



*Pentecost*

## **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 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, 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 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.

St. Peter's United Church of Christ  
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[www.stpeteruccskokie.org](http://www.stpeteruccskokie.org)

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**OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR**  
**Sunday, May 31, 2020 10:00 AM**  
**Pentecost Sunday**

**WELCOME GUESTS!**

\* Indicates all who are able are invited to stand

**PRELUDE:**            "Veni, Creator Spiritus"            arr. Westphal  
                             9th Century Plainchant  
                             "Come, Holy Spirit, Creator, come  
                             from your bright heav'nly throne;  
                             come, take possession of our souls,  
                             and make them all Your own."

**THE RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS**            Jenn Schneider

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Pastor:            When the day of Pentecost had come,  
                             unlike us this morning they were all  
                             together in one place.

***Congregation: Like them, we present ourselves to  
praise and worship the living God.***

P:                    From heaven came the sound of a  
                             rushing wind, and fire, in the shape of  
                             tongues, rested on each one.

**C:** *Can we hear the wind? Are we ready for the fire?*

**All:** Fill us with Your Holy Spirit, O God, that we might tell Your glory to all the world.

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

L: We can say the words that come with Pentecost: spirit, wind, fire. We can claim an interest in knowing the God of all creation.

**C:** *But how much time have we devoted to this quest?*

P: How open are we to God's unpredictable summons and direction?

## **\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Lord God, You know we are frightened by strange tongues and people out of control. We want to manage our own lives and assure our own safety. We are afraid that You will ask more of us that we are willing to risk. We do not want others to consider us strange or fanatical. We can be skeptical of dreams and visions. We cannot trust some people You ask us to love. We want to believe, but how can we know that You are more than our collective imagination, a hope we cling to in our despair? Forgive us, and help us, O God! We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.


## **\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

“Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, ‘If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and truth will make you free . . . everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed” (John 8:31, 32, 34b-36).



We have confessed, we are growing enough to come forward and receive what Jesus has for us, which is freedom and forgiveness. We are freed from that which holds us back from believing and following, unless we submit to those obstacles once more. In the name of Christ Jesus our crucified and risen Lord, our sins are forgiven and a Spirit-powered life begins! Alleluia! Amen.

**\*HYMN:****"Lift Up Your Heads"**


SSB #9



1 Lift up your heads, O might-y gates; be-hold the glo - rious Rul - er waits!  
 2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a tem - ple, set a - part  
 3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to you; here, Christ, a - bid!  
 4 So come, my Sov - ereign; en - ter in! Let new and no - bler life be - gin;

The Sov - ereign One is draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.  
 From earth - ly use for heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.  
 Let me your in - ner pres - ence feel; your grace and love in me re - veal.  
 Your Ho - ly Spir - it guide us on, un - til the glo - rious crown be won.



*Georg Weissel, a Lutheran pastor, served a church in Königsberg, East Prussia. He wrote some twenty hymns, most of them for the great festivals of the church year. This hymn was written for Advent.*

Tune: TRURO L.M.  
 Thomas Williams' Psalmodia Evangelica, 1789

**WORDS ABOUT OFFERINGS****PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

The New Testament:

Judy Paige  
Acts 1: 14; 2: 1-21

Gospel:

John 7: 37-39

**MUSICAL MEDITATION "Descend, Celestial Dove"**

by Michael Shea

**SERMON****"Pentecost 2020"**

# \*HYMN

## "Spirit of Gentleness"

SSB #30

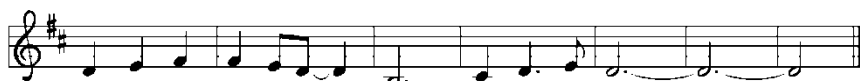
*Refrain*



Spir - it, Spir - it of gen - tle - ness, blow through the wil - der - ness



call - ing and free; Spir - it, Spir - it of rest - less - ness,



stir me from plac - id - ness, wind, wind on the sea.



- 1 You moved on the wa - ters, you called to the deep,
- 2 You swept through the des - ert, you stung with the sand,
- 3 You sang in a sta - ble, you cried from a hill,
- 4 You call from to - mor - row, you break an - cient schemes.



then you coaxed up the moun - tains from the val - leys of sleep;  
and you goad - ed your peo - ple with a law and a land;  
then you whis - pered in si - lence when the whole world was still;  
From the bond - age of sor - row all the cap - tives dream dreams;



and o - ver the c - ons you called to each thing;  
and when they were blind - ed with i - dols and lies,  
and down in the cit - y you called once a - gain,  
our wom - en see vi - sions, our men clear their eyes.



"A - wake from your slum - bers and rise on your wings."  
then you spoke through your proph - ets to o - pen their eyes.  
when you blew through your peo - ple on the rush of the wind.  
With . . . bold new de - ci - sions your peo - ple a - rise.

*Refrain*

Text: James K. Manley, b. 1940

Music: SPIRIT, James K. Manley

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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.**

**\*SONG** "When the Spirit of the Lord Moves in my Heart"

**When the Spirit of the Lord moves in my heart  
I'll dance like David danced (repeat)  
I'll dance, I'll dance, I'll dance like David danced!  
(repeat).**

**When the Spirit of the Lord moves in my heart, I'll  
sing like David sang (repeat)  
I'll sing, I'll sing, I'll sing like David sang (repeat)**

**When the Spirit of the Lord moves in my heart, I'll  
pray like David prayed (repeat)  
I'll pray . . . .**

**Trust / like David trusted!**

**\*CHARGE** (Again, Proverbs 31: 8, 9)

P: The apostles were given the gift of powerful speech:  
So with the gifts of the Spirit, let us all speak out for  
those who cannot speak,

**C: *For the rights of all the destitute.***

P: Speak out, judge righteously,

**C: *Defend the rights of the poor and needy!***

**\*BENEDICTION**

P: And now may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,

**C: *the love of God,***

P: and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all,  
now and forever.

