



Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,  
February 26,  
2023**

**10:00 AM**

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**First Sunday in Lent**



40 DAYS  
OF  
Lent



AN OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION IN SKOKIE, IL



# Welcome to Worship!

**SUNDAYS @ 10:00AM**

**In-person Worship.** Following COVID safety protocols

**Livestream on YouTube.** Live at 10am then available on our channel



**"The Redheaded Preacher" Podcast.** On Soundcloud, includes sermon and scriptures only, posted weekly by Tuesday



## Ways to Give

**Text Your Gift.** 844-997-2346 Super easy after a first-time setup

**PayPal.** [PayPal.me/stpeteruccskokie](https://www.paypal.com/merchpot/display/external?merchantid=STPETERUCCSKOKIE) Uncheck the "Paying for Goods or Services" box to not pass on the fees to St Peter's

**Check or Cash.** Mail to the address below ... this way still works fine

**Vanco GivePlus App.** Contact the church office to set up regular giving



## Open Communion

**All Christians** and seekers after God are invited to partake of the Lord's Supper with us the **first Sunday of every month** and special Holy Days (Christmas, Maundy Thursday, and Easter). **At-home Communion** participants are invited to provide their own elements and join when Pastor bids you, "take, eat, and drink."



## About St. Peter's UCC

We've been in the heart of downtown Skokie since 1867. 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 invite all people to share worship, membership, marriage, baptism, funeral, and fellowship with us.



## Contact, Follow, or Talk to Us

**Rev. Richard Lanford (Pastor):** [revlanford@gmail.com](mailto:revlanford@gmail.com)

In the office Wed-Sat (times vary) and Sundays

**Laura Olson (Office Manager):** [office@stpeteruccskokie.org](mailto:office@stpeteruccskokie.org)

Office hours Mon-Fri 9am to 2pm

**Ben Westphal (Music Director):** [bcwestphal@gmail.com](mailto:bcwestphal@gmail.com)

**Facebook/Instagram/YouTube:** [stpeteruccskokie](https://www.facebook.com/stpeteruccskokie)

**Website:** [www.stpeteruccskokie.org](http://www.stpeteruccskokie.org)

*Like, follow, or join our email list for up-to-date info about events and activities!*



**8013 Laramie Avenue, Skokie, IL 60077 | 847-673-8166**

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**St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Skokie**  
**Order of Worship for**  
**Sunday, February 26, 2023 at 10:00am**  
**First Sunday in Lent**

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*Welcome to worship. The music before the service is intended as a time of silent prayer and preparation.*

**PRELUDE**                      “New Britain”                      arr. Wexford

**THE RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**                      Peggy Reins

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *Hebrews 12: 2*

P: “Let us look to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was waiting endured the cross.”

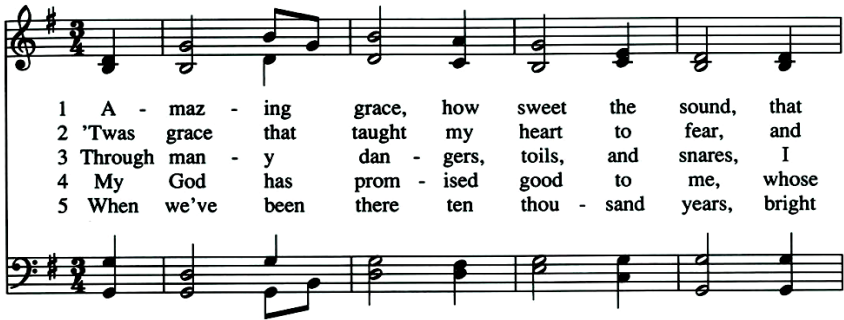
As we enter Lent, a season focusing on the Cross, let us worship the Lord, remembering why the Cross was necessary, and what we can do in response to amazing grace. Let us rise and sing the first verse of that very hymn!

