



Be Transformed

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 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, 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.me/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 also text your donation to Vanco at 844-997-2346.
- **You can still mail in a check**, if that is easiest for you. We are collecting mail daily, and depositing regularly throughout the week. And now there's a third option of texting a gift! See the details in the announcements.

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)
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OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR
Sunday, August 23, 2020 10:00 AM
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME GUESTS!

* Indicates all who are able are invited to stand

PRELUDE: "Kirken (Built on the Rock)" by Lindeman

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS Jenn Schneider

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: We gather, separated, as individuals, but
God will form us into a community of
faith.

***Congregation: God will draw us together and mold
us into the church!***

P: Let us worship God, whose Spirit infuses
the church.

***C: Let us worship God, who empowers
us to bear witness in the world.***

- **CALL TO CONFESSION**

P: Paul wrote an appeal to his readers, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God."

C: This world is not much for confessions of sin or of alienation from God who can renew us and forgive us.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

We confess, Lord God, that we have in too many ways let ourselves be conformed to this world with its focused self-indulgence, its fears, its hoping to escape accountability, and its materialism and fear of meaningful good change. It has been easy for us to be short-sighted due to impatience and hard for us to draw on wisdom which looks at a longer-term and future consequences. As a result we rarely pray for You to reset our mind and heart. We seldom pray for the knowledge of Your will for us and the power to carry that out.

Forgive us this inattention to the renewal and transformation which Your apostle wrote about and the Holy Spirit of the Risen Christ offers us! It is in the name of that same beloved Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

In the Book of Hosea, the Lord says of unfaithful Israel, "I will heal their disloyalty; I will love them freely, for my anger has turned from them. I will be like the dew to Israel; it shall blossom like the lily . . . shall again live beneath my shadow . . . flourish as a garden" (14:4ff).

God's love is greater than ours, God's forgiveness is broader and deeper than ours; we have seen in Jesus crucified and risen the depths God goes to bring us wanderers back home and fit to represent the Kingdom. That mercy and power is worthy of great praise, and our renovated lives! So please join me in saying by affirmation,

All: Alleluia! Amen.

*HYMN: "I Will Sing the Wondrous Story"

#465 (vv. 1, 3, 4)

465

Miscellaneous Hymns

FRANCIS H. ROWLEY

HYFRYDOL

ROWLAND HUGH PRICHARD, 1811-1887

8. 7. 8. 7. with Refrain

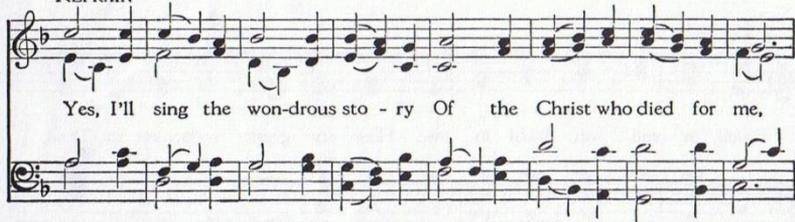


1. I will sing the won-drous sto - ry Of the Christ who died for me,
2. I was lost, but Je - sus found me, Found the sheep that went a - stray;
3. I was bruised, but Je - sus healed me; Faint was I from many a fall;
4. Days of dark - ness still come o'er me, Sor-row's paths I of - ten tread,



How He left His home in glo - ry For the cross on Cal - va - ry.
Threw His lov - ing arms a - round me, Drew me back in - to His way.
Sight was gone, and fears pos - sessed me, But He freed me from them all.
But the Sav - iour still is with me, By His hand I'm safe - ly led.

REFRAIN



Yes, I'll sing the won-drous sto - ry Of the Christ who died for me,



Sing it with the saints in glo - ry, Gath-ered by the crys-tal sea.

WORDS ABOUT OFFERING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Old Testament:

Annie Noorts
Exodus 1:8-2:10

Gospel:

Matthew 16: 13-20

MUSICAL MEDITATION: "Sweet Hour of Prayer"

arr. Penny Rodriguez

SERMON "Ignorance, Fear, and Faithful Defiance"

***RESPONSE: "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less" SSB #17 1-3**

1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je - sus' love and
 2 When shad - ows veil my Sav - ior's face, I rest up - on un -
 3 Christ's oath and cov - e - nant and blood sup - port me in the
 4 When Christ shall come with trum-pet sound, oh may I then in

righ-teous-ness; I dare not trust this earth - ly frame, but
 chang-ing grace; In ev - ery high and storm - y gale, my
 ris - ing flood; When all a - round my soul gives way, Christ
 Love be found, Dressed in God's righ - teous - ness a - lone, fault -

Refrain

whol-ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 an-chor holds with - in the veil. On Christ, the sol - id Rock, I stand;
 then is all my hope and stay.
 less to stand be - fore the throne.

all oth-er ground is sink-ing sand, all oth-er ground is sink-ing sand.

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.**

***HYMN:** "O Jesus, You Were Born to Be"
(Sing to the tune of "Lift Up Your Heads" known in our SSB
as #9)

**O Jesus, you were born to be
God's gift to save humanity;
And one great day we're moving toward,
All life will bow and call you Lord!**

**You taught the people every day
As Rabbi, Teacher of the Way;
O Master, may we learn from you
To love both God and neighbor, too.**

**You are the Bread that satisfies,
The Light that guides us through our lives,
The Gate that leads us safely home,
The Shepherd calling to your own.**

**O Son of God and Son of Man,
You trusted and obeyed God's plan;
The poor, the sick and those in need
Cried, "Son of David, set us free!"**

**You are Messiah, you are Christ,
Anointed One, God's sacrifice.
In you, God's mercy is revealed:
We're saved from sin, forgiven, healed.**

O Jesus, you're the living Way,

**The Resurrection, God's new Day.
You give us hope and make us new;
How wondrous is our life in you!**

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***CHARGE**

P: Who do people say Jesus is?

