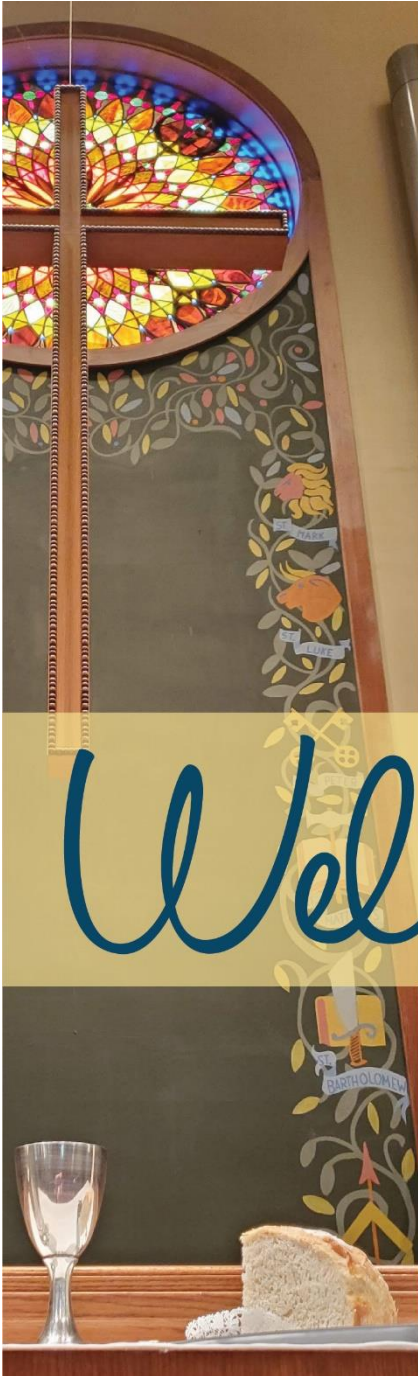


ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

Sunday,
April 7, 2024
10:00 AM

Second Sunday
Of Easter

Welcome





Welcome to Worship!

SUNDAYS @ 10:00AM

In-person Worship. Masks and distance recommended, not required

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

"The Redheaded Preacher" Podcast. Available wherever you get your podcasts, includes sermon and scriptures only, posted weekly by Tuesday



Ways to Give

Text Your Gift. Text your gift to [844-977-2346](tel:844-977-2346)

After a short set-up the first time, simply text your gift amount

Use PayPal. [PayPal.me/stpeteruccskokie](https://www.paypal.com/merchot/?x=1&from=seller=&to=stpeteruccskokie)

Send a Check. Mail to the address below ... this way still works fine

Set up Vanco. Contact the church office to enroll in 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 **joyously welcome 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

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

Laura Olson (Office Manager): office@stpeteruccskokie.org

Office hours Mon-Fri 9am to 2pm

Ben Westphal (Music Director): bcwestphal@gmail.com

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

Website: 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

St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Skokie
Order of Worship for
Sunday, April 7, 2024 at 10:00am
The Second Sunday of Easter

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

PRELUDE "O Fillii et Filliae" Movement I, by Jacobson

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peggy Reins

Will those who are able please stand up

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: Christ our Savior is risen from the dead! Alleluia!

C: **Break forth into joy! Sing together!**

God comforts those whose hearts are broken in sorrow.

P: We who once suffered in death, we who once cried in despair -

C: **Now we know victory over death! Now we know joy over despair!**

A: **For God has raised Christ from the grave! The tomb is empty and death has been defeated for all the earth!**

RESPONSE "Sing Hallelujah to the Lord"

SSB #1 (with repeat)

Descant

Sing hal-le-lu-jah to the Lord.

Unison

Sing hal-le-lu-jah to the Lord. Sing hal-le-

The first system of the musical score is in 2/2 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It features three staves: a descant line, a unison vocal line, and a bass line. The descant line begins with a rest followed by a melodic phrase. The unison line starts with a quarter rest and then enters with the melody. The bass line provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines.

