



**DARING
DISCIPLESHIP**



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.

Open Holy Communion. We have communion 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, 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 two online 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.

- **For one-time donations,** go to [PayPal.me/stpeteruccskokie](https://www.paypal.com/merchot/?x=1&from=seller=&to=stpeteruccskokie) Uncheck the "Paying for Goods or Services" box to not pass on the fees to St Peters.
- **For regular giving,** 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, that is also an option), select your donation frequency, amount, and add payment info. There is also an option here to offset the processing fee.

You can still mail in a check, if that is easiest for you. 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](#) for daily updates and messages, and check our website for additional details, weekly announcements, and more.

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OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR
Sunday, June 21, 2020 10:00 AM
Third Sunday after Pentecost
Father's Day

WELCOME GUESTS!

* Indicates all who are able are invited to stand

PRELUDE: "Morning Has Broken" arr. Mark Hayes

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS Jenn Schneider

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: On Father's Day we virtually gather, in the name of God our Father who art in heaven.

Congregation: We are here to pray 'hallowed by Thy name.'

P: We tune in at this time to give thanks for God's unending love and mercy.

C: We come together over the Internet to praise God who runs after us when we have traveled far away.

P: We gather together, even while physically apart, to draw closer to God.

C: *May we experience God's love in a fresh, new way this day.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

L: Behold, God's hand is not shortened, that God cannot save,

C: *nor is God's ear dull, that God cannot hear.*

L: But our iniquities have made a separation between us and our God,

C: *and our sins have hidden God's face from us.*

P: Wanting and needing to do our part to change this, let us confess our sins in the name of Jesus the Christ.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

You have commanded that we honor our mothers and our fathers, O Lord. Still, we confess that we sometimes have an easier time identifying our differences with family than seeing the things we have in common. There are times when it is easier to love one another, and other times when we grasp for the ability to see anything good in the life of another. Our earthly parents disappoint us at times, and some of us hold grudges. Some of our parents divorce, and we have trouble getting past the hurt this caused us. Forgive us, Lord, and show us how we can better forgive the people around us. Set us free to live in community with You at the center. In the name of Jesus, who loved his earthly parents and his heavenly Father we pray. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON** (based on Psalm 139)

God has searched us and known us. God knows when we sit down and when we rise up. God is acquainted with all of our ways and all of our thoughts. God knows the hurts of our hearts and our hopes for the future. God longs to redeem the past and set us on a new path. We, who have confessed our sin, believing with our hearts, are forgiven. Glory be to God! Amen!

***HYMN:**

"Shine, Jesus, Shine"

#32

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. shine on me:

Text: Graham Kendrick

Music: SHIN!.. JI:SUS, SHIN!.. Graham Kendrick

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WORDS ABOUT OFFERINGS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Old Testament:

Epistle:

Karen Christianson

Genesis 21: 8-21

Romans 6: 1b-11

MUSICAL MEDITATION: "Devotion" by Jim Brickman

GOSPEL: Matthew 10: 24-39

RESPONSE:

"He's My Source"

SSB #17



He's my source _____ of light _____ that



shines in my dark - ness. He's my source of liv - ing



wa - ter that I need ev - 'ry day. He's my



sword and my shield, _____ the fair - est of ten



thou - sand. He's the bright morn - ing Star, _____ the



soon com - ing King, the ris - en Lord. _____

SERMON

“Tough Times”

***HYMN** “You Formed Us In Your Image, Lord”
(Sing to the tune of Greensleeves; ‘What Child is This’)

**You formed us in your image, Lord;
You call us your own children.
In you, each one is loved, adored —
Unique among the millions.
Bless, Lord, the families
Who know the joy: Christ claims and frees!
Bless, too, the ones who weep,
Forgetting that you love them.**

**You made our homes to honor you
With love the strong foundation.
In serving God and neighbor too,
We find our life’s vocation.
Bless families large and small
Who love and serve you when you call.
Bless, too, the ones who fear —
Whose trust and love are shattered.**

**Christ loved and honored family,
Yet showed us what is greater.
He taught a higher loyalty
To God our good Creator.
Bless, Lord, the ones who long
To build up homes where faith is strong.
Bless children, women, men**

**Who risk to serve your kingdom.
In home and church our faith is formed;
We learn your love and caring.
From here we're called to face the storm,
Your love and justice bearing.
Each day your Spirit sends!
We go to strangers, neighbors, friends.
Peace, justice, joy we bring
To all your human family.**

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PASTORAL 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.**

35

Close of Worship

JOHN FAWCETT, 1773

8. 7. 8. 7. 8. 7.

