



**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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**847-673-8166**

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**OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR**  
**Sunday, January 30, 2022 10:00 AM**  
**Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

**WELCOME GUESTS!**

\* Indicates all who are able are invited to stand

**PRELUDE**                      "New Britain"                      arr. Hayes

**THE RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS**                      Jenn Schneider

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

**WOMEN:** I may be tired,

**MEN:** I may be weary,

**WOMEN:** But I'm not worried

**MEN:** Because I know we're going to be lifted up!

**WOMEN:** God's Word raises us up and gets us ready.

**MEN:** Ready for worship, the Annual Meeting, and  
for all of life's bad times and good.

**WOMEN:** So let's get started; let's worship our God!

**MEN:** Amen!

**\*OPENING RESPONSE: "Awesome God"**

SSB #21

Our God is an awe - some God, he  
reigns from heav - en a - bove with wis - dom,  
pow'r, and love— our God is an awe - some God!  
Our God is an awe - some God! Our God is an awe - some God!

The musical score is written in G major, 2/2 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff has chords Em, C, G/B, and G. The second staff has chords D, Em, D/E, Em, and C. The third staff has chords G/B, G, Am, Em/B, Bm7, and Em. The fourth staff has chords Am, Em/B, Bm7, Em, Am7, Em/B, Bm7, and Em. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes.

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

Pastor: Sometimes when we leave God's path of righteousness and love, we forget to admit that to God, and these can pile up. A distance grows between us and God.

**Congregation:** *It's as if we are presuming on God's grace, without realizing it. We do not mean to be that un-humble. Let us, then, come clean with our Savior.*

## **\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Holy One, You know our best efforts to show love and to be honest, to do the right thing and avoid the wrong things. You see us take a stand for what is honorable and just, and we give You thanks. We believe that You also see us when we fall far short in these areas. You see us give in to temptations, to speak half-truths, give in to selfish desires at someone else's expense, to ignore what holy cause cries out for our energy, and to be cold-hearted and judgmental in spirit, if not also in words and deeds. We confess to grieving Your Holy Spirit, and to not coming to you as soon as possible to pray for forgiveness and renewal. You deserve better from us.**

**We pray for these things, now, loving Jesus. Restore our disciplines of drawing near to Your throne of grace, and strengthen our wisdom, strength, love and hope. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

“As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear 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” (Colossians 3:12-13).

The Lord has forgiven you. Because that’s who God is, especially as we know God through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Can I get an Amen, anybody?

**ALL: Amen!**

\*HYMN:

"Amazing Grace"

SSB #5 (vv. 1,2,3)

1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that  
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I  
4 My God has prom - ised good to me, whose  
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
grace my fears re - lieved; How pre - cious did that  
have al - read - y come; 'Tis grace has brought me  
word my hope se - cures; God will my shield and  
shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to

now am found, was blind but now I see.  
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

*John Newton's autobiographical hymn reflects his conversion from his earlier existence as a slave trader. While serving as curate in the English village of Olney, Newton met William Cowper, and together they published Olney Hymns, which included this hymn.*

Tune: AMAZING GRACE C.M.  
(NEW BRITAIN)  
Columbia Harmony, Cincinnati, 1829  
Arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1900

## **WORDS ABOUT OFFERING**

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

The Prophets:

Carolyn Van Til

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Epistle:

I Corinthians 13

**\*MUSICAL MEDITATION** "The Gift of Love" arr. Hal Hopson

**\*GOSPEL:**

Luke 4:21-30

**\*RESPONSE:** "Alleluia!"

#495

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:**

The Salem Church Covenant 1629

**"We covenant with the Lord and one with an other and doe bynd our selves in the presence of God, to walke together in all his waies, according as he is pleased to reveale himself unto us in his blessed word of truth."**

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

#493

## **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 Sermon Before the Meeting"

**\*HYMN:** "How Lovely Is Your Church, O Lord!"  
(Sing to the tune of "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past")  
**How lovely is your church, O Lord,  
Where we can sing and pray;  
One day within your courts is more  
Than thousands far away.**

**Within these walls we come to know  
Your grace — so undeserved!  
For at the table Christ knelt low  
To be the one who served.**

**You give your Spirit's blessings here  
Then send us from this place  
To challenge hatred, greed, and fear  
With gifts of love and grace.**

**At times we're filled with troubling doubt:  
"I'm old!" "I'm young!" "I'm weak!"  
Yet you who sent the prophets out  
Will give us words to speak.**

**How lovely is your church, O Lord,  
When we are serving you!  
For when we serve the lost and poor  
Your love is shining through.**

(Text: Copyright © 2005 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. Copied from Songs of Grace: New Hymns for God and Neighbor by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette (Upper Room Books, 2009), and owners of this book like our Pastor are free to publish this for a single service).