Sing hal-le-lu-jah, hal-le-lu-

lu-jah to the Lord. Sing hal-le-lu-jah, sing hal-le-

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The vocal line has a slight melisma on 'lu-jah' before entering again. The accompaniment maintains the harmonic structure with various chord voicings.

1 2

jah; sing hal-le-lu-jah to the Lord.

1 2

lu-jah. Sing hal-le-lu-jah to the Lord.

The third system concludes the piece with a double bar line and repeat signs. It includes first and second endings for both the vocal and piano parts. The piano part features a wavy line at the end of the second ending, likely indicating a tremolo or a specific performance technique.

CALL TO CONFESSION

P: Life with eternity in it is God's present gift to us. We have heard it, but we are slow to believe. We have received it but are slow to trust. It is ours to enjoy, but we have not lived it. Let us discuss the matter with our Creator.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

P: Gracious God, we confess before You our slowness to embrace the new life You offer. You offer springtime to our souls, but we prefer the winter of coldness and indifference.

C: We continue in despair and self-doubt, rather than in rejoicing in knowing You love us. We forget that we have been baptized into the death and resurrection of Christ. Afraid to die, we cannot receive new life.

A: Trusting in Your forgiveness through the gift of Your Son, with our coldness, self-hate, forgetfulness, or fear, we pray to You with the confidence of Your children that such merciful grace shall again cover us. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *John 1:14, 16*

P: "And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth . . . From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace."

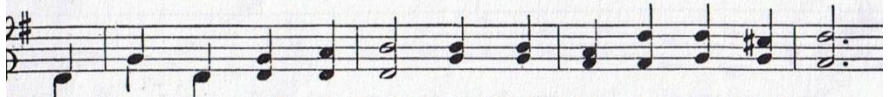
Jesus is the Word become flesh, and He was and is full of grace and truth. The amazing part is that we have all received this grace, this unmerited love and mercy, upon grace! Grace upon grace, gift upon gift, from the love and light of God, to pardon us and change us more and more into children reflecting that same grace and truth. Please join me in laying hold of this gospel and say together . . .

All: Thanks be to God!

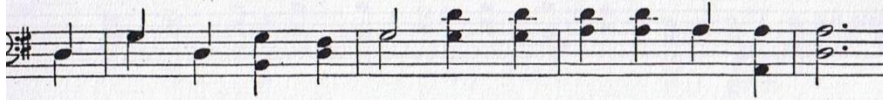
HYMN "The Lord of Life is Risen" #172 (vv. 1-3)



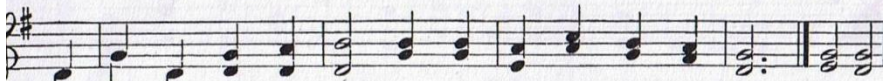
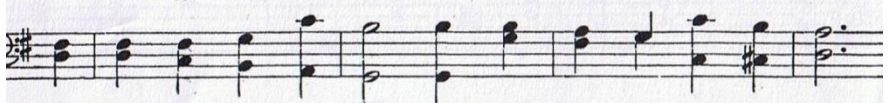
1. The Lord of life is ris - en; Sing, Eas - ter her - alds, sing!
2. The Lord of life is ris - en, And love no lon - ger grieves;
3. A - round Thy tomb, O Je - sus, How sweet the Eas - ter breath;
4. O pub - lish this sal - va - tion, Ye her - alds, through the earth;
5. Hail, hail, our Je - sus ris - en! Sing, ran - somed breth - ren, sing!



He bursts His rock - y pris - on; Wide let the tri - umph ring!
 In ru - in lies death's pris - on, Sing, her - alds, Je - sus lives!
 Hear we not in the breez - es, "Where is thy sting, O death?"
 To ev - ery bur - ied na - tion Pro - claim the day of birth!
 Through death's dark, gloom - y pris - on Let Eas - ter cho - rals ring!



