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Matter  
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**Welcome to St Peter's UCC Livestream Virtual Worship Service!** Subscribe to our **YouTube Channel** to catch a new service at 10 am each Sunday! We also share a **podcast** weekly on our website of the scripture readings and sermon. The podcast can also be found on most podcast catchers & platforms, under "The Redheaded Preacher." Give us a like and 5-star rating to help others find us!

**Open Holy Communion.** We have communion the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month and we invite all Christians and seekers after God to partake of the Lord's Supper with us regardless of denominational background. To participate from home, please have a small cup of juice, wine, or other beverage you are comfortable with, and a piece of bread with you. When Rev. Lanford prompts us to "take and eat" (and "drink"), then we will all do so - physically separated, but together in spirit.

**Who We Are.** St. Peter's is an Open and Affirming congregation. We've been in the heart of downtown Skokie for over 152 years. 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 **welcome all people** to share worship, membership, marriage, baptism, funeral, and fellowship with us.

**Attendance.** We would like to get to know you better, too! If you are comfortable doing so, please put your first name and last initial in the comments section under the video, and where you are watching us from!

**Donations.** We have several options for giving, and your donation helps support our church and its various ministries. Now more than ever, every contribution (large or small) is important to keep us going:

- **Text Your Gift.** Text the amount you want to donate to **844-997-2346**.
- **PayPal.** Visit **PayPal.me/stpeteruccskokie** Uncheck the "Paying for Goods or Services" box to not pass on the fees to St Peters.
- **Vanco Give+ App.** Download the Vanco GIVE+ app from **iTunes** or **Google Play**, put in the church's zip code 60077 and select St. Peter's from the drop down. Set up an account with a password (or process as a guest), select your donation frequency, amount, and add payment info. There is also an option here to offset the processing fee.
- **Mail a Check.** We are collecting mail daily, and depositing regularly throughout the week.

**Contact Us.** You can email us – we are accessing email from home during the Shelter-in-Place order. Or call and leave a voicemail, we are picking up messages regularly while we are not in the building. Follow us on **Facebook** and **Instagram** for daily updates and messages, and check our website for additional details, weekly announcements, and more.

### **St. Peter's United Church of Christ**

8013 Laramie Avenue, Skokie, IL 60077

(Oakton and Laramie)

**847-673-8166**

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

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**OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR**  
**Sunday, March 14, 2021 10:00 AM**  
**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

**WELCOME GUESTS!**

\* Indicates all who are able are invited to stand

**PRELUDE**

“Introduction”  
from Vesper Voluntaries by Edward Elgar

**THE RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS** Jenn Schneider

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Pastor: O magnify the Lord with me and let us  
exalt God’s name together!

***Congregation: Some of us are tired. Some of us are  
energized. All of us can exalt God’s  
name together.***

P: O magnify the Lord with me and let us  
exalt God’s name together.

***C: Some of us are filled with peace.  
Some of us are consumed with  
worry. All of us can exalt God’s  
name together.***

P: O magnify the Lord with me and let us exalt God's name together.

**C:** *Some of us have much. Some of us have little. All of us can exalt God's name together.*

P: O magnify the Lord with me and let us exalt God's name together.

**C:** *Embrace us, Lord. Imbue us with Your presence. We are before You to exalt Your name together!*

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION** (from Psalm 59)

P: "We wait for justice, but there is none; for salvation, but it is far from us.

**Congregation:** *For our transgressions before You are many, and our sins testify against us.*

P: Our transgressions indeed are with us, and we know our iniquities." Let us join together in confessing and turning away from our turning away from God.

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Forgiving God, we come before You as sinners who hate to admit our sin. We are aware that we participate in small crucifixions in our lives, sometimes by remaining silent in the face of injustice, sometimes by refusing to show love because it would inconvenience us. We are quick to point the finger at others' offenses, and we are**

**quick to take offense. We show little grace and yet hope for Your grace to be bestowed upon us. This season, may we change our ways by the power of the Spirit, as we walk the path of repentance and lasting change. In the name and for the sake of Jesus we pray. Amen.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

“And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life” (John 3:14-15).


