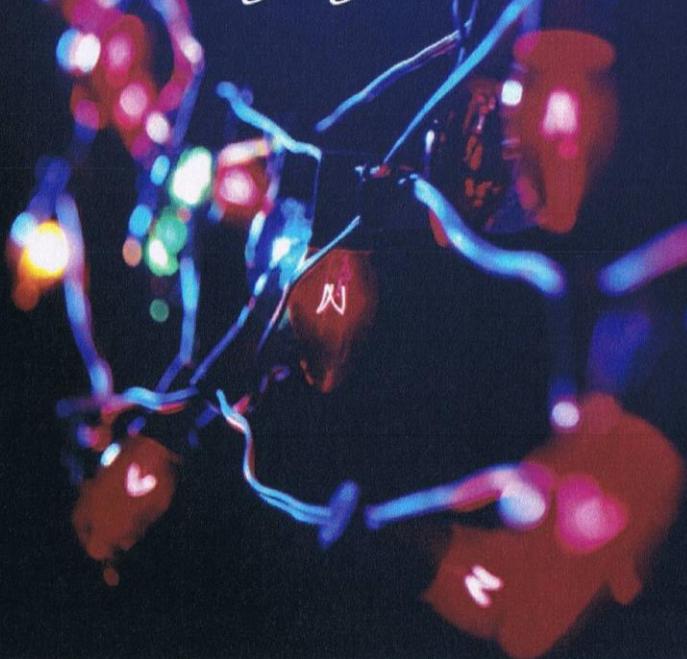


Joy
to the
World



Welcome to St Peter's UCC Virtual Worship Service! Subscribe to our [**YouTube Channel**](#) to catch a new service at 10am each Sunday! We also share a [**podcast**](#) weekly 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

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

**OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR
Christmas Eve**

Friday, December 24, 2021 – 7:00 PM

WELCOME GUESTS!

* Indicates all who are able are invited to stand

PRELUDE: “Selected Carols for Christmas Eve”

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Pastor: The Christ candle is in the center of the Advent wreath and the four candles we've lit this season, because the Christ candle reminds us that Jesus is the center of Christmas. The four outer candles are all important, but they only make sense with Jesus at the center. Yes, Christmas is a time of hope, peace, joy and love, but once again, this is only because of Jesus. And so tonight I want us to look at Jesus as the center of Christmas, and how we only have real hope, peace, joy and love in our lives because of him.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Pastor: Church, prepare to worship! Emmanuel is with us!

C: *A child is coming, a child of wisdom and strength and beauty.*

P: The authority of God will rest upon his shoulders.

C: *He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God.*

P: He will be called the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

C: *He is King of Kings and Lord of lords.*

P: Jesus, Jesus is his name!

C: *His is the name before whom every knee will bow.*

P: Every song of praise will be cast as crowns before him.

C: *For Jesus Christ is Emmanuel, God with us.
Let us worship!*

***HYMN:** "O Come, All Ye Faithful" #112 (vv. 1, 2)

Our Lord Jesus Christ

112

Latin Hymn, 18th century
Tr. FREDERICK OAKELEY, 1841

Irregular

ADESTE FIDELES

WADE's *Cantus Diversi*, 1751

Joyously

Musical score for the first stanza of the hymn. The music is in common time, key signature of A major (three sharps). The vocal line consists of eighth and sixteenth notes. The piano accompaniment features sustained chords.

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - umph - ant, O
2. O sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion! Sing
3. A - men, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing, O

Musical score for the second stanza of the hymn. The music is in common time, key signature of A major. The vocal line includes a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with sustained chords.

come . ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come and be - hold Him,
all . . . ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Now to our God be
Je - sus, for - ev - er be Thy Name a - dored; Word of the Fa - ther,

Musical score for the third stanza of the hymn. The music is in common time, key signature of A major. The vocal line includes a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with sustained chords.

