



CHRIST
AMONG
US

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 1st 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

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**OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR
Sunday, April 18, 2021, 10 AM
Third Sunday of Easter**

WELCOME GUESTS!

* Indicates all who are able are invited to stand

PRELUDE Selected

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS Jenn Schneider

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Sing praises to God, you faithful, give
thanks to the Holy One!

***Congregation: Weeping may linger for a night, but
joy comes in the morning.***

P: You turn our weeping to dancing, God;
You remove the garments of mourning
and clothe us in gladness!

***C: May we praise You and not be silent!
We will give thanks to You, O God,
forever!***

OPENING RESPONSE: "Thine is the Glory"

(v. 1)

Thine Is The Glory

Edmond L. Budry

Handel

Thine is the glo - ry, ri - sen, con-quer-ing Son; end - less is the
Lo! Je - sus meets us, ri - sen, from the tomb; lo - ving - ly He
No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life! Life is_ nought with -

5
vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won. An - gels in bright rai - ment
greats us, scat - ters fear and gloom. Let His church with glad - ness
out Thee; aid us in our strife. Make us_ more than con - querors,

10
rolled the stone a - way, kept the fol - ded grave clothes where they bo - dy
hymns of tri-umph sing, for_ her Lord now liv - eth: death hath lost its
through thy death-less love: bring us_ safe through Jor - dan to thy home a -

15
lay. Thine is the glo - ry, ri - sen_ con-quer-ing Son;
sting.
bove.

20
end - less_ is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won.

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***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Great God, we confess that there are many, many hours when we are not mindful of Your presence. We give up the comfort and avoid the challenge that come from Your Word and Spirit. This can affect us, and our relationship with You and Your church, more than we may know! Forgive us, and restore the joy of knowing You. When and wherever we break bread, may Christ be known among us; in whose name we pray. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

As we heard from the epistle last Sunday, "If anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world" (I John 2:1b-2).

For an assurance of pardon, I cannot say it or expound on the gospel better than that. Can we absorb the meaning of this spectacular, astounding love of God and be stoically silent?

All: We say, "Alleluia! Thanks be to God!"

***HYMN:**

"We Are an Offering"

SSB #11

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of ten staves. The melody is in the upper voice, and the accompaniment is in the lower voice. The lyrics are as follows:

We lift our voi - ces, — we lift our hands, — we lift our
lives — up to You, we are an of - fer - ing; — Lord, use our
voi - ces, — Lord, use our hands, — Lord, use our
lives, — they are Yours, we are an of - fer - ing. —
All that we have, — all that we are, —
all that we hope to be we give to You, we
give to You. — We lift our
voi - ces, — we lift our hands, — we lift our
lives — up to You, we are an of - fer - ing, — we are an of - fer - ing. —

A CALL TO OFFERING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

The Psalter

The Epistle:

Beth Lanford

Psalm 4

I John 3:1-7

MUSICAL MEDITATION "Be Not Afraid" by Bob Dufford
Sung by Jessica Schneider

GOSPEL:

Luke 24: 36b-48

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: "To Follow the Risen Crucified One"

169

His Resurrection

JOHN OF DAMASCUS, 8th century
Tr. JOHN MASON NEALE, 1859

7. 6. 7. 6. D.

ST. KEVIN
ARTHUR SULLIVAN, 1872

Jubilantly

1. Come, ye faith - ful, raise the strain Of tri - um - phant glad - ness:
2. 'Tis the spring of souls to - day: Christ hath burst His pris - on,

God hath brought His peo - ple forth In - to joy from sad - ness,
And from three days' sleep in death As a sun hath ris - en;

Now re - joice, Je - ru - sa - lem, And with true af - fec - tion
All the win - ter of our sins, Long and dark, is fly - ing

Wel - come in un - wea - ried strains Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion.
From His light, to whom we give Laud and praise un - dy - ing. A - MEN.

