

ST. PETER'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



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



815-465-6191

St. Peter's

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

310 N. Meadow St.
Grant Park, Illinois 60940

God is still speaking

ORDER OF WORSHIP

CHRISTMAS EVE – 4:30 PM, 7:00 PM, & 11 PM

December 24th, 2020

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

Prelude/Pre-Service Music

Ringing of the Bell

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Call to Worship

Leader: Joyful! Joyful! Let the people of God bring joy as we hear
angel's message of Good News!

People: For unto us a child is given!

Leader: A child, a precious baby, sleeping in swaddling clothes and
asleep in a manger.

**People: He is more than a child and more precious than a baby. He is
Christ our Lord! A Savior to the world!**

*Worship with Music

“Adore”

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:1-20

Christmas Carol

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Music

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

4:30 & 11:00

“Were You There on That Christmas Night” Dawn Schroeder (7 pm)

Service of Communion

Invitation to the Table
Prayer of Confession
Assurance of Pardon
Participation in the Bread & the Cup
Prayer of Thanksgiving

Music

“It’s Christmas” 4:30 & 11:00
“O Holy Night” Dawn Schroeder (7 pm)

Scripture Reading

Matthew 2:1-11

Christmas Eve Message

“Did You See the Star?” Pastor Kyle

Service of Lights

*Christmas Music “The First Noel”

*Christmas Music “Silent Night”

(When lighting, **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, sanctuary lights will be turned off except for Christmas lights. We’ll then join in singing “Silent Night.” **Please do not tip** candles in order to prevent wax from spilling).

***Spoken Benediction**

***Benediction in Song**

“Let There Be Peace on Earth”



Our Christmas prayer for you is that you see the Christmas Star and that it’s Light shines brightly in your life in 2021. May God bless your New Year and give you and your loved ones a healthy and Christ-filled 2021!

Luke 2:1-20

2 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while¹ Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” ¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Matthew 2:1-11

2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi^[a] from the east came to Jerusalem² and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

3 When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. **4** When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. **5** “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

6 ““But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.”^[b]”

7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. **8** He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

9 After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. **10** When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. **11** On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Adore (Chris Tomlin)

You stepped down from heaven
Humbly you came
God of all creation
Here with us
In a starlet manger
Emmanuel
Light of the world
Here to save

Adore
Come let us adore
Oh come let us adore him
The Lord, worship Christ, the Lord
Let all that is within us
Adore

Wise men bring their treasures
Shepherds bow low
Angel voices sing of peace on
earth
What have I to offer
To heaven's King
I'll bring my life, my love, my all

Adore
Come let us adore
Oh come let us adore him
The Lord, worship Christ, the Lord
Let all that is within us
Adore

Angels sing, praises ring to the
newborn King
Peace on earth, here with us, joy
awakening
At your feet we fall

Adore
Come let us adore
Oh come let us adore him
The Lord, worship Christ, the Lord
Let all that is within us
Adore

"It's Christmas (Medley)"

Away in a manger no crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus laid down
His sweet head, the stars in the sky
Looked down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the
hay

The cattle are lowing, the baby
awakes
But little Lord Jesus, no crying
He makes, I love Thee Lord Jesus!
Look down from the sky and stay
By my cradle til morning is nigh

It's Christmas!
The angels are singing
And I know the reason,
the Savior is born
It's Christmas!
The bells are ringing
And I feel like shouting
Joy to the world!

Be near me, Lord Jesus
I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever
and love me I pray

Bless all the dear children in Thy
tender care
And fit us for heaven
To live with Thee there

It's Christmas!

The angels are singing
And I know the reason,
the Savior is born
It's Christmas!
The bells are ringing
And I feel like shouting
Joy to the world!

Go tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere!
Go, tell it on the mountain that
Jesus Christ is born!

It's Christmas!
The angels are singing
And I know the reason,
the Savior is born
It's Christmas!
The bells are ringing
And I feel like shouting
Joy to the world!

We at St. Peter's are praying for:

(If you wish for your name to be taken off this list, or would like to be added to the list, please let Pastor Kyle or the church office know. Thanks in advance).

Gary Ekhoﬀ
Nancy Lewke
Austin Delaney
Delores Caton
Ken Erickson
Pauline Mitchell
Jerry Regnier

Gene Sievers
Melissa Mort
Mason Beseke
James Caton
Mildred Katz
Minnie Pﬂingsten
Paul Loverin

Sherrie Hruby
Carter Fortin
Rev. Frank Hoss
Linda Havelly
Ralph Kutemeier
Louise Sievers

The family of Linda Schneider
The family of Richard Whorrall

Offering Envelopes:

Offering envelopes for 2021 are on the table near the courtyard entrance. If you do not have envelopes, but would like to receive them, please contact the church office and we will make sure you receive a box.

Other Ways to Give:

Option 1 – Place your offering envelope or gift in the offering plate on Sunday mornings.

Option 2 – You can mail in your financial gifts to the church office. The address is St. Peter's UCC, PO Box 231, Grant Park, IL 60940.

Option 3 – You can drop your financial gifts off to the church during office hours.

Option 4 – You can sign up to give automatically from your checking or savings account via an EFT automatic withdrawal – if you’d like a form to fill out, please contact the church office and we’ll help you set one up.

Option 5 – You can visit our church webpage for giving and make a secure donation at www.stpetersgp.org/give/ You can give just one time or set it up for reoccurring gifts as well.

Christian Education Update:

Sunday School classes will resume on January 3rd. Currently, there are three different age-group classes. Pre-School – 5th Grade, Middle School, and High School.

Sunday School is at 9 am each Sunday. We’d love to see your child(ren) return to class as a Biblical foundation is important in everyone’s life.

Confirmation Classes/Info:

As we try to “catch up” on some lost class-time, we are going to meet three times in January. The dates are January 3rd, 17th, and 31st. Classes meet immediately following worship.

A simple reminder...even if/when classes are cancelled it is still required to be in attendance in Sunday School and church weekly.

2021 Congregational Meeting:

The 2021 Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 31st immediately following the 10:30 service. If you can't be in attendance, but would like to participate via Zoom, please contact the church office by January 27th and let them know. We will email you an invitation to the Zoom meeting a day prior to the meeting.

If you are unfamiliar with Zoom, but would like to vote for the church budget and/or replacement council members, please let us know and we can provide that information over the phone and you can submit your vote over the phone or via mail.