

Extravagant Sign

**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)

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

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**OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR**  
**Sunday, January 16, 2022 10:00 AM**  
**Second Sunday after Epiphany**

**WELCOME GUESTS!**

\* Indicates all who are able are invited to stand

**PRELUDE** Selected

**THE RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS** Jenn Schneider

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Pastor: We come to worship in a time of illness,  
inflation, anger and fear.

***Congregation: We tune in to hear a word from the Lord.***

P: We gather during the weekend when a  
prophet, Martin Luther King, Junior, is  
remembered.

***C: We are here to praise God for the gifts of Jesus, the Spirit, the prophets, communities of faith, and the call to follow Christ all our lives. Let us worship God!***

## \*CALL TO CONFESSION

The image shows a musical score for a hymn in 4/4 time, key of D major. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a treble and bass staff with lyrics: "O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me. O". The second system starts at measure 5 and has lyrics: "Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me. O". Both systems include guitar chords (Em, G/D, Am/C, D, Em, C, B7) and a "Last Time" marking above the final measure of each system.

L: O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer,

**C: *When I call, answer me.***

L: O Lord hear my prayer; O Lord hear my prayer;

**C: *Come and listen to me.***

## \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of light, You brought hope to the world and joy to our lives. Yet on this weekend remembering and invoking Your servant Martin King, we confess that opaqueness hovers in many corners and clings to many minds. Possessions grip, hold and pile up so as to block simple views of the light. Anger and violence overpower gentle words and knock out the light for others. Despair casts a shadow of doubt on any hope for light. Racism and sexism, homophobia and unthinking consumerism keep us from receiving light from some of Your creation.**

**God of light, open our eyes, clear our minds and soften our hearts so we may walk as children of light and behold the colorful beauty of a sunrise and the hue of another's eyes. Forgive us! Shine in our midst, again and again. Through Jesus we pray. Amen.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

“Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be like snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool” (Isaiah 1:18 RSV).

The Lord our God is forgiving God, removing the guilt of our sin from us. In the gospel it happens through the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus, who is God’s Son and the embodiment of God’s grace, holiness, healing and power. In his name, we are forgiven, changed, and changing. Alleluia! Amen!.

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Our Lord Jesus Christ

EMILY E. S. ELLIOTT, 1864  
*In moderate time*

Irregular

MARGARET  
TIMOTHY R. MATTHEWS, 1876

1. Thou didst leave Thy throne and Thy king - ly crown, When Thou cam - est to  
 2. Heav - en's arch - es rang when the an - gels sang, Pro - claim - ing Thy  
 3. Thou cam - est, O Lord, with the liv - ing Word That should set Thy  
 4. When the heavens shall ring, and the an - gels sing At Thy com - ing to

earth for me; But in Beth - le - hem's home there was found no room  
 roy - al de - gree; But in low - ly birth didst Thou come to earth,  
 chil - dren free; But with mock - ing scorn and with crown of thorn  
 vic - to - ry, Let Thy voice call me home, say - ing, "Yet there is room,

For Thy ho - ly na - tiv - i - ty. O come to my  
 And in great hu - mil - i - ty. O come to my  
 They bore Thee to Cal - va - ry. O come to my  
 There is room at my side for thee." And my heart shall re -

heart, Lord Je - sus: There is room in my heart for Thee!  
 heart, Lord Je - sus: There is room in my heart for Thee!  
 heart, Lord Je - sus: There is room in my heart for Thee!  
 joyce, Lord Je - sus: There is room in my heart for Thee! A-MEN.



**\*RESPONSE:** "Thy Word"

SSB #33

*Refrain*



Shine, Je - sus, shine, fill this land with the Fa - ther's glo - ry;



blaze, Spir - it, blaze, set our hearts on fire.



