



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 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.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

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St. Peter's United Church of Christ
Oakton Street and Laramie Avenue, Skokie, IL
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OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR
Sunday, December 26, 2021, 10:00 AM
The First Sunday after Christmas

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: Behold, the Morning Star of heaven;

Congregation: Among beasts of the earth he is stabled.

P: The all-seeing eyes have closed in sleep.

C: The fullness of eternity is sealed in skin.

P: He who cradled all worlds is himself cradled in a mother's arms.

C: Behold, the one true God, is one of us. Let us sing praises to God's name!

***HYMN:** "Behold, a Branch is Growing" #113 (v. 1)

113

Sixteenth Century
Tr. st. 1-4, HARRIET R. KRAUTH, 1875
St. 5, JOHN CASPAR MATTES, 1914

ES IST EIN REIS ENTSPRUNGEN

Traditional Rhenish Folk Song
Alte Kath. Geistliche Kirchengesäng, KÖLN, 1599
7. 6. 7. 6. 6. 7. 6.

In the style of a carol

1. Be - hold a Branch is grow - ing Of love - liest form and grace; As proph - ets
2. I - sa - iah hath fore - told it In words of prom - ise sure, And Ma - ry's
3. The shep - herds heard the sto - ry Pro - claimed by an - gels bright, How Christ, the
4. This Flower, whose fragrance ten - der With sweet - ness fills the air, Dis - pels with
5. O Sav - iour, Child of Ma - ry, Who felt our hu - man woe, O Sav - iour,

sung, fore - know - ing, It springs from Jes - se's race, And bears one lit - tle Flower
arms en - fold It, A vir - gin meek and pure. Through God's e - ter - nal will
Lord of glo - ry Was born on earth this night. To Beth - le - hem they sped,
glo - rious splen - dor The dark - ness ev - ery - where. True Man, yet ver - y God,
King of glo - ry, Who dost our weak - ness know, Bring us at length we pray

In midst of cold - est win - ter, At deep - est mid - night hour.
This Child to her is giv - en, At mid - night calm and still.
And in the man - ger found Him, As an - gel - her - alds said.
From sin and death He saves us And light - ens ev - ery load.
To the bright courts of heav - en, And to the end - less day. A - MEN.

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

P: Upon the birth of his son John, Zechariah the priest said John would go before the coming Lord "to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins . . . to guide our feet into the way of peace."

C: We admit we must have that knowledge of salvation, for we have sins needing mercy, and our world is far from walking in the ways of peace! Let us pray:

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

P: Lord God of Christmas, we stand on the threshold of another year. We thank You for giving us another year of life. You have given us many gifts during the last year; and yet we realize that we have often failed to use those gifts or our lives as creatively and constructively as we might have.

C: Now give us the care to shape the moments of this next year into tender, gentle expressions of concern. When needed, may we shape them also into cries and non-violent actions against injustice and violence. May the year be fulfilled with achievements: wrongs corrected, friendships deepened, the disheartened encouraged. Help us to energize Your love, even as You became love to us.

P: As Mary, Joseph and Jesus settled in Nazareth, help us, God, to let You take up residence in each one of our hearts. Forgive us our failures, our weaknesses, our fears and our doubts. In the name of the babe of Bethlehem, the Prince of Peace, we pray. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him” (John 3:16-17).

God so loved the world that God gave us Jesus, the Son, so we might be saved. Delivered. Brought back both to God and to God’s transformed community of peace and justice, love and forgiveness, hope and joy. In Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven, and our lives can be changed to find our lives in God. In affirming this good news, let the congregation join me in saying

ALL: Thanks be to God! Amen.

*RESPONSE: "Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn"

ELW 242

Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn

Marty Haugen

♩ = 63

D G Am7 G/B D

1. A - wake! a - wake, and greet the new morn, For
 2. To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
 3. In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, When
 4. Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, Though

4 G/B C Am7 D7 G Am7

an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing, Sing out your joy, for
 man - uel comes a sing - ing, His hum - ble song is
 all the world is de - spair - ing, As morn - ing light so
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, The ris - ing sun shall

7 G/B D Am7 D C G

now he is born, Be - hold the Child of our long - ing,
 qui - et and near, Yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
 qui - et and free, So warm and gen - tle and car - ing,
 crown you with light, Be strong and lov - ing and fear - less;

10 D G Em Am/C D

Come as a ba - by weak and poor, To bring all hearts to -
 Mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul And hymns of lov - ing
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, The lame shall leap in
 Love be our song and love our prayer, And love, our end - less

13 Em D7 G C B7 Em

geth - er, He o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door And
 kind - ness, The thun - der of his an - thems roll To
 won - der, The weak be raised a - bove the strong, And
 sto - ry, May God fill ev - 'ry day we share, And

Tag at end with ritard

16 Am7 D7 G C/G G

lives not in - side us for - ev - er, _____
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness, _____
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der, _____
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry, _____

12/19/2018

CALL TO OFFERING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Old Testament:

Olivia Altmayer
I Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Epistle:

Colossians 3:12-17

***MUSICAL MEDITATION**

Janet Palmer
Guest Pianist

***GOSPEL:**

Luke 2: 41-52

***RESPONSE:** "O Little Town of Bethlehem" #108
 (In verse 2, line 4 you may choose to sing "and peace to all on earth" instead of "to men on earth").

