



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** 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

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
www.stpeteruccskokie.org
847-673-8166**

WELCOME GUESTS!

* Indicates all who are able are invited to stand

PRELUDE

Selected Poems

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jenn Schneider

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Pastor: Arise, people of God! The light has come; it shines around us, within us, and without us.

Congregation: *In the gloom of winter we seek out the light of Christ; we yearn for God's radiance and warmth.*

P: Gather, people of God! Come to encounter
the Holy Mystery of God-with-us.

C: *Give thanks, people of God! Let us be servants of the gospel, sharers in the promise of Christ.*

ALL: Through Christ, we have access to God;
let us be bold in our worship!

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

P: Last Sunday we heard Jeremiah say that the human heart is 'devious above all else; it is perverse -- who can understand it?' We know our hearts are not always true or nor our works always righteous. We can confuse our own selves by what we refrain from doing and what we do. But God does understand the heart, and can restore us to where God longs for us to be when we return. Let us then, so confess and return to our forgiving, patient God.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

P: Compassionate God, we confess the times when we have closed ourselves to Your love. We cling to our fear, our guilt, our self-hatred, rather than let ourselves be warmed and healed by Your love.

C: We close our hearts, refusing to be channels of Your love for others. We are frozen like winter ice and snow.

ALL: Forgive us, and give us courage to trust You and to let Your love flow through us to others; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON** (from Psalm 103)

"The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. God will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever. God does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is God's steadfast love towards those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far the Lord removes our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him. For God knows how we were made; and remembers that we are dust" (vv. 8-14).

We know this sin-removal and forgiveness uniquely through Jesus Christ crucified and risen. It is a message not only of spectacular grace but also one of change, our change, in response to God's inexpressible gift. In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven and our relationship with God is restored.

ALL: Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

***HYMN:** "We Are Called" SSB #13 (vv. 1-3)

This is our hymn of the month, minus Feb. 3rd. Janet will play it once through for us, then we will sing it together

Gather 518

David Haas

♩ = 138

1. Come! Live in the light! _____ Shine with the joy and the
2. Come! O - pen your heart! _____ Show your ner - cy to
3. Sing! Sing a new song! _____ Sing of that great day when

7 C D Em Em⁷ C

love of the Lord! We are called to be light for the
all those in fear! We are called to be hope for the
all will be one! God will reign, and we'll walk with each

12 G/B Am G/B C C/D

king-dom, to live in the free - dom of the cit - y of God! _____
hope less so ha - tred and blind-ness will be no more!
oth - er as sis -ters and bro - thers u - ni - ted in love! _____

Refrain

17 D C D Gsus⁴ G C D Em

— We are called to act with jus-tice, we are called to love ten-der - ly,
— —

25 Em⁷ C D Gsus⁴ G C D G

— we are called to serve one an - oth-er; to walk hum-bly with God!

33 G [1.2. C C/E D/F# D/G D/A] [3. C C/B Am Am/B Am/C D D/F# G

— we are called to serve one an - oth-er; to walk hum-bly with God!

10-5-2019

WORDS ABOUT OFFERINGS PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

The Prophets:

Karen Christianson

Epistle:

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

I Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

***MUSICAL MEDITATION:** Selected

***GOSPEL:**

Luke 6:27-38

***RESPONSE:**

"Alleluia!"

#495

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: "Let us be Children of the Most High"

***HYMN:** "Christ, Your Words of Love Confound Us"

(Please sing to the Easter hymn tune "Alleluia, Alleluia!" # 174)

**Christ, your words of love confound us, even as we
give you praise,
for the lessons that you teach us seem so far from this
world's ways.**

**How can we love those who hate us? How can we love
enemies?**

**What of people who abuse us? How can we love even
these?**

**Make us mindful: love is action, not a feeling that
uplifts.**

In each daily situation, love's the greatest of all gifts.

**It's the wiser, stronger person who will break the
chain of hate.**

**Love can usher in redemption; love can make a people
great.**

**Faced with those who seek to hurt us, make us
confident and free:**

**you don't call us to be helpless but to stand with
dignity.**

**Lord, when others are demanding, may we know they
matter more**

**than our money or possessions. May we share, not
keeping score.**

**If we love just those who love us, where's the giving?
Where's the grace?**

Even sinners try to do this; they have friends that they embrace.

May we do, Lord, unto others as we'd have them also do.

You have shown us: Love is action. May we love, and make things new.

(Text: Copyright © 2019 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved; used by personal permission). This hymn includes insights from Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "Loving Your Enemies" sermon delivered at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, November 17, 1957. The sermon is available online at The Martin Luther King, Jr. Research and Education Institute at Stanford University).

***CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE:** Selected

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

MINISTER

Rev. Richard Lanford

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Ben Westphal

DEACON

Beth Lanford

COUNTERS

Annie Noorts/Kathy Zipperer

NURSERY

Annie Noorts

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Good Morning! Family of Christ, welcome to worship! In Jesus' name, please greet the children of God seated near you.

We welcome back our guest pianist/accompanist Janet Palmer, filling in for Ben today as he goes north to visit his parents.

Thanks to everyone who serves in the ministries of the church this morning: in Sunday School, Nursery, worship, administration, live-streaming, and in a post-worship Council meeting.

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!

The Church Council meets after worship today.

TODAY IS ALSO our Village Inn Fundraiser! 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.

Tomorrow is the deadline for submissions to the March issue of the church newsletter! Please get them in on-time

so Laura does not have to call you and wait and juggle as articles trickle in behind schedule! Thank you.

This year's Lenten Devotional is "In View of God's Mercy," and as Laura's email from last Wednesday said, we invite you to receive an electronic copy of it! We are sending out some paper copies to those who get the paper version of the Announcer, and there will be limited extra copies here to take. If you want to be included in the e-version, please reply to that email with your preference of Kindle or Nook. You have until February 28th to let the office know!

Please remember that we can always use food contributions for the Mini-Pantry! *There are now copies of a list of suggestions and items by the narthex and on the shelves where the food is kept by the offices. Take one home!* Demand has increased considerably since it was first installed last September. We always appreciate what is brought in, and the need does not go away. Perhaps if you are employed you could ask about doing a collection at your job. Thank you!

ASH WEDNESDAY starts a week from this coming Wednesday, on March 2nd. Pastor will lead two services that day, one at 11:30 AM and one at 7:00 PM (with Communion at the evening service).

The LENTEN BIBLE STUDY starts the week after, on Wednesday, March 9th. In 2022 we will try a book study with a Bible discussion guide. The book is The Third Reconstruction by the Rev. William Barber II and Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove; Peggy McCoy will be getting however many as desired. As of now we will probably meet over Zoom.

Our Prayer of Confession is reprinted by permission of the publisher from Touch Holiness, ed. Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi. Copyright 1990 by The Pilgrim Press.

According to the schedule next Sunday's lector is Beth L., and the Nursery will be attended by Laurie M.

Celebrating a birthday this week is Autumn Fink, whose brother Atlas Fink had his birthday last Friday (sorry for missing that in the Announcer!). She's the only one this week!

Pastor's Podcast is on all the Podcast platforms- iTunes, Stitcher, Overcast, Spotify, Podcast Addict, Amazon Music and more. Just look up "The Redheaded Preacher" on your podcast catcher or music streaming service then hit subscribe and you'll get the newest editions weekly! Give us a 5-star rating and review if you can, it helps us grow so much!

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

PRESIDENT	Jenn Schneider
VICE-PRESIDENT	Judy Paige
TREASURER	Chad McCoy
SECRETARY	Carolyn Kuechler
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Maria Altmayer

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 20, 2022

Luke 6:27-38

Love Your Enemies

Dear God,

Today, I pray for my enemies.

I do not pray that they will change their ways.

(Although I secretly believe that they should.)

I do not pray that they become more like me.

(Although that is a mighty temptation.)

I do not pray, even, that they cease to exist.

(Although I may, in my heart of hearts, desire this.)

Instead my prayer for my enemies looks a lot like a prayer for myself.

Help me Holy One, to stop drinking poison, hoping it will hurt another.

Help me instead to be more like you.

Truthful. Powerful. Compassionate.

Remind me today and every day

That my prayer for my enemies makes

Me - not them - more faithful. Stronger. Whole-er.

Today I pray for my enemies, which is really a prayer that I, myself,

grow every day more and more into Your Divine Image,

the Image in which I am created and meant to be.

Amen.



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

SCRIPTURES FOR THE CONGREGATION
February 20, 2022

Psalm 37:1-11

Do not fret because of the wicked; do not be envious of wrongdoers,
for they will soon fade like the grass, and wither like the green herb.

Trust in the LORD, and do good;
so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.
Take delight in the LORD,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act.
He will make your vindication shine like the light,
and the justice of your cause like the noonday.

Be still before the LORD, and wait patiently for him;
do not fret over those who prosper in their way,
over those who carry out evil devices

Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath.

Do not fret—it leads only to evil.

For the wicked shall be cut off,
but those who wait for the LORD shall inherit the land.
Yet a little while, and the wicked will be no more;
though you look diligently for their place, they will not be there.

But the meek shall inherit the land,
and delight themselves in abundant prosperity.
The salvation of the righteous is from the LORD;
he is their refuge in the time of trouble.
The LORD helps them and rescues them;

he rescues them from the wicked, and saves them, because they take refuge in him.

1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual.

The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven.

As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

Luke 6:27-38

Jesus said, "But I say to you that listen, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray

for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

"Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."