REFRAIN

Born the King of an - gels! O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a -
Glo - ry in the high - est!
Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

Musical score for the fourth stanza of the hymn. The music is in common time, key signature of A major. The vocal line includes a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with sustained chords.

dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord! A-MEN.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

P: O God, whose wondrous love took the form of a little boy:

C: *We confess, honestly and sadly, our great lack of love.*

P: We fail to love the unlovely, because the effort seems foredoomed.

C: *We forget that, in your sight, none of us is lovely.*

P: Some find it hard to love loved ones without bending, manipulating or otherwise using them.

C: *We forget that, with you, love means acceptance first.*

P: And Lord, we suspect that we do not love even ourselves properly;

C: *And that the poverty of our love may reflect our failure to accept the riches of your love,*

P: Offered to us, again and again, freely and gladly, in the form of that little boy.

C: *Forgive us, merciful Lord, for his sake. Amen.*

P: Almighty God, your love and power transform death into life, despair into hope, lifeless stumps into tender shoots and a tiny baby into the Prince of Peace. In the hearing of your Word and the repenting of our sins, transform the hardness of our hearts into lives of receptivity, following the One who came to baptize us with the Holy Spirit and fire, Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

"When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God" (Galatians 4:4-7).

Jesus came to set us free from having to fulfill all Torah to save ourselves, and this work began when he was born to Mary. Through the life and death of Jesus, through grace, we are forgiven; and by faith we are now part of God's family, and heirs of glory. Please join me in praising God by saying . . .

ALL: Alleluia! Amen.

*HYMN: "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing!" # 102 (vv. 1, 2)

102

HYMNS

93

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

77, 77 D

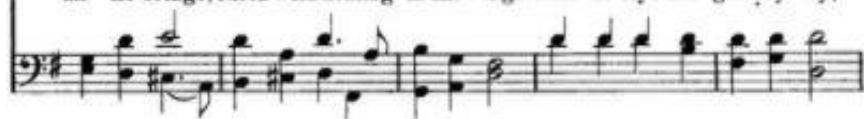
Arr. by William H. Cummings



1. Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King; Peace on earth and
2. Christ, by high-est heav'n a-dored, Christ, the ev-er-last-ing Lord; Come, De-sire of
3. Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to



mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners re-con-ciled." Joy - ful all ye na-tions, rise,
Na-tions, come, Fix in us Thy humble home. Veiled in flesh the God-head see;
all He brings, Risen with healing in His wings. Mild He lays His glo - ry by,



Join the triumph of the skies; With th' angel-ic host pro-claim "Christ is born in
Hail th' Incarnate De - i - ty, Pleased as man with man to dwell; Je - sus, our Im-
Born that man no more may die, Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them



Beth - le - hem ." Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King."
man - u - el. Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King."
sec - ond birth. Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King."



THE SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

A Prophecy of the Messiah

Isaiah 7:10-14

Read by Carolyn Van Til

THE STORY OF THE NATIVITY

Luke 1: 26-38

The Annunciation

Read by Diane Meggs

Luke 1:39-56

The Magnificat

Read by Jessica Schneider

Matthew 1: 18-25

Joseph's Dream

Read by Dan Guenther

Luke 2: 1-7

The Journey and the Birth

Read by Jamie Iannotti

SOLO:

"O Holy Night"

Adolphe Adam, English

translation by John Sullivan Dwight

Sung by: Rich Schneider

Luke 2: 8-20

Of Shepherds and Angels

Read by Barb Todd

John 18:33-38

Jesus on His Birth

Read by Roy Svenson

*HYMN:

"The First Noel"

#118 (vv. 1, 2)

In the style of a Carol

1. The first No - well the an - gels did say Was to cer - tain poor
 2. They look - ed up and saw a star, Shin-ing in the
 3. And by the light of that same star, Three Wise Men
 4. This star drew nigh to the north - west, O'er Beth - le -
 5. Then en - tered in those Wise Men three Full rev - erent -
 6. Then let us all with one ac - cord Sing prais - es

shep-herds in fields as they lay, In fields as they lay keep-ing their east be - yond them far, And to the earth it gave great came from a coun-try a - far, To seek for a king was their in - hem it took its rest, And there it did both stop and ly up - on their knee, And of - fered there in His pres - to our heaven - ly Lord, That hath made heaven and earth of

REFRAIN

REFRAIN

sheep, On a cold win-ter's night that was so deep. No - well, No - light, And so it con - tin-ued both day and night. tent, And to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went. stay, Right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay. ence Their gold, and myrrh, and frank - in-cense, naught, And with His blood man - kind hath bought.

well, No - well, No - well, Born is the King of Is - ra - el!