SICILIAN MARINERS
Sicilian Melody, 1794

In moderate time



1. Lord, dis - miss us with Thy bless - ing; Fill our hearts with
2. Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion For Thy gos - pel's



joy and peace; Let us each, Thy love pos - sess - ing,
joy - ful sound; May the fruits of Thy sal - va - tion



Tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace: O re - fresh us,
In our hearts and lives a - bound: Ev - er faith - ful,



O re - fresh us, Trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.
ev - er faith - ful To the truth may we be found; A-MEN.



***CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

C: Amen.

***POSTLUDE:** "Go, My Children with My Blessing"

arr. Westphal

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

MINISTER

Rev. Richard Lanford

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Ben Westphal

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Good Morning, welcome to worship. We especially thank God for father-figures and male mentors today. Let us praise God for these special people and for all his gifts to us!

Thanks to everyone who helped make today's virtual worship on YouTube possible, and thanks to everyone who watches and encourages others to watch! Your words of encouragement and appreciation, and especially when you tell us others have started joining us through word-of-mouth invitation, mean very much!

The Church Council meets via Zoom right after worship today.

June is now known around the country (if not the world) as Pride Month, honoring the achievements, gifts and sacrifices made by those in the LGBTQ+ communities. This is why we have our 'feather flag' of rainbow / pride colors up by our marquis sign, and as we learned last Sunday, why we have a full-length pride flag hanging from a flag pole above our Oakton Street entrance

as an Open and Affirming congregation in the United Church of Christ.

When St. Peter's U.C.C. became an Open and Affirming Congregation, shortly afterward the Church Council voted to join the Chicago Coalition of Welcoming Churches (CCWC). The Coalition is creating a video montage (or "Tribute") for Pride 2020 and has invited St. Peter's to participate. Assuming we have already by the time you read this, we have recorded and submitted our contribution. CCWC will then compile the submissions into a single video message which will be shared for our church to use, as well as placed on Facebook and the CCWC website.

In related Open and Affirming / CCWC news, with the Chicago Pride Parade cancelled due to COVID-19, CCWC plans this: "In lieu of our traditional Pride Brunch, CCWC will be hosting a celebration on Saturday June 27th at 10 AM. The event will be held on Zoom. We are busy working on the details, including an exciting, soul nourishing program. We will also debut the Pride video at the celebration." If you want the link sent to you, let Pastor Richard or President Jen know.

HOSPITALIZED: Beth's brother Dan's longtime companion Eric Keiser remains hospitalized for tests as of Wednesday last week. Ginger's friend Marty is back in hospital, now at Swedish Covenant. June Peterson had surgery for a broken ankle Saturday at Advocate Lutheran general hospital. Prayers for both all are appreciated!

We hope to keep our freshly-repainted entrance doors to the St. Peter's building clean looking as long as possible, and some new informational / directional signs for being by doors are coming, we ask: Please, don't anyone tape anything to the doors! Old tape was one of the biggest issues in painting our new doors. We are looking into mounting a "tape rail" – a thin piece of black plastic to adhere signs etc. to when needed. But for now, PLEASE don't tape anything to the doors!

The Elders have a phone meeting this coming Thursday at 4 PM.

We are always grateful for any and all offerings to the church. No amount is too small! As we said in the opening announcements, 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. Depending on how you set up your PayPal account, you can arrange to pay whatever transaction fee there is yourself, or, that it will be included in your donation and deducted before it hits St. Peter's account (so St. Peter's, in effect, pays it). Thank you very much for giving!

Pastor's podcasts The Redheaded Preacher, is available online anytime by clicking this link:

<https://soundcloud.com/user-601376219>. Each week we record Pastor's sermon and the scripture readings. Great for walks while you stay safe! If people don't have time to sit before a screen for most of an hour, the podcast gives you the Scriptures by the lector and message. If people don't

have time to sit before a screen for most of an hour, the podcast gives you the Scriptures by the lector and message.

This is a slim week for church-related persons celebrating birthdays / anniversaries. On the 26th, Ron Schuhrke's eldest grandson Alexander Martinek has a birthday, and on the 27th (Saturday) Eric and Aaliyah Svenson have an anniversary, shared with Ken and Adrianna Paige. We wish God's blessings on all of them.

The Micah 6:8 Committee is leading our upcoming 6-week-commitment course on Zoom called "White Privilege: Let's Talk." We have room for several more participants, but we begin this coming Wednesday the 24th at 6:30 this week (ending at 8 PM) and there is work for attendees to be done before the first class! Contact either Pastor Richard or Peggy Reins McCoy to let us know of your interest and to get the links to the material (from the U.C.C.). After we start, we're afraid it's too late; this study is not like the often come-and-go-and-it's-ok style of the Lenten studies. There is no charge for the curriculum which you access via the links, and may want to print off the readings.

ICYMI (In Case You Missed It): The pastor promised the names and authors of the books he listed in his Pentecost Sunday sermon as resources for self-teaching through reading (and perhaps further conversation) and we are running them through the month now:

[Anxious to Talk About It: Helping White Christians Talk Faithfully about Racism](#) by Carolyn Helsel.

White Fragility by Robin DiAngelo.

Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?: And Other Conversations About Race, in a newer edition by Beverly Daniel Tatum.

Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America

How to Be an Antiracist -- both of these two are by Ibram X. Kendi.

I'll also add Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates.

The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander, to which Beth Lanford has listened via audiobooks.

Please keep in your prayers Jennifer Castillo, Maribel Powers, Angela Washek Kuras and now also Barb and Jim Todd's granddaughter Kathryn Camardo, all of whom are serving in hospitals as nurses or anesthesiologists, including work with COVID patients, and their families. Cristy Lopez, Merle Tilos and Charlie Rasmason are also health care workers.

According to the schedule next Sunday's lector is Mark Loach.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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

Daring Discipleship Father's Day

Today's scripture reminds us that there is nothing so small and insignificant that it fails to fall under God's watchful care.

It's a great reminder on this, the 63rd anniversary (6/25/2020) of the United Church of Christ. This is just an ordinary, even insignificant year. If you try to look it up, you will find that there is no traditional 63rd anniversary gift. A 63rd might go by unremarked.

One of the hallmarks of the United Church of Christ is that we follow Christ in noticing that which goes unnoticed by others. This year don't let the 63rd anniversary of the United Church of Christ pass without a celebration. What are some of the ways you can celebrate the UCC on this ordinary birthday year?

1. Find out more about the history of the ever-changing denomination and the ecumenical movements that came together to found the UCC. Trying checking out <https://www.ucc.org/about-us-hidden-histories> for more information.
2. Give a gift of \$63 (or \$630 or \$6300!) to the UCC's disaster relief fund. (<https://www.ucc.org/disaster>). UCC Disaster Ministries works with established, local organizations to provide spiritual, physical, financial and psychological support to those living in the aftermath of disaster.
3. Look for and list 63 ways that God is at work in and through your local congregation. Share your list with a friend. What ways are the same and which are different?
4. Make a commitment to pray for your local congregation, conference or association daily for the next 63 days. Notice how your prayers change things.
5. Get a cake, blow up some balloons, invite your congregation to gather and have a party! As followers of Christ, who blessed the smallest and least significant things, we don't need to wait for a big birthday to celebrate.



SCRIPTURES FOR THE CONGREGATION

June 21, 2020

Our first reading is Genesis 21, verses 8 through 21. Isaac, the long-awaited child of promise given to Abraham and Sarah, has been born at last, and he begins to play with Ishmael. Ishmael is Abraham's older son whose mother is Hagar, Sarah's handmaiden. It is a joyous time at first, but trouble brews in paradise!

GENESIS 21:8-21

“8The child Isaac grew, and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. 9But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. 10So she said to Abraham, “Cast out this slave woman with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac.” 11The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. 12But God said to Abraham, “Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. 13As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring.” 14So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on

her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed, and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.

15When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. 16Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, “Do not let me look on the death of the child.” And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. 17And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, “What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. 18Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him.” 19Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink.

20God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow. 21He lived in the wilderness of Paran (pron. Par-AHN); and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.”

The epistle passage below picks up after discussing being saved by God’s grace; being lost in sin led us to pursue grace.

ROMANS 6:1b-11

Paul asks, “What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died

to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Our Gospel reading is Matthew 10, verses 24 through 39. Jesus is talking to His disciples about being persecuted, as they were going to be, and how they should stand firm no matter what or who come against them. His words may sound strange or harsh to us, but if we remember that historical context of persecution, it will help us understand what He meant. Early on you will hear the name “Beelzebul.” That’s the name given to the ruler of the demons.

MATTHEW 10:24-39

Jesus said, “24“A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; 25it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

26“So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known.

27What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. 28Do not fear those who

kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. □ 29Are not two sparrows sold

for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. 30And even the hairs of your head are all counted.

31So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

32“Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; 33but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

34“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

35 For I have come to set a man against his father,

and a daughter against her mother,

and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;

36 and one's foes will be members of one's own household.

37Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; 38and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. 39Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”