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

P: Eternal God, grant us the grace to see Your vision of blessings for all Your children;

Give us the hope to make Your vision real in Your world;

Provide us with love that knows no limits, least of all the boundaries of poverty, sickness or death; and may our lives reflect Your vision in ways beyond our imagining, all in Jesus' name.

C: *Amen!*

***POSTLUDE:** "Judas Maccabeus" arr. Carl Schalk

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

MINISTER

Rev. Richard Lanford

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Ben Westphal

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Good Morning! Friends, we welcome you in the name of the one God who has defeated death forever by raising Jesus from the tomb. We too now walk in new life.

HOSPITALIZED: Carol Burmeister went to the ER early last week; she had a stroke affecting her right side. More tests are going to be taken.

Your Church Council meets at 11:30 this morning!

Prayers for our meetings are always appreciated.

THE VILLAGE INN / ST. PETER'S UCC FUNDRAISER is today! Order for pickup, delivery or call ahead for in dining options, just mention St. Peter's UCC Fundraiser to your server and we get 20% of the bill! Anyone can help, tell your friends and neighbors.

A huge THANK YOU to the wonderful members of our Church family who have been kind enough to drive me to Doctor appointments and Physical Therapy for the past several months since I wasn't able to drive myself. I'm blessed to have such good friends! Judy Paige

Sue and Barb Bailey's Aunt Eleanor remains in palliative care in Schaumburg.

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Marking birthdays this week are Bonnie Loach (today), Gail (Dennis) Balling, Darrell Kerbel, and Mark Taylor. Celebrating anniversaries are David and Donna Gates Rees, and Bob and Carol Iannotti. Enjoy your days!

CYT's The Wizard of Oz, starring Jessica Schneider in her FINAL CYT show as both Auntie Em and Glinda the Good Witch! Tickets for in-person viewing are sold out, but will be available for streaming online shows. We hope this link will be posted soon and will share when we have it; for those watching while quarantining or from far away.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 18, 2021

Luke 24:36b-48

Christ Among Us

Earth Day is coming up this Thursday. Has your church explored what it might mean to be a Creation Justice Church? You can find out more at the website: https://www.ucc.org/creation_justice_churches.

*“As we learn in the opening pages of Genesis, our first calling as people of faith is to care for God's creation. Whether it is taking on the climate crises or addressing the lead poisoning of children, environmental justice ministries could not have a higher purpose or calling than they do now.

If the followers of Jesus today care about the air we breathe, the water we drink, or the world in which we live, then environmental justice ministry should undoubtedly be an integral strand in any church's DNA. The UCC's Creation Justice Church program aims to help you do just that. Here are some of the tremendous features and benefits of doing the program:

- Congregations collectively discern their high calling to care for creation and seek justice for the oppressed.
- Congregations make a commitment so serious and so sacred that it necessitates talking about God's covenant with us and with all of creation.
- Congregations not only become recognized as “green.” They become a part of a larger network of churches and a larger movement to change the world.
- Congregations engage in critical thinking about the socioeconomic dimensions of environmental justice such as race, class, and global inequality.
- Congregations foster a deeper sense of connection: connection to God, to each other, and to the world in which we live.
- Congregations unleash their imagination and creativity as a sense of purpose propels them to make a difference.”

*(https://www.ucc.org/creation_justice_churches)



SCRIPTURES FOR THE CONGREGATION

April 18th, 2021

Psalm 4

Answer me when I call, O God of my right!

You gave me room when I was in distress.

Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer.

How long, you people, shall my honor suffer shame?

How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies?

But know that the LORD has set apart the faithful for himself;
the LORD hears when I call to him.

When you are disturbed, do not sin; ponder it on your beds, and be silent.

Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in the LORD.

There are many who say, "O that we might see some good!

Let the light of your face shine on us, O LORD!"

You have put gladness in my heart

more than when their grain and wine abound.

I will both lie down and sleep in peace;

for you alone, O LORD, make me lie down in safety.

1 John 3:1 - 7

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

Luke 24:36 - 48

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.”