

# ST. PETER'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



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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](http://www.stpetersgp.org)  
*Email:* [stpetersgp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stpetersgp@sbcglobal.net)  
*Facebook:* St. Peters UCC Grant Park

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**St. Peter's**

**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**

God is still speaking

815-465-6191

310 N. Meadow St.  
Grant Park, Illinois 60940

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022

10:30 AM

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

## Ringing of the Bell

### Prelude

“Joyful” (*Beethoven*)

### Welcome and Announcements

Karen Brunello

### \*Call to Worship

(Psalm 51:10-13)

Karen Brunello

Leader: Create in us a pure heart, O God, and renew Your steadfast spirit within us.

People: **Do not cast us from Your presence or take Your Holy Spirit from us.**

Leader: Restore the joy of Your salvation and grant us a willing spirit to sustain us.

People: **Then we will teach transgressors Your ways, so that sinners will turn back to You.**

### \*Unison Prayer of Invocation

*Our prayer today, Holy God, is that You would change our lives. Take all of our fears, our wrongdoings, our selfish desires, and use them to teach us to rely on You and Your will for us in our lives. Purify our hearts and our minds that we may see You more clearly in the days ahead. Provide Your guiding Light, Jesus, to show us the true way to salvation and to holy living. Amen.*

### \*Opening Songs

“As We Gather”

#646

“Brightest and Best of the Stars” (vs. 1-3)

#235

### Children’s Message

## **Pastoral Prayer**

Sharing of Joys & Concerns  
Pastoral Prayer  
The Lord's Prayer in Unison

## **Service of Communion**

Invitation to the Table  
Prayer of Confession & Blessing  
Responsive Song of Praise "What the Lord Has Done in Me" #360  
Participation in the Lord's Supper  
Prayer of Thanksgiving

## **Scripture Reading**

John 3:1-36

Karen Brunello

## **Message**

"He Still Changes Lives"

Pastor Kyle

## **\*Closing Hymn**

"Arise, Your Light is Come!"

#231

## **\*Spoken Benediction**

**\*Postlude (Depart to Serve)** "Go Tell It on the Mountain"  
*(African-American Spiritual)*



\*Please leave your tithes and offerings in the offering plates on the back tables in the sanctuary. We will try to return to passing the offering plates and communion elements when covid concerns slow down.

Thank you for your understanding.

**We at St. Peter's are praying for:**

*Gary Ekhoﬀ, Gene Sievers, Carter Fortin, Austin Delaney, Linda Havelly, Taylor Cleary, Nancy Lewke, Dennis Balgemann, Joy Currier, Cheyenne Jones, Donna Dorrough, Richie Rodriguez, and Marge Myers*

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**Serving You Today**

**Minister:** Kyle Timmons

**Lay Reader:** Karen Brunello

**Organist:** Shari Ohm

**Greeters:** Mike Reaman

**Announcements**

**2022 Offering Envelopes** are available to be picked up. If you do not see yours or if you'd like to receive them for the first time (or the first time in a while), please contact the church office and we will be sure to provide a box for you.

**2022 Congregational Meeting** will be held on January 30<sup>th</sup> following the worship service.

**Un-decorating of the Christmas decorations** will be done next Sunday for anyone who is able to stay and help.

**Do you have a key to the church?** If you do, would you please contact the church office during the next week so that we may update our records? Thank you in advance.

**John 3** Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus, who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. <sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs You are doing if God were not with Him.”

<sup>3</sup> Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

<sup>4</sup> “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”

<sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit<sup>[b]</sup> gives birth to spirit. <sup>7</sup> You should not be surprised at My saying, ‘You<sup>[c]</sup> must be born again.’ <sup>8</sup> The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So, it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

<sup>9</sup> “How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

<sup>10</sup> “You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? <sup>11</sup> Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. <sup>12</sup> I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup> Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up,<sup>[f]</sup> <sup>15</sup> that everyone who believes may have eternal life in Him.”

<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him. <sup>18</sup> Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not

believed in the name of God's one and only Son. <sup>19</sup> This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of Light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> Everyone who does evil hates the Light, and will not come into the Light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But whoever lives by the truth comes into the Light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

<sup>22</sup> After this, Jesus and His disciples went out into the Judean countryside, where He spent some time with them, and baptized. <sup>23</sup> Now, John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water, and people were coming and being baptized. <sup>24</sup> (This was before John was put in prison.) <sup>25</sup> An argument developed between some of John's disciples and a certain Jew over the matter of ceremonial washing. <sup>26</sup> They came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, that man who was with you on the other side of the Jordan—the one you testified about—look, He is baptizing, and everyone is going to Him."

<sup>27</sup> To this John replied, "A person can receive only what is given them from heaven. <sup>28</sup> You, yourselves, can testify that I said, 'I am not the Messiah, but am sent ahead of Him.' <sup>29</sup> The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for Him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete. <sup>30</sup> He must become greater; I must become less."

<sup>31</sup> The One who comes from above is above all; the one who is from the earth belongs to the earth, and speaks as one from the earth. The One who comes from heaven is above all. <sup>32</sup> He testifies to what He has seen and heard, but no one accepts His testimony. <sup>33</sup> Whoever has accepted it has certified that God is truthful. <sup>34</sup> For the One whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God<sup>[1]</sup> gives the Spirit without limit. <sup>35</sup> The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in His hands. <sup>36</sup> Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them.