**\*CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

***C: Amen!***

**\*POSTLUDE:** "St Anne" arr. J Brighton

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FOR WORSHIP TODAY

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MINISTER	Rev. Richard Lanford
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Maria Altmayer
COUNTERS	Marlene Russell and Judy Paige
NURSERY	Heidi Tarzian

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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**Good Morning!** As Jesus told his hometown listeners (Luke 4:21-30), God's care reaches beyond all borders. Whoever you are and wherever you come from, you are welcome here.

**Thanks to everyone who helped make today's hybrid worship on YouTube possible,** and thanks to everyone who attends in person, or watches and encourages others to watch!

**TODAY is our Annual Congregational Meeting and we need a quorum of at least 20%** of our current active membership number of 125, which is 25. An active member is a joined member who has been in worship at least once, taken Communion at least once, or made a financial contribution at least once, in the past 12 months. We convene in the Memorial Room right after service. The meeting will be hybrid, but physical attendance is really requested if you have been fully vaccinated / boosted, keep social distance outside your family unit, sanitize or wash hands before entering the Memorial Room, and wear a mask.

**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!

**Thank you to everyone who showed up yesterday morning to help load the Savers truck,** and to Bill Orpet who volunteered to drive it! We needed everyone who came, so thank you! And thanks to Annie Noorts for organizing this fundraiser.

**HOSPITALIZED:** Dorothy Panzke remains at the Harmony House for physical therapy after her broken leg surgery. Ursula Dworak may be home by this weekend from Glenbrook Hospital; she continued to slowly improve all last week. Anne-Marie Gloeckner, Andre's mom was hospitalized at St. Francis last week and is home now.

**This coming week Pastor will be meeting-busy** with the Niles Township Clergy Forum, the weekly meeting with Laura, and then his CCCOP (Clergy Continuing Community of Practice) (all Wednesday), followed Thursday morning by hosting our CMA Cluster 1 hybrid meeting from 9:30 to 11:30 AM.

According to the schedule next Sunday's lector is Rich Schneider, and the Nursery will be attended by Carolyn Van Til.

**Thanks to everyone who continues to donate to our mini-pantry.** We continue to have a need for weekly donations. 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!

**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!

**Next Sunday’s worship includes the service of the installation of those Officers and Board members elected / re-elected** at the Annual Meeting today. If you are elected, and able to make it physically we will appreciate that. If you are going to join the livestream for the service, we will install you / you will be installed virtually, like last year (before we were inviting in-person worshipers), so no worries. We also celebrate the Lord’s Supper next Sunday.

**Next Sunday we will begin a hymn-of-the-month!** By singing it weekly we shall learn “We Are Called” throughout February. Thanks to Ben for this new hymn!

**The Worship and Music Committee** will meet after worship on Sunday, February 13th.

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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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January 30, 2022

Luke 4:21-30

## Prophet on the Edge

### Health and Human Service Sunday



This is the logo of Health and Human Service Sunday, which many churches celebrate today.

The logo shows a circle of hands of many colors reaching for each other. This circle of hands reminds us that we are all involved in the circle of care - sometimes giving, sometimes receiving, always included in some way in the circle.

In recent years we have begun to use the phrase “essential worker” to describe some workers whose work in the circle pandemic helped us realize we could not live without. As we honor essential workers on this day, we give thanks for all who are involved in the circle of care.

“The UCC and its predecessor denominations courageously founded schools, hospitals, and orphanages during times of pandemic, war, and social upheaval. Now, there are more than 400 UCC affiliated health care centers, hospitals, affordable housing and retirement communities, transitional housing for those experiencing homelessness or domestic violence, and service centers for children, youth, families, and those with developmental disabilities. These ministries continue to show up in the most challenging circumstances—and do so with the fervor of healing and justice.”\*

\*“Council for Health and Human Service Ministries | Home.”  
CHHSM, [www.chhsm.org/](http://www.chhsm.org/). Accessed 7 July 2021.



## **SCRIPTURES FOR THE CONGREGATION**

**January 23, 2022**

### **Jeremiah 1:4-10**

Now the word of the LORD came to me saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." Then I said, "Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy."

But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a boy'; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD." Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me, "Now I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

### **1 Corinthians 13:1 - 13**

Paul wrote, "If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but

rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but -- when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.”

The Gospel lesson picks up from where it left off last week. Jesus had read from Isaiah 61 and 58 about being anointed by the Lord to bring good news to the poor, to set at liberty the oppressed, etcetera, and said that this Scripture was now fulfilled in their hearing. Here is where today’s passage begins:

### **Luke 4:21 - 30**

Then Jesus began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?” He said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Doctor, cure yourself!’ And you will say, ‘Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.’” And he said, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet’s hometown. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet

Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.” When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.