                  |
| COUNTERS       | Rich Schneider/Sharon Johnson |
| NURSERY        | Heidi Tarzian                 |

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Good Morning!** “Blessed be the Lord God [who] has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them” (Luke 1:68, NRSV). We gather for worship as the redeemed of the Lord. Welcome.

**Thanks to everyone who served in the ministries of the Church this morning,** in a wide variety of ways and places!

**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 front cover for details on how to donate.

**Today after worship,** and after a time of fellowship for those who choose to spend some time catching up with others in the Memorial Room post-service, you are asked to help us bag, tag, count and box the cookies, winter hats, gloves, scarves and cans of cocoa mix that will go to the Night Ministry for use in their Holiday Celebrations. These are given out from their Health Outreach Van at its many stops around the city, at parties held at their shelters, and more. Thank you to everyone who brought items! Thanks to those who help downstairs in the Gym today!

**Our Sunday School will again be collecting baby items during Advent** as we prepare for the arrival of Baby Jesus! Donated items will be given to Niles Township Food Pantry, and smaller items will supply our Mini Pantry as well. You can bring your items during worship and place them under our tree, or bring them during the week during office hours. **IMPORTANT CHANGE** – the Food Pantry has asked that, due to Covid restrictions, no clothing or blankets be donated – only consumable goods like diapers, wipes, formula, or lotion. Thank you so much for your generosity!

**FUNDrive: Soft Goods wanted:** we are collecting soft goods from now until January 9<sup>th</sup>. Items like clothing, bedding, shoes, hats, purses, linens, belts, stuffed goods are being sought after now for Savers as we get paid by the pound. Our goal is 1,000 lbs! Items are being collected in the gym near the stage. 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. ***We will be doing a minimal sorting of these items on December 17th, 10-noon and again on January 9th after church. On January 15th we need lots of helpers to load all the donations into a truck and haul them to Saver.***

**We would love someone to compose a short reflection** on what next Sunday's Advent Candle theme of Love means to you, and read it, while another lights the candle for us in the service! Tell Pastor or Ben if you can and will. Thank you! We also have "Joy" for Sunday the 19th!

**Wishes for birthday blessings** go out to Peggy Reins McCoy, MaryAnn Kuehn in Arizona, Erik Christianson, Jon Mau Gemignani, and anniversary blessings to Jim and Judy Williford and Dianna and Larry Pappadakis-Haun.

**For all you who plan ahead:** Christmas Eve worship with Communion is at 7 PM on Friday, December 24th. See the December newsletter for extra info. There is Sunday worship on December 26th, including Pastor Lanford baptizing Hayley Ann Bruhn, daughter of Kimberly (Loach) and Patrick Bruhn, who now live in Texas.

**2022 Wall Calendars available:** You can find them in the Memorial Room or by the office doors. Please take AS MANY as you'd like, we always end up with a lot leftover. Lol they make great gifts!

**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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**Make Ready**

*In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. -Luke 3:1-2, NRSV*

The list of people whose names begin this chapter of the book of Luke are powerful and important. The emperor Tiberius was not merely the ruler of the whole known world, he was considered an infallible god. Tiberius himself appointed Pontius Pilate, whose powerful name very loosely translated means, Free Person Who Carries a Sharp Spear. Just hearing his name, everyone would know that Pilate was not only master of his own destiny, but also that his military prowess was unrivaled. Herod and Philip were brothers in a politically successful family who ruled with the twin fists of nepotism and corruption. Lysanias is not mentioned elsewhere in scripture, but in his own time he was a big deal, big enough that he came to the attention of Cleopatra who sent Mark Anthony to depose him. Last but certainly not least, the two high priests mentioned shared the most important religious role of their time. Together occupying a role meant for one person, they were constantly jostling for position and power.

John's words fell into this world of the famous and powerful, the politically savvy and the militarily successful. He spoke not in the city, or the temple, not in the palace or the town square, not on social media or television, but in the wilderness. John was a nobody, and he spoke in the middle of nowhere to an audience (at first) of no one.

And yet, all these centuries later, his message is the one that is still heard, still followed. It was John, the voice on the margins, who pointed the way to Christ, rather than those at the center of privilege and popularity.

Somewhere in each community, a voice is crying in the wilderness right now. Somewhere on the margins, a messenger is urgently telling of Christ's way. The voice may be hard to hear over the clamoring of the powerful. But this Advent, may we open our ears to hear.



8.5" x 11" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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## **SCRIPTURES FOR THE CONGREGATION**

**December 5th, 2021**

### **MALACHI 3:1-4**

“1See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. 2But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; 3he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. 4Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.”

### **PHILIPPIANS 1:3 - 11**

Paul wrote, “3I thank my God every time I remember you, 4constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, 5because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. 6I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. 7It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God’s grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. 8For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. 9And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight 10to help you

to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, 11having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.”

### **LUKE 3:1-6**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
'Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."



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## Clean out your closets for St Peters United Church of Christ-Skokie!

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**FUNDrive® Coordinator**

Laura Olson  
(847) 673-8166  
[office@stpeteruccskokie.com](mailto:office@stpeteruccskokie.com)

**Our Goal:** \$1000

278 Tall Kitchen Bags + Large Yard  
Bags

**Fundraiser Dates:**

12/01/2021 - 01/09/2022

We are a small church raising money for our general fund which covers everything from paying bills to community outreach.

Donations can be dropped off weekdays when the office is open, 10 am - 2 pm.

## We Are Collecting

### Clothes

men's, women's and children's clothes, coats, shoes, scarves, handbags, wallets, fashion accessories, ties, belts, backpacks, etc.