In death no long - er ly - ing, He rose, the Prince, to - day;
 We hear Thy bless - ed greet - ing; Sal - va - tion's work is done!
 Dark hell flies in com - mo - tion, The heavens their an - thems sing;
 Till, ris - ing from their slum - bers In long and an - cient night,
 Haste, haste, ye cap - tive le - gions, Ac - cept your glad re - prieve;



Life of the dead and dy - ing, He triumphed o'er de - cay.
 We wor - ship Thee, re - peat - ing, "Life for the dead is won!"
 While far o'er earth and o - cean Glad hal - le - lu - jahs ring!
 The count - less hea - then num - bers Shall hail the Eas - ter light.
 Come forth from sin's dark re - gions; In Je - sus' king - dom live! A - MEN.



The congregation may be seated

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Barb Todd

Epistle:

I John 1:1-2:2

The Gospel

John 20:19-31

MUSICAL MEDITATION "O Fillii et Filliae" Movement II
by Jacobson

The Congregation may be seated

PASTORAL AND SILENT PRAYERS

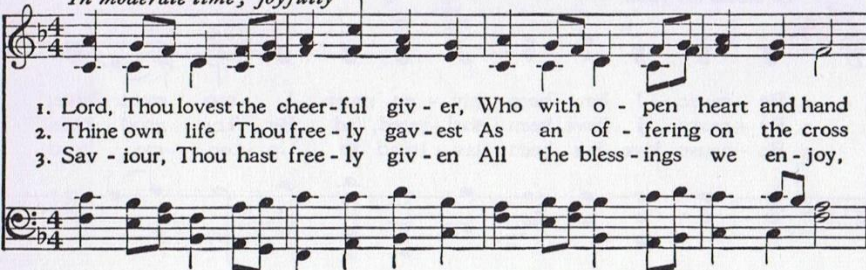
OFFERTORY

Will those who are able please rise to sing

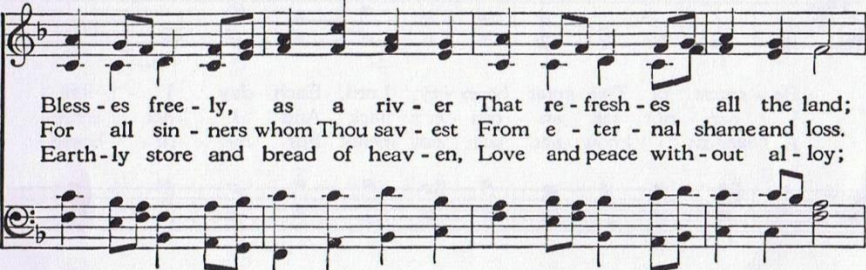
RESPONSE "Lord, Thou Lovest the Cheerful Giver"

#260 (v.1)

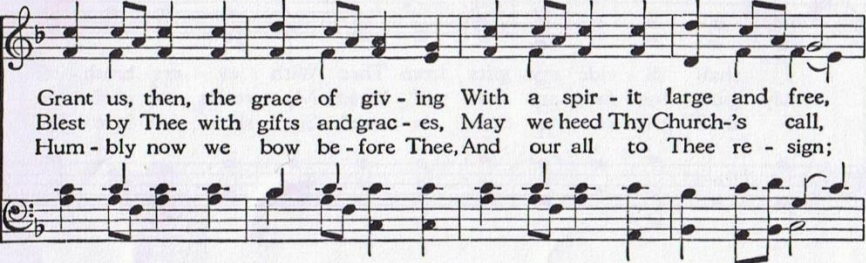
in moderate time; joyfully



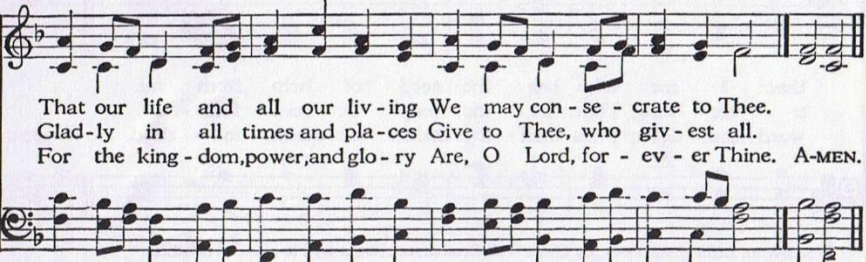
1. Lord, Thou lovest the cheer-ful giv-er, Who with o-pen heart and hand
 2. Thine own life Thou free-ly gav-est As an of-fering on the cross
 3. Sav-iour, Thou hast free-ly giv-en All the bless-ings we en-joy,



