



ST. PETER'S United Church of Christ

310 North Meadow Street (Grant Park, IL 60940)

Sunday School--9:00 a.m.

Sunday Morning Worship – 10:30 a.m.

Church Office – (815) 465-6191

Parsonage phone – (815) 466-4048 Pastor's Cell – (567) 249-5130

Website: www.stpetersgp.org

Email: stpetersgp@sbcglobal.net

Facebook: St. Peters UCC Grant Park

January 7th, 2024

* In the way you are able, whether in body or in spirit, please rise.

Welcome & Announcements

Sandy Erickson

Ringling of the Bell

Prelude

“In the Bleak Midwinter” (*Holst*)

Lighting of the Candles

Carlie Langlois

*Call to Worship

Sandy Erickson

Leader: Friends of God, let us gather in the presence of the Holy Spirit, surrounded by the friendship of one another, and love of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

People: **This place for us is Holy Ground. The place where we sing songs of praise to the Lord and repeat the stories of faith.**

Leader: These stories inspire us to respond to Christ’s love.

People: **We aspire to not only hear of these stories, but also to understand and apply what we’re taught – that the world may see Christ living in us, moving in us, and changing us.**

*Prayer of Invocation

*Hymn

“Psalm 150 (Praise the Lord)”

Screen/Insert

Children’s Sermon

Scripture Reading

Jeremiah 10:1-10

Sandy Erickson

Pastoral Prayer

#478

“Follow That Star” (*Nix*)

#34

Pastor Kyle

Pastor Kyle

Insert

“Flourish on Salzburg” (*D. Wagner*)

*Gene Sievers, Carter Fortin, Linda Havelly, Taylor Cleary, Joy Currier,
Heather Phillips, Sandy Erickson, Dorothy Kutemeier, Judy Schneider,
Delores Schimmin, Pamela Nolan, Katheryn Hickey-Scott, Ann Wessman,
Roger Sturm, Kristopher Meyer, Ione Engleking, Bill Riley, Larry Erickson,
Jeff Jones, Craig Schneider, Dean Lohrbach, Jackqueline Dupuis, Tom
Kastner, Margaret Kastner, and Kim Woolley*

Announcements

Fusion Events (Youth Group for 6th-12th graders): Fusion will be doing the “Sleep in Heavenly Peace” bed build this Saturday, January 13th. For more details, visit our Facebook page or go to our church website at www.stpetersgp.org, (Under Ministries Section). You can also contact Josh (815) 693-5341 or Neal (815) 549-5911.

The Beecher Food Pantry: The food pantry does not need any donations at this time. Thank you.

Dartball: There’s always room for more players, so if you are interested, please contact Tim Frahm at (872) 222-1408.

2023 Young at Heart Meetings: The United Methodist Church of Grant Park would like to invite you to their Young at Heart meetings every third Monday of the month from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Grant Park Community Center. There will be no meeting in January. If you have any questions, please contact Dianna at (815) 465-6933. Thank you.

Congregational Meeting: The annual congregational meeting will be held on January 28th, 2024, following the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

Offering envelopes: Offering envelopes are now available on the table outside of the church office.

Email addresses: If you have not recently updated your email with the church office, please do so asap. We want to make sure your financial statements are going to the correct email address. Thank you.

The Old Ones Among Us

CRADLE SONG ("Away in a Manger")

The old ones among us have wisdom to share;
we learn from their joy and the pain that they bear.
Their years of experience point to the way
that we can be faithful and hopeful each day.

Old Simeon knew he had waited so long.
So when he held Jesus, his heart filled with song:
“My eyes have now seen the salvation God brings;
this Baby will bring us incredible things!”

A prophet named Anna— a widow— was there;
her life was a pattern of worship and prayer.
So when she saw Jesus, she spoke of the Boy;
her heart overflowed with God’s good news of joy.

O God in this pairing— in two stories told—
may we find new hope through these ones who were old.
May we see, through them, what’s in front of our eyes—
the blessing of Jesus Who changes our lives.

Biblical Reference: Luke 2:22-40

Tune: CRADLE SONG, William James Kirkpatrick, 1895 ("Away in a Manger") [\(MIDI\)](#)

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Email: carolynshymns@gmail.com New Hymns: www.carolynshymns.com

Occasionally I am asked, “What can I (we) do to strengthen our faith and help the church grow?” I’ve been praying about this lately and here is my reply:

THE CHURCH: BE ALL IN

Be the Church: There are many ways you can “be” the church. First, make a commitment to be more active in worship. If you normally come once a month, start with twice a month. If once a year, try once a month. The more you’re present, the more exposure you and your family has to the Truth of God’s Word.

Serve the Church: Serving the church doesn’t always mean having to be a council member or a committee member (though we always could use more). It can be helping with one specific event, signing up to be a lay reader, watering the flowers once a week, etc. What interests you? Step up, step in, and obey Christ’s teachings to serve one another.

Love the Church: Let’s be honest. We could all give a little more (financially, of our time, and of our resources). When we put the love of our church ahead of everything (except our love for God), we learn to prioritize our schedules and our giving. Take time to visit an older or struggling member. Send a text, a card, or make a phone call to encourage someone.

As the body of Christ, we worship together, we grow together, and we love together. It is OUR responsibility to build up one another, to raise our children in the Christian faith, and to support the ministries and functions of our local church body.

It takes all of us to be ALL in.

Psalm 150 (Praise the Lord)

You made the starry hosts
You traced the mountain peaks
You paint the evening sky with wonders
The earth it is Your throne
From desert to the sea
All nature testifies Your splendor

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord
Sing His greatness all creation
Praise the Lord, raise your voice
You heights and all you depths
From furthest east to west
Let ev'rything that has breath
Praise the Lord

You reached into the dust
In love, Your Spirit breathed
You formed us in your very likeness
To know Your wondrous works
To tell Your wondrous deeds
To join the everlasting chorus

Praise the Lord
Let symphonies resound
Let drums and choirs ring out
All heaven hear the sound of worship
Let ev'ry nation bring its' honors to the King
A roar of harmonies eternal

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!
Sing His greatness all creation
Praise the Lord!
Raise your voice!
You heights and all you depths
From furthest east to west

You distant burning stars
All creatures near and far
From sky to sea and shore
Sing out forever more
Let ev'rything that has breath
Praise the Lord!