Eternal life implies being in the glorious presence of our loving God along with the blessed cloud of witnesses who got there before us; that happens when our sins are forgiven through the Son of Man Jesus having been lifted up on the Cross and when we believe totally in this grace of God made flesh. In him our sins are deleted and their power over us put in the trash bin. In praising God for this good news par excellence, please join me in saying,

**All: THANKS BE TO GOD!**



**\*HYMN:**

**"Lift Up Your Heads"**


SSB #9



1 Lift up your heads, O might-y gates; be-hold the glo - rious Rul - er waits!  
 2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a tem - ple, set a - part  
 3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to you; here, Christ, a - bide!  
 4 So come, my Sov - ereign; en - ter in! Let new and no - bler life be - gin;

The Sov - ereign One is draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.  
 From earth - ly use for heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.  
 Let me your in - ner pres - ence feel; your grace and love in me re - veal.  
 Your Ho - ly Spir - it guide us on, un - til the glo - rious crown be won.



*Georg Weissel, a Lutheran pastor, served a church in Königsberg, East Prussia. He wrote some twenty hymns, most of them for the great festivals of the church year. This hymn was written for Advent.*

Tune: TRURO L.M.  
 Thomas Williams' Psalmodia Evangelica, 1789

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Rich Schneider

Old Testament:

Numbers 21:4-9

Epistle:

Ephesians 2:1-10

**MUSICAL MEDITATION "Movement II"**

from from Vesper Voluntaries by Edward Elgar

**GOSPEL:**

John 3:14-21

# A CALL TO OFFERING

## CALL TO PRAYER

The image shows a musical score for a piece titled 'CALL TO PRAYER'. It is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The score consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The first system has a vocal line starting with 'O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me. O' and a bass line with chords Em, G/D, Am/C, D, Em, C, B7. The second system starts with a measure number '5' and has a vocal line with 'Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me. O' and a bass line with chords Em, G/D, Am/C, D, Em, B7, and an 'Em Last Time' marking. The music features a steady bass line and a vocal line with a mix of quarter and eighth notes.

## PASTORAL AND SILENT PRAYERS

### THE LORD'S PRAYER ('debts')

**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:**

“Soul Medicine”

**HYMN:**

“Remember God is Gracious”

(Sing to the tune of "The Church's One Foundation")

**Remember God is gracious, and know what God has done!**

**God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son.**

**Now all those who believe him, who trust in Jesus Christ,**

**Can know they will not perish; they'll have eternal life.**

**God did not send us Jesus in judgment — to condemn;**

**He sent him as a promise, so we'd be saved through him.**

**Our Savior came to free us — not just for heaven's joy**

**But here, where so much need is, where sin seeks to destroy.**

**Your love, Lord, leads us outward to love the world you freed —**

**To care for your creation, to help all those in need;  
We welcome in the stranger for we were strangers, too.**

**O God, we pray for courage to love the world with you.**

Text: Copyright © 2018 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. Used by permission.

## CHARGE & BENEDICTION

*C: Amen!*

\***POSTLUDE:** "Aurelia" arr. Charles Callahan

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### FOR WORSHIP TODAY

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MINISTER Rev. Richard Lanford

MUSIC DIRECTOR Ben Westphal

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Good Morning!** God is rich in mercy, loves you greatly, makes you alive through Christ (Ephesians 2:4-5) and welcomes you to this time of worship and fellowship.

**We hope you remembered** to turn your alarms / clocks one hour ahead, to 'spring forward' into Daylight Savings Time!

**St Peter's Easter Egg Hunt 2021!** Saturday, April 3 from 9:30-11:00 am, we invite children from our church family and our local community to pick up "Easter Bags" filled with stuffed plastic eggs, a couple of treats or tiny toys, and a postcard inviting that family to watch the live stream of our Easter Sunday service the following day. Jen Schneider is organizing this event, and is looking for volunteers to donate candy and stuff eggs. *The stuffing can be done AT HOME and returned to church by March 28th* so we can fill bags. Please contact Jen directly if you have questions!