Bless-es free-ly, as a riv-er That re-fresh-es all the land;
 For all sin-ners whom Thou sav-est From e-ter-nal shame and loss.
 Earth-ly store and bread of heav-en, Love and peace with-out al-loy;



Grant us, then, the grace of giv-ing With a spir-it large and free,
 Blest by Thee with gifts and grac-es, May we heed Thy Church's call,
 Hum-bly now we bow be-fore Thee, And our all to Thee re-sign;



That our life and all our liv-ing We may con-se-crate to Thee.
 Glad-ly in all times and pla-ces Give to Thee, who giv-est all.
 For the king-dom, power, and glo-ry Are, O Lord, for-ev-er Thine. A-MEN.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

A: O God, because we have been given so much, help us to give more.

Because we are loved so much, give us the strength to love more.

Because we are accepted as we are, give us the grace to accept others without judgment or prejudice.

We give ourselves and our gifts with grateful hearts. Amen.

The congregation may be seated

HOMILY

""

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**Exhortation and Invitation****Sursum Corda:**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *And also with you.*

P: Lift up your hearts!

C: *We lift them up to the Lord!*

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: *It is right to give God thanks and praise.*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Prayer of Consecration

RESPOND
153 **Eat of This Bread**

The musical score is written in G minor, 4/4 time, with a tempo of quarter note = 65. It consists of four staves of music. Each staff has a treble clef and a key signature of two flats. The lyrics are written below the notes. Chords are indicated above the staff lines. Triplet markings (a '3' over a bracket) are present over the first three notes of each measure in every staff.

Staff 1: *J=65* E^b A^b $Ddim$ Gm
Eat of this bread, drink of this wine;

Staff 2: Cm Fm Fm^7 $B^b sus$ B^b
come and be fed, come now and dine.

Staff 3: E^b A^b $Ddim$ Gm
Eat of this bread, drink of this wine;

Staff 4: Cm Fm B^b E^b
here all are fed, here all may dine.

The Words of Institution Participation

CLOSING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

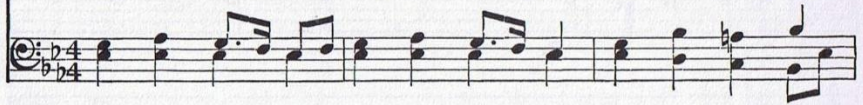
**A: Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil;
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the
glory forever. Amen.**

Will those who are able please stand up

HYMN "Lord, Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing" #35



1. Lord, dis - miss us with Thy bless - ing; Fill our hearts with
2. Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion For Thy gos - pel's



joy and peace; Let us each, Thy love pos - sess - ing,
joy - ful sound; May the fruits of Thy sal - va - tion



Tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace: O re - fresh us,
In our hearts and lives a - bound: Ev - er faith - ful,



O re - fresh us, Trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.
ev - er faith - ful To the truth may we be found; A-MEN.



CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

P: Christ is not entombed here, for He is risen!

C: He is risen, indeed!

P: As we go forth from this place, may we proclaim this message with our whole being. We do not have to fear death. He is risen!

C: We do not have to be afraid of the past. He is risen!

P: We do not have to be afraid of the dark. Christ is risen!

A: Thanks be to God. Amen!

POSTLUDE "O Fillii et Filliae" Movement III, by Jacobson

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.

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

MINISTER	Rev. Richard Lanford
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Jenn Schneider
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Peter Svenson
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Heidi Tarzian

OFFERING of LETTERS

Put your faith into action with
Bread for the World's Offering of Letters!

As people of faith, we are called to give of our time, talent, and treasure for a greater purpose. Bread for the World invites you to use your voice to help end hunger.

