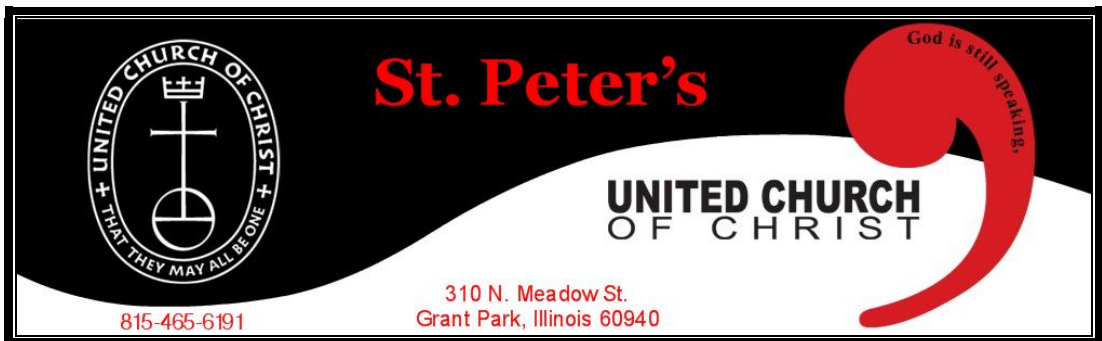


ST. PETER'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Sunday School – 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship – 10:30 a.m.
Church Office – (815) 465-6191
Website: www.stpetersgp.org
Email: stpetersgp@sbcglobal.net
Facebook: St. Peters UCC Grant Park



ORDER OF WORSHIP

CHRISTMAS EVE



February 20th, 2022

7:00 pm

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

Ringing of the Bell

Prelude

“Good Christian Men Rejoice” (Arr. Torrans)

Welcome

*Call to Worship

Leader: From the darkness of Creation, God brought forth Light!

People: That Light flooded over the waters of creation, sparkling and dancing!

Leader: From fear and alienation, God sent forth a Pillar of Light!

People: That Light directed people who were on the path of freedom.

Leader: From the cries of the people, God offered the lights of Hope.

People: Those lights beckoned people to God’s presence.

Leader: From the yearning of the spirit, God’s light was born in a child.

People: That Light shall never be diminished.

All: Praise God for the warm light of God’s Incarnate Love.

*Opening Prayer

Pastor Kyle

*Opening Carol

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

#182

Children's Message

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Reading of Scripture

Advent Thoughts & Prayer

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Song

“The Candle of Peace”

Insert

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:1-20

Choir Anthem

“Celtic Christmas Lullaby” (*Raney*)

Presentation of Offerings

Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

“O Holy Night” (*Adam*)

Carol Sing-along

“Joy to the World” (*verse 1*)

#179

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” (*verse 4*)

#180

“O Come, Let Us Adore Him” (*vs. 1 & 4*)

#114

“Once in Royal David's City” (*vs. 3-4*)

#183

Service of Communion

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Confession & Blessing

Participation in the Lord's Supper

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Message

“Hope of Earth & Joy of Heaven”

Pastor Kyle

Service of Lights

The Traditional Story of “Silent Night”

*Spreading the Light in Music

*Carol “The First Noel”

*Carol “Silent Night”

(As we sing “The First Noel”, the congregation’s candles will be lit from the main aisle. When lighting, slide the candle up, keep the lighted candle upright, and dip the unlit candle to the lighted one. Once lit, slide the candle down so the wick is below the top edge of the cup. When all candles are lit, the sanctuary lights will be turned off except for the Christmas lights. We’ll then join in singing “Silent Night.” Candles should be raised higher at the start of each verse. Please do not tip candles, so hot wax doesn’t spill onto the pews, hymnals, or floor.)

*Benediction

Postlude

“Let There Be Peace on Earth” *(Miller/Jackson)*

Following this evening’s service, we invite you to enjoy some refreshments in the Clyde Lange Fellowship Hall and to stay and help us take down the Christmas decorations.



The Candle of Hope

To the Tune of: "O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!"

The candle of hope we light in this hour
Proclaims that the Lord is coming in power.
We wait for a future, now hidden from view
When Christ in His glory will make all things new.

The candle of peace shines bright with God's plan
The wolf will lie down and dwell with the lamb.
Our guns and our weapons, our hatred and war
Will give way to gardens that heal and restore.

The candle of joy reminds us to sing
For God is at work to do a new thing.
The proud will be humbled; the lowly will rise.
God's kingdom is one of delight and surprise.

The candle of love tells what we are worth
God loves us so much, God came to the earth!
An angel brought news of a child who would be
The One who would save us and set us all free.

The Christ candle's light that shines for us here
Tells of the Good News that God has come near!
God came, a poor baby, in one time and place
To show all creation the wealth of God's grace.

Announcements

Rummage Sale will be upon us soon. Please keep this in mind as you are cleaning out your things to get rid of. We will be doing sales in June and September. Would you rather “purchase” a parking spot and sell your stuff? We will be doing that too. If you have any questions, please contact Jackie Timmons at 815-466-4048 or text 567-249-5141. Thank you.

Worship Opportunities are available as we are looking for lay readers and ushers. If you are interested, please contact the church office.

Bunco will be held Friday, April 8th, at 7 pm. Tables of four people will be \$5 a person (\$20 a table). Drinks and snacks will also be provided, along with raffle items. Tickets will be 6 for \$5. Please call the church office to reserve a table at 815-465-6191. All reservations need to be done before April 7th. Thank you!