Flow, riv - er, flow, flood the na - tions with grace and mer - cy;

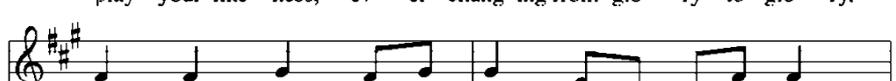


send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

1 Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing, in the midst of the  
2 As we gaze on your king - ly bright - ness, so our fac - es dis -



dark - ness, shin - ing; Je - sus, light of the world, shine up - on us,  
play your like - ness, ev - er chang - ing from glo - ry to glo - ry.



set us free by the truth you now bring us.  
mir - rored here, may our lives tell your sto - ry.

*Refrain*



Shine on me, shine on me, shine on me.

Text: Graham Kendrick  
Music: SHINE, JESUS, SHINE, Graham Kendrick

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## **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:** "The (Un)Common Good"

**\*HYMN:** "There Is a Time for Silence"

(Sing to the tune of "Beneath the Cross of Jesus")

**There is a time for silence, a time to listen well,  
a time to hear the painful stories others have to tell.  
O God, may we who love to talk now hear the rage  
and fear,  
and may we learn from neighbors who have long  
been silenced here.**

**There is a time for asking, a time to pause and pray,  
there is a time to hear the prophets speak of God's  
new day,  
to hear the words of Jesus who taught welcome,  
truth and love,**

**to hear the Spirit speaking through the ones who shout, "Enough!"**

**There's time for humble study— for reading and for thought.**

**God, may we learn from others of the justice they have sought,**

**And may we learn from those who bravely stand against the hate,**

**So when we're called to justice, we, your church, won't hesitate.**

**There's time for good reflection, to ponder who we've been,**

**to think how our own attitudes have paved the way for sin,**

**to listen to the ones we fear— to folks we may resent—**

**to hear of Jesus' call to love— and humbly to repent.**

**And there's a time to work now — to boldly say their names,**

**to protest and to organize, to advocate for change, to use our voices and to stand with those who are oppressed.**

**As we seek justice, hand in hand, Lord, may your world be blessed.**

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**\*CHARGE** (from Galatians 5)

P: "For freedom Christ has set us free.  
Stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a  
yoke of slavery.

**C: *For you were called to freedom, brothers and  
sisters; only do not use your freedom as an  
opportunity for self-indulgence,***

P: but through love become slaves to one another.

**C: *For the whole law is summed up in a single  
commandment,***

**All: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**C: *Amen!***

**\*POSTLUDE:** Selected

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FOR WORSHIP TODAY

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MINISTER	Rev. Richard Lanford
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Beth Lanford
COUNTERS	Annie Noorts/Kathy Zipperer
NURSERY	Mike Ryan

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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**Good Morning!** Welcome to worship, fellowship and Christian education at St. Peter's United Church of Christ. Whether you are joining us livestream or in-person, we are honored to be with you in the Lord's presence.

**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!

**TODAY is our Fundraiser with the Village Inn!** From 11 to 11, eat-in, carry-out or delivery, whatever you order (and mention you are with the St. Peter's U.C.C. fundraiser when you do) will help St. Peter's because afterward, the Village Inn will give the church 20% of all proceeds from your orders! We hope you can participate and thank you if you do.

**A Just Harvest Kitchen is this month – *despite generous past donations we are still short \$110, so please give if you can!*** Since The Virus hit the food has been distributed curbside to prevent infection and not have a large group indoors at the same time, dining. The Kitchen staff has been using money we collect and send over, \$500 per event, to buy the groceries, cook the sloppy joes, and prepare the rest of the meal we would be responsible for, and do the serving. Thank you in advance for your participation in this mission!

**The Church Council meets today** after worship at 11:15. These are open meetings; you do not have to be a member of the Council or on one of the Boards to sit in.

**Rehabbing:** Dorothy Panzke has been successfully rehabbing her broken leg. however, she has come down with COVID and is now in Room 316 with a quarantine that has several days remaining. Her daughter also had back surgery this week.

Carolyn Kuechler continues rehabbing at home from her knee surgery last month, and Ursula Dworak came down with COVID last week. Please them in your prayers.

**Tomorrow, Monday January 17th**, is the deadline for articles for the February newsletter, can you believe it?! Please submit them by tomorrow morning!