Those who are able please stand

**RESPONSE**

**“Amazing Grace”**

SSB #5 (v. 1)



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

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

- P: Forgive us, Lord, for our preoccupation with things; for believing we would be happy if we only had more; for neglecting family in the pursuit of advancement; for giving low priority to the kingdom of God; for judging right and wrong on the basis of profit; for allowing discontent to cloud our lives; for pampering the body while starving the soul.
- C: **With cries and petitions, we call out to you in the midst of our hurting. In the agony of our pain, we reach for you. In the turmoil of our brokenness, we plead for your healing touch. Save us, God. Save us from death, illness, pain, depression, economic oppression, racial inequity, fear, loneliness, violence and hate.**
- P: We accept your grace and providential care for us in every area of life and cling to your assurance of love and acceptance.
- C: **Forgive us, Lord, for our preoccupation with the things of the world, and enable us to seek first your kingdom and your righteousness.**
- A: **In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON** *Jude 24, 25*

P: “Now to the One who is able to keep you from falling, and to make you stand without blemish in the presence of his glory with rejoicing, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord be glory, majesty, power, and authority, before all time and now and forever.

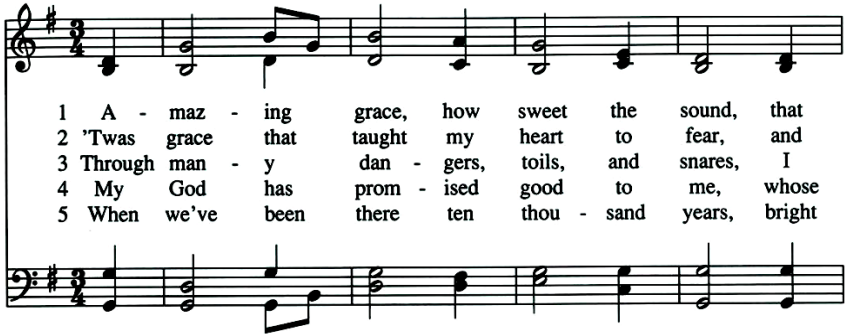
If God is able to make us stand in God’s glorious presence without blemish, our sins would have had to have been forgiven! Through Jesus Christ, as the Word says. Receive these words from Scripture itself: we are forgiven.

**A: Thanks be to God! God’s mercy turns us into grateful people. Amen.**

## HYMN

## "Amazing Grace"

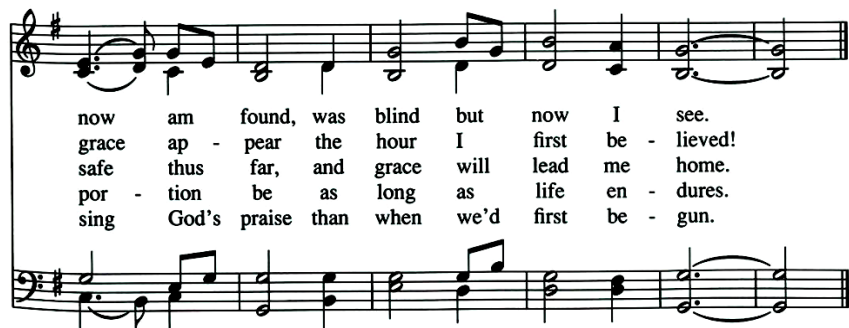
SSB #5 (vv. 2, 3, 4)



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 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I  
 4 My God has prom - ised good to me, whose  
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Tune: AMAZING GRACE C.M.  
(NEW BRITAIN)

Columbia Harmony, Cincinnati, 1829  
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*The congregation may be seated*

## **WORDS ABOUT OFFERINGS**

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Jen Schneider

Old Testament:

Exodus 22:5-7, 14; 23:5

Epistle:

2nd Corinthians 5:16-21

**MUSICAL MEDITATION** “Amazing Grace” arr. Shaw

*Will the congregation please rise*

### **GOSPEL**

Matthew 18: 15-22

### **DOXOLOGY**

Tune #551

**A: Praise God from whom all blessings flow!**

**Praise God all creatures here below!**

**Praise God above, you heavenly host;**

**Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost! Amen.**

*The congregation may now take their seats*

## **PASTORAL AND SILENT PRAYERS**

### **THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**A: 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**