HOMILY

"For This I Was Born"

*HYMN:

"Joy to the World"

#120 (vv. 1, 3)

120

Our Lord Jesus Christ

From Psalm xciii. ISAAC WATTS, 1719
With joy and dignity

C. M.

ANTIOCH
GEORGE FREDERICK HANDEL, 1742

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth re -
2. Joy to the earth! the Sav - iour reigns: Let men their
3. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the
ceive her King; Let ev - ery heart pre - pare Him room,
songs em - ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
na - tions prove The glo - ries of His right - eous - ness,
And heaven and na - ture sing,
Re - peat the sound - ing joy,
And won - ders of His love,
And heaven and na - ture sing,
Re - peat the sound - ing joy,
And won - ders of His love,
And heaven and na - ture sing,
Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
And won - ders, won - ders of His love, sing,
And heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing,
Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
And won - ders, won - ders of His love, sing,
And heaven and na - ture sing,
Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
And won - ders, won - ders of His love, sing,
And heaven and na - ture sing,
Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
And won - ders, won - ders of His love, sing,
heaven and na - ture sing,
Re - peat the sound - ing joy.
And won - ders, won - ders of His love,

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

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 ConsecrationThe 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**

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

For those of us in person, the ushers will receive light from the Christ Candle and come up the center aisle. The ushers will light the candle of the person nearest the center aisle. Then you pass it on down your pew. How? When you light the candle of the person next to you, keep your candle straight up. To light your candle, tip your unlit candle into the untipped flame offered to you. For those of you joining us virtually, you are invited to light your own candle, and then sing along. When all candles are lit, the lights will begin to fade out. Lights will slowly rise during the Postlude.

*HYMN:

"Silent Night"

#101 (vv. 1, 2, 4)

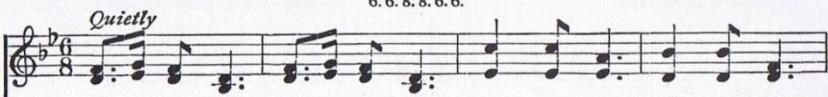
His Nativity

101

Freely translated from JOSEPH MOHR, 1818

6. 6. 8. 8. 6. 6.

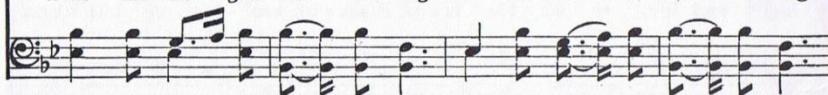
STILLE NACHT
FRANZ GRÜBER, 1818



1. Si - lent night! ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright;
2. Si - lent night! ho - ly night! Dark - ness flies, all is light;
3. Si - lent night! ho - ly night! Guid - ing Star, lend thy light!
4. Si - lent night! ho - ly night! Won - drous Star, lend thy light!



'Round yon vir - gin moth-er and Child, Ho - ly In - fant so ten - der and mild;
Shep - herds hear the an - gels sing: Al - le - lu - ia! hail the King!
See the east - ern wise men bring Gifts and hom - age to our King!
With the an - gels let us sing Al - le - lu - ia to our King!



Sleep in heav - en - ly peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
Christ the Sav - iour is born, Christ the Sav - iour is born.
Christ the Sav - iour is born, Christ the Sav - iour is born.
Christ the Sav - iour is born, Christ the Sav - iour is born.



GERMAN TEXT (Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht)

1 Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
Alles schläft, einsam wacht
Nur das heilige Elternpaar,
Das im Stalle zu Bethlehem war
Bei dem himmlischen Kind,
Bei dem himmlischen Kind.