108

Our Lord Jesus Christ

PHILLIPS BROOKS, 1868

8. 6. 8. 6. 7. 6. 8. 6.

ST. LOUIS
 LEWIS H. REDNER, 1868

With joy and serenity

1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie;
 2. For Christ is born of Ma - ry, And gath - ered all a - bove,
 3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is given!
 4. O Ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem! De - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by:
 While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won - dering love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heaven;
 Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The Ev - er - last - ing Light;
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
 No ear may hear His com - ing, But in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad ti - dings tell;

The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.
 And prais - es sing to God the King, And peace to men on earth!
 Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Em - man - u - el! A - MEN.

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: "Mary, Joseph and Searching for Jesus"

105

His Nativity

Traditional Carol
Altered by EARL MARLATT, 1937

LES ANGES DANS NOS CAMPAGNES (IRIS)

7. 7. 7. 7. with Refrain

French Carol Melody

Joyously

1. An - gels we have heard on high, Sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
 2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?
 3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;

And the moun - tains in re - ply Ech - o - ing their brave de - light.
 What great bright - ness did you see? What glad ti - dings did you hear?
 Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

REFRAIN

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o, Glo - - - - -

- - - - - ri - a . . . in ex - cel - sis De - o. A - MEN.

***CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

P: Let us go into the new year confident and full of faithfulness.

C: *Let us go forth celebrating the great good news that Jesus Christ is born.*

P: Let us go forth now with the mighty blessings of the eternal God. Amen.

***POSTLUDE:** Selected

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Good Morning! Dear Jesus, continue to live in our hearts as we embrace not just two days of Christmas but 12! Amen.

Thanks to Janet Palmer for filling in for Ben this morning!

Thanks to everyone who served in the ministries of the church this morning!

The baptism that was scheduled for this morning’s service had to be rescheduled into next year due to a family emergency down in Texas, where the Bruhn family lives.

Hospitalized: Dorothy Panzke was released from Swedish Covenant Hospital a second time and is now quarantining and receiving physical therapy at Harmony House, Room 313, 3919

W. Foster Avenue, Chicago, 60625. The phone number there is (773) 588-9500. Carolyn Kuechler had partial knee replacement surgery on Wednesday the 22nd. Please remember both of them in your prayers.

The 2022 Offering Envelopes are ready to be picked up! They are currently in the Narthex. Come and get them if you haven't already! If you do not have a box of envelopes and want one, please call the church office or contact Financial Secretary Marcia Hilliard and we'll get a box to you. **2022 wall calendars** courtesy of Haben Funeral Home, with St. Peter's contact information, are available for pick-up in the Narthex, on a desk by the office, and in the Memorial Room.

Having birthdays this week are Carol Iannotti (today), Laura Olson, Beverly Mau, Maury Lord and Jim Todd. May their day be blessed!!

Our Sunday School will be collecting baby items through the end of the month so you still have time to donate if you haven't already. 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 9th*. We are currently at over 200 bags, about halfway through so keep bringing stuff! 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 right inside the door. Please note, do not bring the 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 15th we need lots of helpers to load all the donations into a truck and haul them to Saver.***

Office Manager Laura Olson will be on Christmas break on Monday, December 27th, take her last day off on Friday, December 31st, and again, receive Monday, January 3rd off as New Year's Day was on a weekend. **Pastor Lanford** will begin a vacation starting Monday the 27th, ending on Monday the 3rd of January. He will be on his usual Tuesday off on January 4th but will be checking messages as usual.

The Rev. Blair Hull will preach, lead the second half of worship and celebrate Communion with us on January 2nd, 2022. Please come and give her another warm welcome!

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!

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 26, 2021

Luke 2:41-52

Who is This Child?

Today's scripture reading gives us a short glimpse into the life of the boy Jesus, at the moment that he ceases being a child and begins to be a young adult. His parents, after a frantic search, discover him in the temple in a sort of self-directed impromptu confirmation class of one - a class in which he is both student and teacher.

By beautiful happenstance, this day also begins the celebration of Kwanzaa, a day for teaching and learning. The Rev. Calvin Jones of Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago tells the story of this holiday* which was introduced in 1966 as a celebration of people of African descent in the United States.

While Kwanzaa is not religious, its values of anti-consumerism, strong families, and cultural tradition resonate strongly with our Christmas celebrations in the progressive church. Each day of Kwanzaa is marked by a principle, which is named both in Swahili and English. Why do you think these principles are important markers for those of African descent? Whether you celebrate Kwanzaa or not, how might these principles inform and enrich your understanding of the Christ story?

December 26: Umoja or Unity

December 27: Kujichagulia or Self-Determination

December 28: Ujima or Collective Work and Responsibility

December 29: Ujamaa or Cooperative Economics

December 30: Nia or Purpose

December 31: Kuumba or Creativity

January 1: Imani or Faith

**Learn more about Kwanzaa in this stirring video from Rev. Calvin Jones at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MNPhdf9b4k>.*



8 1/2" x 11" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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BUC0204

SCRIPTURES FOR THE CONGREGATION

December 26th, 2021

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the LORD"; and then they would return to their home.

Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and with the people.

Colossians 3:12 – 17

Paul wrote, 12As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. 13Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. 15And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. 16Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. 17And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Luke 2:41 – 52

41Now every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. 42And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. 43When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. 44Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. 45When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. 46After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. 47And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. 48When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." 49He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" 50But they did not understand what he said to them. 51Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. 52And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.