Every year, Bread for the World organizes churches, community organizations, and people of faith from across the country to write letters and emails to their members of Congress who have the power to impact the policies and programs that can end hunger.

By taking part in **Bread for the World's 2024 Offering of Letters**, you will help support domestic and international nutrition programs that offer a hand up to families and a brighter future for children.

Your letter matters. Combined with others from your church, campus, or organization—and joined with the voices of thousands of advocates across the country—your letter or email is an expression of faith and hope, urging U.S. decision makers to pursue a world without hunger. God uses these letters to change hearts and minds, and again and again, Bread for the World wins help and opportunity for our neighbors who face hunger.

Prayer of the Day

God of love,

*We gather this day to worship you;
to hear your word proclaimed,*

*to pray for our neighbors,
near and far,*

and to offer the gift of our voices

-and our words

*so that children around the world
have enough nourishing food*

that they will thrive.

Amen. 🍌



How to participate in Offering of Letters

Join Bread for the World in pursuing a world without hunger.

Please take a few minutes to write your members of Congress. Urge them to help families and children experiencing hunger and poverty—no matter where they live.

Sample letters can be found to print or send by email at ol.bread.org.



OFFERING of LETTERS



Sunday, April 14, 2024



11:30am (after worship)



Memorial Room

Speak up to end hunger.
Scan to learn more!



bread.org • 800.822.7323 • bread@bread.org



@bread4theworld

News in the Pews

This second Sunday of Easter, we are all twin selves, like Thomas, who was called the Twin (John 20:24). Each of us is both doubter and believer, and Jesus blesses us with peace. Welcome.

Thank you to everyone who helped put our worship service together today!

In need of plastic eggs for next year! Now's the time to buy them, when they are marked down. We had 40 kids this year, we definitely need more eggs next year! Thank you!

Rich and Jen Schneider and Pastor have to scoot out of here ASAP after worship as they are taking Pastor Richard to the 1:20 PM Cubs game! Please understand their rush.

Next Sunday, April 14th, we will host a special, enhanced Coffee Hour hosted by our Micah 6:8 Committee, during which we will have the opportunity to write letters to our members of Congress asking for their support of specific budget legislation that will support programs getting food to the hungry. Please stay, learn, and participate! This project is undertaken with help from Bread for the World. More details are available on the insert included in this bulletin.

This Wednesday our Women's Guild meets at 11:30 AM.

This Friday Laura will be out of the office, but working, as she has been OK'd to participate in the annual meeting of the United

Church of Christ Support Staff Network. This is from 11 to 4 our time and she will do this from her residence, not here.

Skokie Neighbors for Housing Justice is holding a housing forum from 3-5pm, Saturday, April 20th at the Fleetwood-Jourdain Community Center, 1655 Foster Street, Evanston. This information was shared with the Niles Clergy Township Forum, and we are in turn sharing it with you! The forum will invite learning and input from the community. Forum participants will learn about housing resources, hear real stories of housing issues, and help envision the future of affordability. Partners and event sponsors include the Evanston Community Alliance for Better Government, Interfaith Action, and Impact Behavioral Health among other organizations. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/mrfsjm8p>.

This coming Saturday, the 13th, the Chicago Rocks and Minerals Society of Chicago holds its monthly meeting in our Memorial Room.

Let's Talk about Saying Goodbye- We have two more special events planned to bid our Pastor and Beth a fond farewell, so save the dates. May 19th at 5PM we're bringing back the Spaghetti Dinner. Then Sunday, June 30th (Pastor's last day) at 5PM we'll have a formal dinner. More details on these will be given out closer to the events. We are taking donations now to offset the cost of the events, those can be directed as the "Lanford Celebration Fund."

Misericordia days are here again, and our very own Ricky can use your donations!! Ricky was born prematurely in January 2006 and as many of you know is developmentally about 5 years old - and is sunshine in human form. He has an intellectual disability and will not be able to live independently when his parents,

members of St. Peter's, can no longer take care of him. Misericordia is a beautiful place that offers living arrangements and assistance to people like our Ricky. Please consider donating to this beautiful organization that helps people that are unable to care for themselves, *and use the link following to do it, to make sure the Riley family gets credited.*

<https://secure.frontstream.com/misericordiacandydays2024/participant/AnnaRiley>

Thank you so much for your consideration!

