A satellite view of Earth from space, showing the Americas and surrounding oceans. The image is oriented vertically, with the top of the Earth at the left. The text "THIS IS GOOD" is overlaid on the right side of the image.

THIS IS GOOD

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/?xof=Z&xsitem=US-IL-60077&xtac=US-IL-60077) 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
8013 Laramie Avenue, Skokie, IL 60077
(Oakton and Laramie)
847-673-8166

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Rev. Richard Lanford (Pastor): revlanford@aol.com

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**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
Sunday, June 7, 2020 10:00 AM
Trinity Sunday**

WELCOME GUESTS!

* Indicates all who are able are invited to stand

PRELUDE: "In Memory" by Jeanne Cotter

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS Jenn Schneider

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: We come to worship in a time of illness,
upheaval, anger and fear.

***Congregation: We tune in to hear a word from the
Lord.***

P: We are reminded in Hebrews to cast all
our cares on God, for God cares for us.

***C: We are also reminded that faith
without works is dead, and we are a
resurrection people. Let us worship
the God of justice, healing, peace
and life!***

CALL TO CONFESSION (recalling the Call to Prayer from Lent; sing if you remember it!)

L: O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer,

C: *When I call, answer me.*

L: O Lord hear my prayer; O Lord hear my prayer;

C: *Come and listen to me.*

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

P: Over many days, Lord, we have been hearing about, and thinking about, how sins committed by us as individuals, as churches, and as larger institutions have come home to roost. We confess that there are some legitimate grievances we have wrongly refused any complicity in: when that's been the case, we are guilty of the sins of pride and fear.

C: *We believe that although we are right be upset, we are all too ready to point fingers of blame and wallow in waters of helplessness. Forgive us from letting ourselves feel paralyzed when there are voices offering opportunities to restore the breach.*

P: We look to others on TV, radio, social media and books for answers, without spending too much time asking You what Your will is. Forgive our forgetfulness!

C: *Forgive us these, and any other ways we have grieved Your Holy Spirit! Create in us new hearts, after Yours; for it is in the name of Jesus Christ we humbly pray. Amen.*

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

“Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be like snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool” Isaiah 1:18 RSV).

The Lord our God is forgiving God, doing what we cannot do for ourselves, removing the guilt of our sin from us. In the gospel it happens through the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus, who is God’s Son and the embodiment of God’s grace, holiness, healing and power. In his name, we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen!

***HYMN:** "Amazing Grace" SSB #5 (vv. 1-3)

1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
 4 My God has prom - ised good to me, whose
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; How pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'Tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; God will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to

now am found, was blind but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

John Newton's autobiographical hymn reflects his conversion from his earlier existence as a slave trader. While serving as curate in the English village of Olney, Newton met William Cowper, and together they published Olney Hymns, which included this hymn.

Tune: AMAZING GRACE C.M.
 (NEW BRITAIN)
 Columbia Harmony, Cincinnati, 1829
 Arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1900

WORDS ABOUT OFFERINGS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Old Testament:

Beth Sterba

Psalm 8

Isaiah 58: 9b-12

MUSICAL MEDITATION "Let There Be Peace On Earth"

by Sy Miller

GOSPEL:

Matthew 28: 16-20

SERMON "The Restorer of Streets to Live In"

***HYMN** "There Is a Time for Silence" C. W. Gillette
("Beneath the Cross of Jesus")

**There is a time for silence, a time to listen well,
a time to hear the painful stories others have to tell.**

**O God, may we who love to talk now hear the rage
and fear,**

**and may we learn from neighbors who have long
been silenced here.**

**There is a time for asking, a time to pause and pray,
there is a time to hear the prophets speak of God's
new day,**

**to hear the words of Jesus who taught welcome,
truth and love,**

**to hear the Spirit speaking through the ones who
shout, "Enough!"**

**There's time for humble study— for reading and for
thought.**

**God, may we learn from others of the justice they
have sought,
And may we learn from those who bravely stand
against the hate,
So when we're called to justice, we, your church,
won't hesitate.
There's time for good reflection, to ponder who
we've been,
to think how our own attitudes have paved the way
for sin,
to listen to the ones we fear— to folks we may
resent—
to hear of Jesus' call to love— and humbly to
repent.
And there's a time to work now — to boldly say
their names,
to protest and to organize, to advocate for change,
to use our voices and to stand with those who are
oppressed.
As we seek justice, hand in hand, Lord, may your
world be blessed.**

PASTORAL AND SILENT PRAYERS

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Exhortation and Invitation

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Consecration

The 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.**

***HYMN:** "God With Joy We Look Around Us"

(Sing to the tune of "Angels from the Realms of Glory")

God, with joy we look around us

At your world's diversity.

Folk of every kind surround us

And you call your church to see:

All are made in your own image!

All are people whom you love!

In the times we've hurt each other,

Lord, we've hurt the ones you bless.

Hating sister, cursing brother,

**We've denied what you express:
All are made in your own image!
All are people whom you love!**

**God, you sent a Savior to us,
Breaking walls that would divide.
By your Spirit, now work through us
As we witness side by side:
All are made in your own image!
All are people whom you love!**

(Text: Copyright © 2000 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. Used by permission).

***CHARGE** (from Galatians 5)

P: "For freedom Christ has set us free.

Stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

**C: *For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters;
only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence,***

P: but through love become slaves to one another.

C: *For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment,*

All: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE:** "They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love"
arr. Bostic

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

MINISTER Rev. Richard Lanford
MUSIC DIRECTOR Ben Westphal

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Good Morning! On this Holy Trinity Sunday, we gather not to try to comprehend God but to bask in God's mystery, and to worship in wonder. Welcome.

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!

About Communion: This is not our first time celebrating the Lord's Supper in this virtual way; the prayer of consecration extends to all who participate wherever you are and whenever you partake of the service (thank You, Holy Spirit!). When prompted, please take whatever bread you have set aside for yourself and anyone with you, take and eat; when it's time for the cup, please do the same with whatever you have put in your cup at home (juice, wine, water, etcetera). All who love the Lord and seek to follow Him are invited to share in the sacrament regardless of denominational background. We do ask St. Peter's U.C.C. young ones to have taken Communicants Class (6th grade).

Major thanks to our Trustees for sanding, priming and repainting our church doors on east side and the west (Laramie Avenue) side last week! It's been long discussed and long desired. The color was chosen to match the frames of the office windows. As we hope to keep these doors 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!

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!

About our closing hymn, in the words of the Rev. Carolyn Winfrey Gillette in the book in which the text is published (Songs of Grace, WJK): A seminary classmate, Richard Lanford, was serving as the pastor at St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Skokie, Illinois, when the Ku Klux Klan

announced they were going to have a rally in front of a Cook County Courthouse a few days before Christmas. Richard asked that a new hymn be written that the churches in the community could sing to counter the hate group's rally. The hymn tune is a traditional Christmas tune, reflecting the season of year when it was first sung.

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.

For obvious reasons but sad all the same, there will be no Women's Guild picnic and installation of officers at the home of Barb and Jim Todd this week.

Having birthdays this week are: Katy Schuhrke, Baggio Salvatierra (baptized here), June Peterson's great-granddaughter Grace Taheny, Ginger Kalensky, and Megan and Steven Caras' son Aiden Caras. Cristy and Louie Lopez celebrate an anniversary also! We wish God's blessings on all of them.

The Board of Elders has a phone meeting this coming Thursday at 4 PM.

The pastor promised the names and authors of the books he listed in last Sunday's sermon as resources for self-teaching through reading (and perhaps further conversation) and here they are: 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 and

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.

If any of you have other suggestions you'd think we'd benefit by sharing them, let the pastor know. He also learned a lot of 20th century history on racist violence, injustice, and the non-violent movement led by Rev. Dr. King (and others) from Taylor Branch's trilogy, the first of which is Parting the Waters.

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.

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 David Iannotti.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

PRESIDENT	Jenn Schneider
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TRINITY SUNDAY

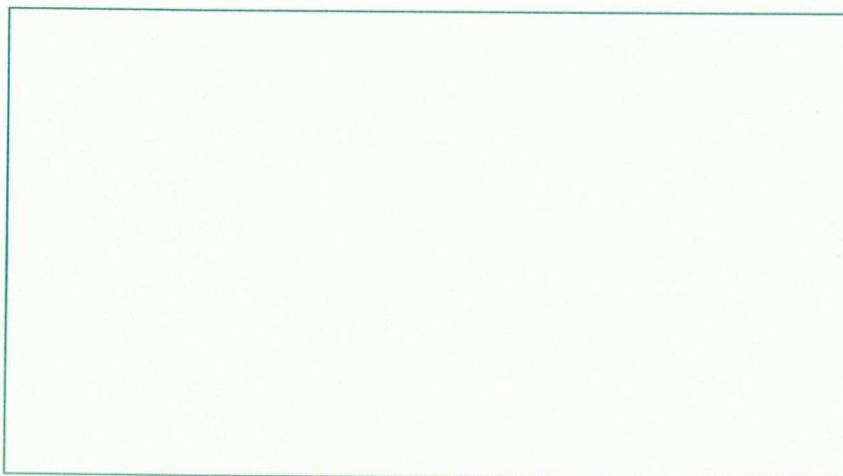
June 7, 2020

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

This Is Good

In this, the first creation story in our scriptures, the first words are often translated “in *the* beginning...” A better translation would be “in *a* beginning...” From the very first words of our holy book, we receive a reminder that we always have the chance to try again.

One of the most enduring and astonishing promises of our faith is that we are made in God’s image. If that is so, we are also creators. And, if the scripture is to be believed, then we have the chance to begin and begin, over and over again.



Use this space to be creative. Draw a picture of something you can see right now. Compose the first verse of a new hymn. Write a love letter. Design the most sacred and welcoming worship space you can imagine. Create a new recipe or write an old one for someone in another generation. Pray using shapes, colors, or words.

As you create, avoid the temptation to criticize your creation. Allow yourself to appreciate it as God, in whose image you are made, loved the world being made and called it good.



SCRIPTURES FOR THE CONGREGATION

June 7, 2020

Psalms 8:1-9

O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens.

Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established;
what are human beings that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?

Yet you have made them a little lower than God,
and crowned them with glory and honor.

You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet,

all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,

the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Isaiah 58:9b-12

The prophet tells the erring people, “If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.

The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.

Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.”

Matthew 28:16-20

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted.

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."