C: We try to show persons the answer by how we live.

P: Good! What needed to happen for Moses to live, thus for the Hebrews to become free?

C: Faithful and compassionate women disobeyed Pharaoh in service to life and love.

P: Yes! Then let us be free to live in ways that show Jesus to others, and to get in "good trouble, necessary trouble," in service to the Reign of God.

***BENEDICTION**

C: Amen!

***POSTLUDE:** "Old Hundredth" arr. Callahan

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

MINISTER

Rev. Richard Lanford

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Ben Westphal

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Good Morning! Welcome to this opportunity to worship our loving and life-giving God! "Praise God from whom all blessings flow!"

Thanks to everyone who made this service, and bringing it to you, possible.

Instead of a mid-year congregational meeting, you've heard our call to Officers, Boards and the Pastor, among others, to submit midyear reports. Having received them now, we will be sharing the complete set of reports (as one report) out to the congregation via email and regular mail sometime this week.

Special Note: Our next service, premiering next Sunday at 10 AM, we will record the day before at Lorel Park starting at 1:15 or so! If you are interested in coming to watch / participate, bring a chair and a mask!

HOSPITALIZED: June Peterson remains at Bella Terra; 8425 Waukegan Road, MG, IL 60053. Please keep her in your prayers, along with others whom we lift up together today.

There are scheduled meetings this coming week! The Communications Committee gathers virtually on Wednesday, Aug. 26th at 6:30 PM and the Board of Elders meets over the telephone via a free teleconference call service Thursday at 4:00 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).

But now you can also contribute via Give+ Text message! To give via Give+ Text on your cellular phone, text the amount you want to donate to 844-977-2346, and click on the link in the Reply to enter your credit card information. You will get a text back when your donation is complete. Donations are processed through our secure vendor, Give+ by Vanco. There is a bulletin 'insert' giving you the basics you need to know. Thanks to our Board of Finance and Officers for arranging this! Thank you very much for giving!

Mission Work! Our life blood and reason-to-be: Our next day to serve at A Just Harvest Community Kitchen is fast approaching -- it's THIS Saturday, August 29th! As we did last May, the Micah 6:8 Committee will be organizing financial support for a curbside meal that the Kitchen prepares. A member of the Committee created a document that anyone on the internet can access through this

link: https://docs.google.com/document/d/136II525BkJwJdIvvKDvN_MTJAr6mvrNxxkUZ_2VuJbk0/edit?usp=sharing. You may find it is not easy to sign up on a mobile device which is how some of our members will receive the information. As of last Wednesday, *we may need \$125 more* this week so the Kitchen staff can buy the groceries and prepare the food on their schedule. Thanks to all who've pledged so far!

Rummage Sale Update! A very large announcement, with a lot of information in it, went out on Friday via email regarding the Rummage Sale. If you haven't seen it yet, please check it out – 99% of your questions can be answered there! The main items to note are that we WILL hold the sale on Sept 25 & 26, by appointment only, in 2-hour blocks limited to 10 shoppers each. No Bake Sale and no Bag Sale this year. Church members are welcome to shop in person any time after September 15th using the honor system, and are welcome to bring their friends and family as long as they stay with them while they're in the building and follow our safety protocols. Donation drop off deadline is Sept 13th. There is a Signup Genius for both public shopping times and also for volunteers to work the sale. That link is:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080e4dafab29a0fb6-annual>. Please contact Annie Noorts with questions,

or if you'd like to schedule a time to shop, and you don't have a key! We continue to sort on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 6:30-8:30pm.

Having birthdays this week are Juanito Banoyo, Allison Guenther, Ron Lundeen, Valerie Paige-Mahoney, Harrison Kuras and Stephanie Lundeen. Errol and Laurie Mitchell have an anniversary today, and Peter and Christine Svenson's is this coming Friday.

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.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 23, 2020

Exodus 1:8-2:10

Be Transformed

Shiphrah and Puah, midwives to the people in Moses' time, speak:

Shiphrah: A midwife helps women deliver babies. We bring pure, beautiful life into this world so full of corruption and death. Whatever time of the day or night, when we get the call, we go.

Puah: I don't know how the Pharaoh found out about us, because we mostly move in circles with other women. But, sure enough, one day, his soldiers were at our door. They said, "You must come with us immediately."

Shiphrah: Naturally, we assumed we were going to be killed, but there was no time to say goodbye.

Puah: When we got to the palace, we were led out of the dust and sun, and into the moist cool inner room. And, there he was, the Pharaoh himself!

Shiphrah: He told us that we must no longer be bringers of life. Instead, he instructed us to kill the children before they even arrived. And he did not kill us. He let us go, to be his agents of death.

Puah: By the way he commanded it, we realized the Pharaoh didn't understand very much about how babies are born.

Shiphrah: So we nodded and agreed, knowing in our hearts that we would never do as he said.

Puah: Instead, we went on helping the women when the birth pangs came. And some mothers died, and some babies too, but most of them lived.

Shiphrah: Later, when he asked us about this, we said, Life is too vigorous to be put down so easily. Now our people are stronger than ever.

Puah: And because we followed the way of life, not the way of death, so are we.



SCRIPTURES FOR THE CONGREGATION

August 26th, 2020

EXODUS 1:8-2:10

Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land."

Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, "When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live." But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live.

So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?" The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them."

So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families.

Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live."

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman.

The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him, "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said.

Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?"

Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child

and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it.

When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

MATTHEW 16:13-20

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi , he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build

my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.