Our People

Hospitalized: Jane Abramchik undergoing physical therapy at the McGaw Care Center, 3200 Grant Street, Evanston, 60201

According to the schedule, next week's Lector will be Karen Christianson and the Nursery Attendant, Carolyn Van Til. Jen S. will be our live-streamer.

The Birthday this week (there is only one!) belongs to Katy Schuhrke Aguayo's son, Henry.

Pictures of Pastor and Beth needed! As we adjust to the news of Pastor's retirement, we ask all you folks to go through your old photos and share them with us. You can email the church office with the photos office@stpeteruccskokie.org, or bring or mail them in and we'll scan and return them to you. Thanks so much for your help!

Our Call to Worship and our Prayer of Confession this morning are reprinted by permission of the publisher from Touch Holiness, ed. Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi. Copyright 1990 The Pilgrim Press; copyright 2012 Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi. Our Call to Confession is reprinted by permission of United Church Press from Led by Love by Lavon Bayler, copyright 1986 by United Church Press.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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

Regular Reminders!

We are always grateful for any and all offerings to the church. No amount is too small! See inside the bulletin's front cover for details on how to donate.

Let us know you were here! Please sign the attendance sheet in the black pew pads and when you think your pew is ready, please pass the pad towards the center aisle of the church.

Pastor's podcast is available wherever you listen to podcasts!
Just type in "The Redheaded Preacher" and you'll find us!

About Communion: All Christians and seekers after God are invited in to partake of the Lord's Supper here regardless of denominational background. We practice open Communion. We ask our own St. Peter's U.C.C. young folk to first go through the Communicants Class. The ushers will come to the pews with trays, with pre-filled cups of wine or juice as designated. The wafer is on top. When the Pastor prompts us, please have peeled off the top layer of the cup covering to get at the wafer, then pull the wafer off to eat. If you are worshiping with us on-line, the prayer of consecration extends to all who participate wherever you are and whenever you partake of the service (thank You, Holy Spirit!). When prompted, please take whatever bread you have set aside for yourself and anyone with you, take and eat as prompted; when it's time for the cup, please do the same with whatever you have put in your cup at home (juice, wine, water, etcetera).



MISSION MOMENTS

April 7, 2024

Second Sunday of Easter

“Marks of Faith”

John 20:19-31

https://www.ucc.org/science_and_technology_network_page/

Today you are invited into the story of Thomas. Whether it is new to you or very familiar, take a few moments to read his story in the book of John. Sit with one or more of these questions. What words, phrases, or ideas jump out at you? What seems comforting? What is unsettling? What about this story stands the test of time? What part of this story seems better left in the past? What is God calling you to, using this story?

Although he is sometimes called “Doubting Thomas,” the disciple’s willingness to ask questions does not show doubt but in fact its opposite; curiosity and a deep desire to experience the risen Christ using all of his senses. This post-Easter impulse, to deeply know the risen Christ however one can, is at the heart of the United Church of Christ’s Science and Technology Network.

The Network is guided by the Pastoral Letter on Faith and Science, an epistle that turns twenty-five years old this year. Some issues, like the rise of the use of AI, for example, and a more global awareness of the seriousness of climate change, are new. But the questions the Pastoral Letter on Faith and Science asks are just as salient today as they were two and half decades ago.

As you were invited into the story of Thomas, take some time to read or re-read the the Pastoral Letter on Faith and Science. You can find it online at <https://www.ucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/pastoral-letter-on-faith-and-science.pdf>

As you read, ask yourself the What words, phrases, or ideas jump out at you? What seems comforting? What is unsettling? What about this letter stands the test of time? What part of this letter seems better left in the past? What is God calling you to, using this letter?

1 John 1:1 - 2:2

“¹We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— ²this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us— ³we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

¹My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.”

John 20:19 - 31

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.”