2 Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
Hirten erst kund gemacht;
Durch der Engel Halleluja
Tönt es laut von fern und nah:
Christ der Retter ist da,
Christ der Retter ist da!

3 Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
Gottes Sohn, o wie lacht
Lieb' aus deinem holdseligen Mund,
Da uns schlägt die rettende Stund',
Christ, in deiner Geburt,
Christ, in deiner Geburt!

***BENEDICTION**

P: The night is still; the stars shine bright. Holiness is all around. Treasure the stillness; drink in the wonder. As you lie down and sleep tonight, may the peace of God enfold you and may you awake with great joy for our Savior has indeed come. All is well.

***RINGING OF THE BELLS**

***POSTLUDE:** "Silent Night" arr. Brickmen

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

MINISTER Rev. Richard Lanford
MUSIC DIRECTOR Ben Westphal
DEACON Beth Lanford

ANNOUNCEMENTS

“What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: give my heart.” (Christina Rossetti)

It is our hope that those who are here in person but not coming into the sanctuary will be able to worship with us via the wall television in the Memorial Room bringing the live service to you.

Thank you to our lectors, our soloist, all who ordered, brought up to the chancel, and organized the poinsettias, live-streamer, Communion Elders, Deacons, volunteers behind the scenes, our staff, and you for attending or joining us through the live-stream! Thanks too to Ben Westphal our Music

Director, and Office Manager Laura Olson for the extra work they put in for Advent, for tonight's service and communicating the bulletin and links!

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.

About Communion: If you picked up a pre-filled Communion cup and wafer, you're ready to partake at the Pastor's prompting. Gluten-free wafers are also out on the tables with those wafer-and-cups (take the cup with the wafer, and then the pre-filled Communion cup for the grape juice). If you did not pick one up, and you are with us online, we ask you to please have some bread, roll or some food meaningful to you (for the bread / body to be consecrated during the service) and likewise juice, water or other beverage (for the wine / blood of Christ) and likewise, partake when the minister prompts us. Thank you!

Next Sunday, December 26th, there is no Sunday School, but there is worship at 10 AM!

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!

Christmastide is Saturday the 26th through January 5th, so if you missed some Christmas Eve hymns or carols not in the service tonight, you might find us singing them next Sunday and on January 2nd when we still sing Christmas music.

The 2022 Offering Envelopes are in the Narthex right now! Please pick yours up before you leave 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.

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.

FUNDrive: Soft Goods wanted: we are collecting soft goods from now until January 9th. We are currently at over 200 bags, about half way 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 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.

Our Sunday School will be collecting baby items through the end of the month. 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!

Tonight's words for the lighting of the Christ Candle are taken from RayFowler.org.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

PRESIDENT	Jenn Schneider
VICE-PRESIDENT	Judy Paige
TREASURER	Amanda Steegmueller
SECRETARY	Carolyn Kuechler
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Marcia Hilliard



IN HONOR/IN MEMORY POINSETTIAS 2021

The Altmayer Family:

In memory of Loved Ones

Barbara and Susan Bailey:

In memory of Loved Ones

Gregory L. Dennis:

In memory of Lois M. Dennis,
Gregory Dennis, Alyce Parman,
Harold Parman

Sharon Johnson:

In memory Daughter, Husband,
Parents and Siblings



Lana Kahn:

In memory of our heavenly family, Roy, June,
Jeff, Dana and so many others that are missed
so dearly

Annie and Gerry Noorts:

In memory of our parents, Joan and George Stahl and
George Noorts

Judy Paige:

In memory of Loved Ones

Harold Ruesch daughters & their families

In memory of Ruesch family Loved Ones



Marlene Russell:

In honor of good friends, in memory of Loved Ones

Alice and Bill Schaller:

In memory of Loved Ones

Theresa Stielow, Martha Mazur, Susan Schmidt and Their Families:

In Memory of our parents, Harold and Jacqueline Ruesch

Roy and Wendy Svenson:

In honor of our grandsons Lincoln, Felix Roy and Arthur Daniel

Barb and Jim Todd:

In memory of Loved Ones