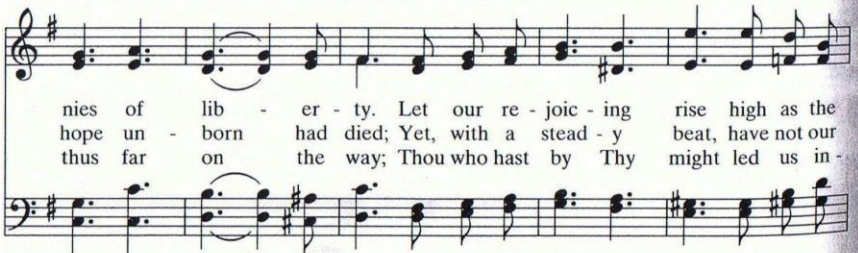


**SERMON** "Exploring Reconciliation: How?"*Will the congregation please rise and sing***HYMN** "Lift Every Voice and Sing"

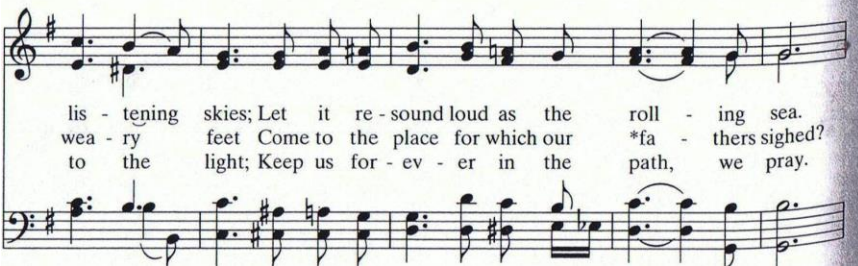

1. Lift ev-ery  
2. Ston-y the  
3. God of our



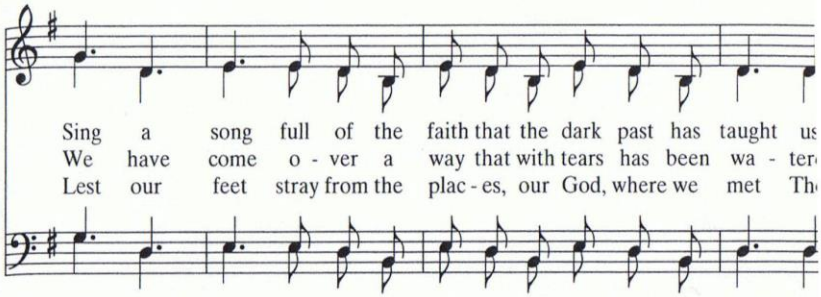
voice and sing till earth and heav - en ring, Ring with the har - mo -  
road we trod, bit-ter the chas-tening rod, Felt in the days when  
wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears, Thou who hast brought us



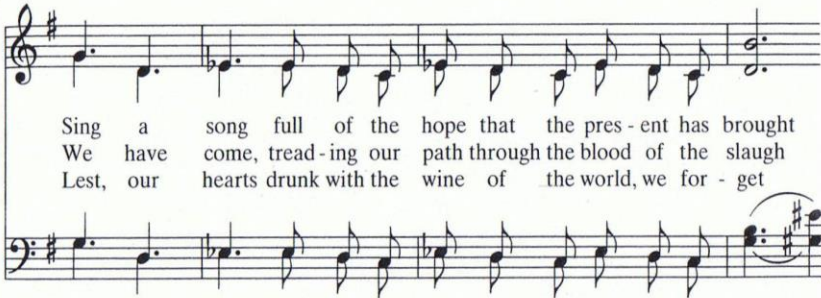
nies of lib - er - ty. Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the  
hope un - born had died; Yet, with a stead - y beat, have not our  
thus far on the way; Thou who hast by Thy might led us in -



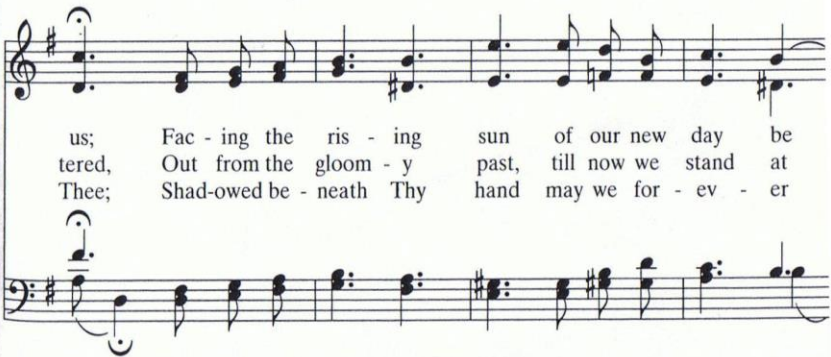
lis - tening skies; Let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.  
wea - ry feet Come to the place for which our \*fa - thers sighed?  
to the light; Keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.



Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us  
 We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - ter  
 Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met Th



Sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought  
 We have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh  
 Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get



us; Fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be  
 tered, Out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at  
 Thee; Shad-owed be - neath Thy hand may we for - ev - er



gun, Let us march on, till vic - to - ry is won.  
 last Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.  
 stand, True to our God, true to our na - tive land.

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## CHARGE & BENEDICTION

P: Go forth with the hope of new beginnings.

Go forth with the trust of God's redeeming love.

Go forth with courage and live in the promise of eternal life.

Go forth to blossom and flourish in the Good News of Jesus Christ. Amen.

**C: Amen!**

**POSTLUDE** “Lift Every Voice and Sing”

*The music after the service is intended as a time of reflection. Pastor will be pleased to greet you at the Sanctuary doors as soon as the postlude has concluded, and our livestream has stopped.*

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## FOR WORSHIP TODAY

MINISTER	Rev. Richard Lanford
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Barb Bailey
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Jenn Schneider
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Carolyn Van Til

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# News in the Pews

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**Welcome to worship on the first Sunday in Lent. A warm welcome to visitors joining us today.**

**The Board of Christian Education** meets after worship this morning.

**Thank you to all who participated** in our Village Inn FUNdraiser last Sunday! Our next designated Village Inn Sunday is a month from today, March 26th.

**Easter Flower Orders are being taken now** until March 20<sup>th</sup>! Find a form in this bulletin or in our March Announcer, out next week.

**Thanks for all who helped out** before and during, and who attended, our Ash Wednesday services last week.

**Our “A Heart <3 for the Veterans Collection** ends today *and we need helpers after church today to sort all the items by type, and bag or box them so they're ready for pick-up.*

**NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) coming to St. Peter’s UCC** - Do You Have A Loved One Living With Mental Illness? The NAMI Family-To-Family Education Program is a FREE 8-week course for families and close

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friends of adults with mental illness. It begins March 4<sup>th</sup> through April 29<sup>th</sup> from 10AM to Noon here at St. Peter's UCC. This course is taught by trained teachers who are also family members and know what it is like to have a loved one living with mental illness, such as major depression, bipolar disorder, anxiety disorders, schizophrenia, and other disorders. REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. Please call 847-716-2252, click "Register" or Email: [admin@namiccns.org](mailto:admin@namiccns.org)

**The Lenten Soup n- Bible Study begins this Wednesday evening.** We've been announcing it for several weeks so we trust most of you have received the invitation and the information; we only ask now that if you plan to attend / participate, and haven't told the Pastor yet, to please do so! If you are new to the news and invitation, please talk to Pastor Richard; it's not too late! We do ask folks who attend to have done the first week's work.

**This week Pastor will be attending a meeting** of the Niles Township Clergy Forum Wednesday morning, a CMA Cluster 1 meeting Thursday morning, and a Skokie Ethics Commission meeting (as one of the members) Thursday evening. There is also a pre-marital counseling appointment he has Saturday at 4:30 PM.

**The Micah 6:8 Committee meets** next Sunday at 6 PM; it is unknown if it is over Zoom or not.

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# Our People

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**We are collecting wrapped CANDY and tiny kids' toys for our Egg Hunt!** No chocolate please. Items can be left in a designated container in the Memorial Room or given to Jenn Schneider.

**Birthdays this week** belong to Eric and Lincoln Svenson; Susan Garcia's grandchildren Joshua and Grace Castillo; and Heather (Schuhrke) and Dan O'Hara's son Tyler O'Hara. **Anna Riley's parents Richard and Carol Hook celebrate their wedding anniversary** later this week in March. May the Spirit bless and keep them all!

**Are you on our email list?** Get weekly updates, our monthly Announcer and weekly electronic bulletins and more by signing up. Give us your email address on the attendance register, or email us at [office@stpeteruccskokie.org](mailto:office@stpeteruccskokie.org)!

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## CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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PRESIDENT	Peggy Reins
VICE-PRESIDENT	Beth Lanford
TREASURER	Chad McCoy
SECRETARY	Annie Noorts
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Maria Altmayer

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## Regular Reminders!