**FUNDrive: DATE EXTENDED UNTIL JANUARY 23<sup>rd</sup>!** Due to the postponement of our Outreach Open House (see below) we have decided to extend the date a week to collect more soft goods. *This also means our truck & loading date has changed. It is now January 29<sup>th</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. We will also need a rental truck driver!***

**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!

Having birthdays this week are: Andre Gloeckner, Karen Christianson, David Iannotti, Harry Kuras (son of Angela & Harrison Kuras) and Alane (Schaller) Swiderski. Celebrating wedding anniversaries are Ray and Pat (Mauer) Erdman and Gerry and Annie Noorts. May God bless them all!

According to the schedule next Sunday's lector is Beth Sterba, and the Nursery will be attended by Annie Noorts (unless there was a switch).

**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!

**Thanks to** Rich Schneider for cleaning up the Advent and Christmas leftovers, including putting away the Nativity set, figures, Chrismons, other decorations, and our tree. Also Dan Guenther moved out the Advent wreath. We appreciate your help!

**Thanks to those who got their Annual Reports in!** It's appreciated.

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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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## Extravagant Sign

Weddings join more than the people being married. They join families, traditions, and stories. Generations come together. Children who were strangers become cousins. Two become one in many ways. In this story told in John's Gospel, there is a wedding with a problem. The wine has run out. Jesus is there, with his mother. In the hands of this gospel author that situation turns into an opportunity to make a point about a moment in the first century when the religious landscape was changing. This is a story about the transformation of traditions.

During the time that John's Gospel came into being, synagogues were being disrupted by Jews who were proclaiming a new religious vision within the context of Judaism. Their voices were raised in worship and community gatherings. What they proclaimed was disruptive to the religious traditions of their day. They were saying that a carpenter's son who was crucified by Roman guards was the Messiah for whom they have been waiting. Talk about conflict! Talk about turmoil! It must have been hard for everyone. John's gospel emerged in the middle of this commotion. That is why this Gospel often takes traditional religious symbols of its day and puts them in the hands of Jesus who transforms them.

The jugs that Jesus fills with wine were used for religious rituals of cleansing. What was sacred and symbolic is, after Jesus gets through with them, now filled with wine... a symbol of celebration and newness. There are many ways we can think about this. One is that by using ritual vessels for wine Jesus joins what we think of as ordinary with our sacred practices.

Many of our churches experiment with new ways of worship and new ways of transforming old traditions. In Cleveland, at our own Amistad Chapel, in the summer of 2018, artists gathered from all over the country. They were visual artists, dancers, scholars of liturgy, writers, and storytellers. They gathered to create and wonder and experiment and discover a new language of our faith – a language for a new century already well underway. They gathered to develop resources for the local church and to support our justice work, and they all came to share how the sacred speaks through our creative selves made in God's image. One of the participants, Rev. Erin Beardemphl said this about art, "If we could, in our churches and in our communities, show people that they really are creative beings, I expect the world would be so much more loving." Like what Jesus did at the wedding, they were filling old vessels with new wine.



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

8.5" x 11" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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## **SCRIPTURES FOR THE CONGREGATION**

**January 9, 2022**

### **ISAIAH 62:1-5**

“For Zion’s sake I will not keep silent,  
and for Jerusalem’s sake I will not rest,  
until her vindication shines out like  
the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch.  
The nations shall see your vindication,  
and all the kings your glory;  
and you shall be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the LORD will give.  
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.  
You shall no more be termed Forsaken,  
and your land shall no more be termed Desolate;  
but you shall be called My Delight Is in  
Her, and your land Married; for the LORD delights in you,  
and your land shall be married.  
For as a young man marries a young woman,  
so shall your builder marry you,  
and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,  
so shall your God rejoice over you.”

### **FIRST CORINTHIANS 12:1-11**

Paul wrote, “Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says “Let Jesus be cursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the

Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.”

### **JOHN 2:1-11**

“On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.” His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, “Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.” So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and

said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.” Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.”