**The next Village Inn Food Fundraiser** is Sunday, March 21, 2021. Plan to order food on that day from our Community Partner, Village Inn Pizzeria in Skokie, mention St. Peter's UCC Fundraiser and we get 20% of your bill!

**Easter Flower orders are also due March 21<sup>st</sup>!** We hope you'll participate – while we don't know yet how our services will go, at the very least it will add so much color to our LIVESTREAM worship, and we'll have a pick up day for everyone to come get there flowers shortly after. You can mail in the form at the end of this bulletin, or email it to the office or call it in!

**The Lenten Bible Study continues on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8:00 PM,** with the first half hour for finishing up dinner and catching up, and then the study for the hour which follows. The topic is the Sermon on the Mount using the book about it by Dr. Amy-Jill Levine.

**The Worship and Music Committee** met last Thursday evening.

**HOSPITALIZED:** Carol Burmeister went from Glenbrook to Evanston Hospital for tests, and returned to Elevate St. Andrew's in Niles by Wednesday the 10th. She is on the nursing floor for now to regain needed strength.

**IN SYMPATHY:** Richard Lindroth, for whom we've been praying, brother of member Phil Lindroth, died on March 7th. There was a period of visitation followed by a service led by Rev. Lanford at Haben Funeral Home yesterday. He was 68.

**The Church Council meets next Sunday!** If you are responsible for a report, please submit it to the Council March Drop Box the first half of this week, as soon as you can, so as to give other Council members plenty of time to access it and read it ahead of the meeting. Thank you.

**NEW St. Peter's Zoom Account!** We now have an official Church Zoom account. There are many more benefits we are able to use because of this. If you are having a Zoom meeting, contact Laura in the office and she'll share the username and password so you might host an online meeting using the church account.

**Pastor's Podcast** is available on our website, or 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! Give us a 5-star rating and review if you can, it helps us grow so much.

Those marking birthdays or anniversaries this week are William Hoellerich and Maria Altmayer; Bill and Alice Schaller have an anniversary on the 16th!

According to the schedule next week's Lector is Beth Sterba; Carolyn Van Til reads on the 28th, Palm Sunday.

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**CHURCH LEADERSHIP**

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PRESIDENT	Jenn Schneider
VICE-PRESIDENT	Judy Paige
TREASURER	Chad McCoy
SECRETARY	Carolyn Kuechler
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Marcia Hilliard

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# 2021 EASTER CHANCEL FLOWERS



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 the G & E substitutes 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 make a separate check for your flower order to St. Peter's UCC.

Orders must be placed by **Sunday, March 21, 2021**

Quantity	Type	Price	Total
	Easter Lily 6 pot	10.50	
	Azalea 6" pot	19.00	
	Hyacinth 4 bloom	9.00	
	Tulip 6" 5-6 blooms	7.00	
	Rieger Begonia 6"	11.00	
<b>Total</b>			

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_ In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 14, 2021

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

### No Matter What *One Great Hour of Sharing Offering*

Just about a year ago, most everyone in the world went under some level of quarantine due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus. Lives were changed in dramatic and many unexpected ways. Grocery stores started running out of strange things - toilet paper one week, baking yeast the next. School went online, and busy parents found themselves juggling homeschool and working from home. Churches moved worship online, too. And, most people cancelled whatever travel plans they had.

During this year of quarantine, travel television shows and reading became a wistful and yet satisfying pleasure for those who had to take a break from their own traveling adventures. By reading and watching about other people's travels, the armchair travelers of quarantine days have been able to remember the joy of experiencing the new foods, friendships and sites encountered on their own travels.

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS), the offering we receive this week, is our reminder that even if in-person travel has slowed in the past year, our gifts can - and do! - still travel around the world. Even if you can't get on an airplane, your financial offering has an impact in many corners of the world.

\*"One Great Hour of Sharing, is the special offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response."

\*(<https://www.ucc.org/oghs>)



## **SCRIPTURES FOR THE CONGREGATION**

**March 14th, 2021**

### **Numbers 21:4 – 9**

“From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.”

### **Ephesians 2:1 - 10**

“You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of



his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.”

### **John 3:14 – 21**

”And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.”

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.