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**We are always grateful for any and all offerings to the church.** No amount is too small! So many thanks to everyone who's been keeping us going with your donations! See inside the bulletin's front cover for details on how to donate.

**Donations always needed for our food pantry.** There's a list of items on the shelves outside the offices if you aren't sure what to buy. Items can be left on those same shelves under the stairs by the offices.

**Pastor's Podcast is now on all the Podcast platforms-** iTunes, Stitcher, Overcast, Spotify, Podcast Addict, Amazon Music and more. Just look up "The Redheaded Preacher" on your podcast catcher or music streaming service then hit subscribe and you'll get the newest editions weekly! You can also get it via the church's webpage link. Give us a 5-star rating and review if you can, it helps us grow so much.

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# 2023 EASTER FLOWER ORDERS



**Please find below the order form for the Easter plants that we will have to beautify our chancel on Easter Sunday. Sometimes there are limited quantities of plants available, and G & E will substitute an equal value plant (Orders will be filled by date submitted.) Orders may be placed in the offering plate, brought or mailed to the church. Please write a separate check for your flower order made out to St Peter's UCC.**

**Orders must be placed by Sunday, March 20, 2023.**

<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Price</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>Easter Lily 6" pot</b>	<b>10.50</b>	
	<b>Azalea 6"pot</b>	<b>19.00</b>	
	<b>Hyacinth 6" pot</b>	<b>8.00</b>	
	<b>Tulip 6" pot</b>	<b>7.00</b>	
	<b>Rieger Begonia 6" pot</b>	<b>10.00</b>	
<b>Total</b>			

**Name**

**Phone**

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**In Honor/In Memory:**

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## **MISSION MOMENTS**

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**February 26, 2023**

**First Sunday in Lent**

**Matthew 4:1-11**

**Abundant Grace**

**Seminary Sunday/Church Vocations Sunday**

UCC General Minister and President Rev. John Dorhauer produces and presents a weekly podcast called *Into the Mystic*, a reminder that the art of spiritual reflection should be made a priority, taken seriously and practiced regularly.

On this Seminary Sunday and Church Vocations Sunday, his emphasis on spiritual reflection is especially timely for those on the path to theological education and church work.

On a recent episode of the podcast called “*Watch Over Your Heart’s Integrity*,” he begins with a favorite quotation from the ancient and wise desert fathers, “In your exploration of God, whatever path you find your soul longs after in your quest for the Sacred, do that, and always watch over your heart’s integrity.”

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Rev. Dorhauer goes on to say that he was surprised to learn as a student that there were so many different theologies and that so many of them were incompatible with each other. The more he studied, the more in awe he became of all the ways there are to access God and determine what Her primary characteristics might be. Was God removed and heavenly, or accessible and willing to sit with us, or present in sanctuaries and available to priests alone, or over seeing judge. He learned as a student that the answer to all these is a resounding YES. Dorhauer was further in awe that those who put together the texts seemed to accept, even to celebrate, these dichotomies.

How do you find God? In a soaring cathedral? In nature, being on a mountain? In a quiet and rustic chapel in silence? In the smile of a child or a hug from a loved one? In a beautiful and artistic turn of phrase? Any of these things and many more can call to mind the goodness of God.

“There are as many pathways to God as there are people walking the earth,” Dorhauer concludes. Whatever path you might find yourself on, follow the words and wisdom of the desert fathers. “In your exploration of God, whatever path you find your soul longs after in your quest for the Sacred, do that, and always watch over your heart’s integrity.”

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**Exodus 22:5-7, 14; 23:5**

When someone causes a field or vineyard to be grazed over, or lets livestock loose to graze in someone else's field, restitution shall be made from the best in the owner's field or vineyard.

When fire breaks out and catches in thorns so that the stacked grain or the standing grain or the field is consumed, the one who started the fire shall make full restitution.

When someone delivers to a neighbor money or goods for safekeeping, and they are stolen from the neighbor's house, then the thief, if caught, shall pay double.

When someone borrows an animal from another and it is injured or dies, the owner not being present, full restitution shall be made.

When you see the donkey of one who hates you lying under its burden and you would hold back from setting it free, you must help to set it free.

**2 Corinthians 5:16-21**

Paul wrote, "From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through

us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

**Matthew 18:15-22**

"If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?"

Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times."