

ALWAYS
CLOSE

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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(Oakton and Laramie)

847-673-8166

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

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OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR
Sunday, February 28, 2021 10:00 AM
Second Sunday in Lent

WELCOME GUESTS!

* Indicates all who are able are invited to stand

PRELUDE " Aus tiefer Not schrei' ich zu Dir"
by Martin Luther

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS
THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS Jenn Schneider

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

***Congregation: Praise God, all creatures here
below!***

P: Praise God above, you heavenly host;

***C: Praise Creator, Christ and Holy
Ghost!***

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

As we call ourselves to praise the Almighty and Ever-loving God, we realize how unworthy we are before such majesty and grace. Before going further we know we must ask for God to pardon our missing the mark, for our primary orientation on self rather than Christ, and the ways that mis-orientation plays out in our lives and our world.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Merciful God, in Genesis we hear of the great faith of Abraham and Sarah. We are inspired by them, but also perhaps a little afraid of having that much faith! We surely understand his need for reassurance after many years of no son, but are also amazed that he kept it up. Help us to receive more fully this gift of faith, and then to nourish it wisely and compassionately.

In the Gospel we hear Jesus talk of denying our self. That is hard to understand, let alone try, and yet it is how we really put You at the center of our lives and thoughts. If we seek first the kingdom and Your righteousness -- which seeking calls for faith -- then, Jesus taught, we will have our needs met. Forgive our falling short and even saying 'no' to these teachings; help us to put Your will, Your gracious will, into action, when You let us know beyond doubt that that will is for us today, and every day. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Jesus also said in Luke, "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" (12:32). In God's spectacular grace, by Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven; as the Lord longs for us to join Christ in the realm of God for eternity and has done all God can do to make that possible. Please join me in crying aloud with gratitude . . .

All: Thanks be to God!

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God the Father
His Eternity and Majesty

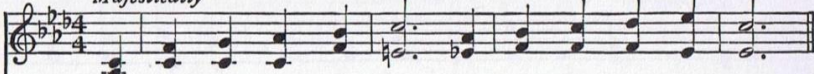
YIGDAL (LEONI)

DANIEL BEN JUDAH, 14th century
Revised version of *The Yigdal*

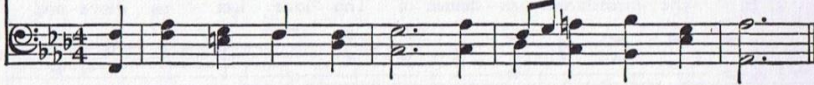
6. 6. 8. 4. D.

Hebrew Melody

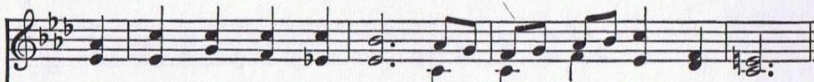
Majestically



1. The God of Abra - ham praise, All prais - ed be His Name,
2. His spir - it flow - eth free, High sur - ging where it will:
3. He hath e - ter - nal life Im - plant - ed in the soul;



Who was, and is, and is to be, And still the same!
In proph - et's word He spoke of old - He speak - eth still.
His love shall be our strength and stay, While a - ges roll.



The one e - ter - nal God, Ere aught that now ap - pears;
Es - tab - lished is His law, And change-less it shall stand,
Praise to the liv - ing God! All prais - ed be His Name,



The First, the Last: be - yond all thought His time - less years!
Deep writ up - on the hu - man heart, On sea, or land.
Who was, and is, and is to be, And still the same! A - MEN.



PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Katy Schuhrke Aguayo

Old Testament:

Genesis 17:1-8, 15-22

Epistle:

Romans 4:13-25

MUSICAL MEDITATION "At the Cross"

Larry Shackley

GOSPEL:

Mark 8:31-38

A CALL TO OFFERING

CALL TO PRAYER

Em G/D Am/C D Em C B7

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me. O

5 Em G/D Am/C D Em B7 Em *Last Time*

Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis-ten to me. O

**Unison: O Lord, hear my prayer,
 O Lord, hear my prayer;
 When I call, answer me
 O Lord hear my prayer,
 O Lord hear my prayer'
 Come and listen to me.**

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: "That . . . is to Die For!"

HYMN: "What Does It Mean to Lose One's Life?"

(Sing to the tune of "Where Cross the Crowded Ways of
Life")

What does it mean to lose one's life?

What does it mean to save one's soul?

How are we called to follow Christ?

What does it mean to be made whole?

What does it mean to stand for good?

What will we risk to turn from wrong?

How can we, in this neighborhood,

Serve humbly, knowing God is strong?

**What is the heart of Jesus' Way?
What does it mean to bear his cross?
Will we have courage to obey
When we know there will be a cost?**

**What is the cost to stand for truth
Here in this world where hatred thrives?
We pray, Lord: make us living proof
That love can heal and change our lives!**

**Christ, teach us how we're called to live;
Show us the risks we need to take.
May all we seek and do and give
Be done, Lord, for your gospel's sake.**

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CHARGE & BENEDICTION

C: Amen!

***POSTLUDE:** " Aus tiefer Not schrei' ich zu Dir"

by J. Pachelbel

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

MINISTER
MUSIC DIRECTOR

Rev. Richard Lanford
Ben Westphal

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Good Morning! Brothers and sisters in Christ, grace and peace be to you as we join in worship. Welcome.

The Lenten Bible Study began last Thursday, February 25th at 6:30 PM via Zoom; it is now on Wednesdays at the same time until Holy Week. Some books remain! What is it? An adult study written by Professor Amy-Jill Levine called "The Sermon on the Mount: A Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven." This is a 6-week session so we as usual will be off during Holy Week but finish the week of April 11th. Claim your book (please chip in \$10 if you can) and join before we get too deep into it!

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 front cover for details on how to donate.

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 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.

Next Sunday is a Communion Sunday, so please plan to join the livestream, or its recorded version, with something ready for you to have consecrated as the bread and cup / fruit of the vine (Body and Blood of Christ).

Those marking birthdays this week are Joshua and Grace Castillo on March 2nd (parents Angel and Jennifer Garcia Castillo); Tyler O'Hara (son of Dan and Heather Schuhrke O'Hara), Britta Christianson, Alexander Iannotti (turning 1!) and Phil Lindroth. We have no anniversaries the first week in March.

As of this writing, Phil Lindroth's brother Richard remains in hospice.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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

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	
Total			

Name _____ Phone# _____

In Honor of: _____ In Memory of: _____

February 28, 2021

Psalm 22:23-31

Always Close
Seminary Sunday
Church Vocations Sunday

Do you feel that you are called to ministry, but are unable due to time or finances to receive a traditional theological education? Take a look at the PATHWAYS program. According to their website (<https://www.pathwaystheological.org/>), "PATHWAYS offers you a program for progressive theological engagement that values the past without being limited by it, moving intentionally into the present while looking boldly towards the future. We provide a welcoming online space to bring your questions, doubts, and desire to deepen your understanding... Whether you are on the path to authorized ministry, want to hone your current skills, or just want to explore your faith more deeply, we have a program for you.

PATHWAYS welcomes students from a wide variety of denominational and faith backgrounds. PATHWAYS Theological Education, Inc., is a registered independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. It began as a program of the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ (UCC). PATHWAYS continues to be affiliated with the Southeast Conference, works with UCC participants across the nation, and is a respected member of the Regional Theological Education Consortium. Participants also come to us from several other denominations and from non-denominational communities.

PATHWAYS Theological Education, Inc. exists to offer a range of stimulating, accessible, and affordable online progressive Christian resources for church leaders, faith explorers, pastors, and those discerning various vocations and callings within and outside the church community.

PATHWAYS staff members work with representatives from Conferences and Associations to support the educational needs of UCC Members in Discernment (MID) pursuing an alternative pathway to ministry.

As part of the UCC's vision for multiple pathways to authorization, the entire PATHWAYS program of thirty plus courses can be used as an alternative route to fulfill the academic requirements for becoming an authorized minister."

To find out if PATHWAYS might be right for you, visit [pathwaystheological.org](https://www.pathwaystheological.org).



SCRIPTURES FOR THE CONGREGATION

February 28th, 2021

Genesis 17:1–8, 15-22

1When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless.

2And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.”

3Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him,

4“As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations.

5No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations.

6I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you.

7I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

8And I will give to you, and to your offspring after you, the land where you are now an alien, all the land of Canaan, for a perpetual holding; and I will be their God.”

15God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name.

16I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.” Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said to himself, "Can a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Can Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?" And Abraham said to God, "O that Ishmael might live in your sight!"

God said, "No, but your wife Sarah shall bear you a son, and you shall name him Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him. As for Ishmael, I have heard you; I will bless him and make him fruitful and exceedingly numerous; he shall be the father of twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation. But my covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this season next year." And when he had finished talking with him, God went up from Abraham.

Romans 4:13-25

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations,"

according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Mark 8:31 - 38

31Then Jesus began to teach the disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

32He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

33But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

34He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

35For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.

36For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?

37Indeed, what can they give in return for their life?

38Those who are ashamed of me and of my words□ in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”