**ALL: Amen!**

**\*POSTLUDE:** "Come Down, O Love Divine!"

Harmonized by Ralph Vaughan Williams

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FOR WORSHIP TODAY

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MINISTER

Rev. Richard Lanford

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Ben Westphal

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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**Good Morning!** Welcome on this day of Pentecost! May we be open to the Holy Spirit's movement among 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!

**Next Sunday, June 7th, is a Communion Sunday.** That means we suggest that folks worshipping with us via YouTube participate together beyond space and time, by having elements from your home ready with you. When Rev. Lanford invites us to take and eat, for the bread, a piece of bread, bun, or even some pita bread can be used; and at the time to 'take and drink,' for the cup, have some grape juice, water, or wine (the big three) or if you prefer something other to drink when we partake, of that.

**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!

**Hospitalized:** Ginger's friend Marty remains hospitalized. Errol's uncle Seymour completed his in-home quarantine! Cristy Lopez has a co-worker hospitalized with the virus and Louie Lopez has a nephew with it; no updates there yet.

**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.

**Missing the monthly Announcer newsletter?** You may remember reading in the last, March, edition, that we are going to publish one every three months, or quarterly. Let us know of graduations / births / weddings that you'd like us to include in the next issue, whenever that comes out! Thank you.

**If we didn't offer our congratulations before,** we congratulate Bridgette Sterba and Kristine Hoellerich for graduating from Illinois State University; Nicole Miller from

Webster University in Missouri, and Dylan Kahn from Maine South High School! Let us know if there are others we need to announce!

**Having birthdays this week are:** Jack Hoellerich, Barb Bailey, Ben Rees, Barb Todd, and June Peterson. Celebrating wedding anniversaries will be Lana and Don Kahn, Ralph and Carol Burmeister, Nick and Susan Garcia, and Dayle and Gena Zelenka.

**Please keep in your prayers Jennifer Castillo, Maribel Powers and Angela Washek Kuras, 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. Let us know if there are others we are missing whom we can add for prayers!**

According to the schedule next Sunday's lector is Barb Todd.

**Thank you to everyone who made a donation to the church enabling us to meet our covenant obligation to cooking for / serving at the Community Kitchen of A Just Harvest last Saturday.** We did raise the dollar amount needed by the Kitchen to prepare the full meal we bring and serve when it's our turn. By the way, our next turn for the Kitchen is Saturday, August 29th.

**We want to let you know that as of now the Music and Worship Committee along with the Church Council** are expecting to maintain an on-line worship presence once we are able to worship in person again.

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**Meetings coming up:** Micah 6:8 is having a 'Zoomer' on Wednesday, June 3rd at 5:30 PM. The Elders have a phone meeting on Thursday, June 4 at 4:00 PM. Our Worship and Music Committee will hold a Zoom meeting after worship today.

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

## PENTECOST SUNDAY

May 31, 2020

Acts 2:1-21

### **Pentecost Sunday** **Strengthen the Church Offering**

*All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues\* as the Spirit enabled them. Acts 2:4*

You might have heard someone joke, “King James English was good enough for Jesus and it’s good enough for me.” Today we tell the story about the first day this small ragtag group of followers of Jesus became a church, the church we still are today.

It’s our story. Do you notice that this is not a story about everyone suddenly speaking the same language? It’s a story about everyone speaking, all of them, all at once, the languages of each other. This is not a story about understanding each other. It’s a story about understanding that each of us speak to God in our own way, and God speaks to us each in our own way.

You might have had such a Pentecost moment. It happens whenever you sit down to a meal with a youngster whose music you don’t understand, but who you love just the same. It happens when you sit with a loved one, whose words have been lost to disease, but you love just the same. It happens when you pay attention to the voices of “the other side” in a political debate.

These are scary times. And in scary times, it’s tempting to circle the wagons, protect ourselves, all try to do the same thing at the same time in the same way. But maybe the story of Pentecost, which is both the past of the church and the future of the church, rests in listening, just to listen, not to understand. Maybe we are not meant to understand one another, really. Maybe we are here to walk together in the same direction, knowing that God is still speaking in God’s inviting, loving, challenging language to each of us, in the words that each of us, individually, can understand.

That we don’t all speak the same language doesn’t make us less of a community, it makes us more of one. Whether you came to this place today speaking the language of health or of illness, the language of joy or of sorrow, the language of despair or hope, the language of raking the grass or giving out warm hugs, let your prayer this Pentecost day be that your community be a place where all those languages are spoken and all are heard, even if all are not understood by all.

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## SCRIPTURES FOR THE CONGREGATION

Pentecost, May 31, 2020

ACTS 1:14; 2:1-21

All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

When the day of Pentecost had come, the disciples were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about



God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

'In the last days it will be, God declares,  
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,  
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
and your young men shall see visions,  
and your old men shall dream dreams.

Even upon my slaves, both men and women,  
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;  
and they shall prophesy.

And I will show portents in the heaven above  
and signs on the earth below,  
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

The sun shall be turned to darkness  
and the moon to blood,

before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

## JOHN 7:37-39

On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, ‘Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water.’” Now he said this about the Spirit, which believers in him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified.