

**FAITH**  
Marks of

**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)

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

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

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

St. Peter's United Church of Christ  
Oakton Street and Laramie Avenue, Skokie, IL  
[www.stpeteruccskokie.org](http://www.stpeteruccskokie.org)  
847-673-8166

---

**OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR  
Sunday, April 11, 2021, 10 AM  
Second Sunday After Easter**

**WELCOME GUESTS!**

\* Indicates all who are able are invited to stand

**PRELUDE**      "I Know That My Redeemer Liveth"  
by G.F. Handel

**THE RINGING OF THE BELLS**  
**THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS**      Jenn Schneider

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Pastor:              Life has been revealed to us in this Easter season. Gather wherever you are to testify to life.

***Congregation: We declare to each other what we have experienced. In community we find the life God intends.***

P:                      Early believers were of one heart and soul. We, too, are called to find common ground in Christ.

**C:** *Psalm 133 sings, "How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity."*

P: Peace be with you as we celebrate resurrection. Christ is with us to renew our faith.

**C:** *We are here to testify to God's grace. We will share our story and ourselves when COVID allows. Let us praise our remarkable God!*

# OPENING RESPONSE: "The Lord of Life is Risen"

#172 (v. 1)

172

## Our Lord Jesus Christ

J. P. LANGE, 1851  
Tr. H. HARBAUGH


7. 6. 7. 6. D.

RESURRECTION  
ALICE NEVIN, 1837-1925


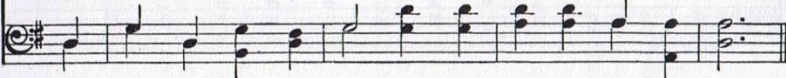
*Jubilantly*





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 - priev;e;



Life of the dead and dy - ing, He tri - umphed 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.



### **\*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.

**C:** ***We have received it, but we are slow to trust. It is ours to enjoy, but we have not lived it.***

**ALL:** **Let us discuss the matter in confession to our Savior.**

### **\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

P: We have taken the name Christian, but few of us are known primarily by that name. We have experienced Easter radiance, but we seldom reflect the light of our risen Savior. We have heard the message of salvation, but it grows cold on our lips and is of little influence on our lives.

**C:** ***Sometimes we delude ourselves that, because we are basically good people, there is no sin in us. We deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. Sin is separation from You, and we have allowed great chasms and built high walls to keep You from the Lordship of our lives.***

**ALL:** **Forgive us, we pray! In the name of Jesus we ask this. Amen.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

“For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with Him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing” (I Thessalonians 5:9-11).

Jesus has died for us, and was raised in power for us, so that as Paul wrote, we may live with him -- as forgiven, learning, serving disciples. In laying claim to the good news of the gospel, let the congregation say . . .

**All: Alleluia! Thanks be to God!**



39

## Times of Worship

JOHN NEWTON, 1774

7.7.7.7.7-7~

ST. ATHANASIUS  
EDWARD J. HOPKINS, 1872*Joyously*

1. Safe - ly through an - oth - er week God has brought us  
2. While we pray for par - doning grace, Through the dear Re -  
3. Here we come Thy name to praise; Let us feel Thy  
4. May the Gos - pel's joy - ful sound Con - quer sin - ners,

on our way; Let us now a bless - ing seek,  
deem - er's name, Show Thy rec - on - cil - ed face,  
pres - ence near; May Thy glo - ry meet our eyes,  
com - fort saints; Make the fruits of grace a - bound,

Wait - ing in His courts to - day; Day of all the  
Take a - way our sin and shame: From our world - ly  
While we in Thy house ap - pear: Here af - ford us,  
Bring re - lief for all com - plaints: Thus may all our

week the best, Em - blem of e - ter - nal rest.  
cares set free, May we rest this day in Thee.  
Lord, a taste Of our ev - er - last - ing feast.  
Sab - baths prove, Till we join the Church a - bove. A-MEN.

## **THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Jenn Schneider

## **A CALL TO OFFERING**

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Karen Christianson

The Apostle:

I John 1:1 – 2:2

The Gospel:

John 20:19-31

### **MUSICAL MEDITATION**

“We Walk By Faith and Not By Sight”

by Samuel McFarland & Henry Alford

### **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:** “Of Jesus’ Scars and Peace”

**HYMN:** "When Thomas Heard from Jesus"  
(Sing this to the tune of "The Church's One Foundation")

**When Thomas heard from Jesus, "Now come and follow me,"**

**He surely went with gladness, for there was much to see.**

**He witnessed Jesus' teaching and saw his healing touch;**

**He found a faith to guide him, a friend he loved so much.**

**When Jesus spoke of heaven, bold Thomas dared to say,**

**"We don't know where you're going! How can we know the way?"**

**He wanted understanding of what he could not see.**

**Then Jesus reassured him, "The way is here — through me."**

**When crowds began to murmur and leaders raised their cry,**

**Brave Thomas spoke out firmly, "Let's go with him and die."**

**He ate at Jesus' table, partaking wine and bread;**

**Yet later with the others, he saw the cross and fled.**

**What joy on Easter evening when many saw the Lord!**

**Yet Thomas was not with them and would not trust their word.**

**When Christ appeared before him, his doubts were quickly gone;  
He gladly knew that evening the joy of Easter dawn.**

**That man of faith saw Jesus at breakfast by the sea;  
At Pentecost he witnessed so others would believe.  
O Lord, may we — like Thomas — keep growing day by day;  
Increase our faith and guide us, for Lord, you are the Way.**

(Text: Copyright © 2012 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. Used by permission).

### **CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

P: Because the tomb is empty, your lives O disciples can be full; so go into every place and every day as people brimming with the love of God.  
Be graceful in spirit,  
Hopeful in word,  
Faithful in deed.  
Live for the Risen Christ, as the Risen Christ lives in you! Amen.

**\*POSTLUDE:** "Aurelia" arr. Schalk

---

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

---

MINISTER

Rev. Richard Lanford

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Ben Westphal

---

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

---

**Good Morning!** Welcome as we gather on the second Sunday of the Easter season. Christ is risen! Alleluia!

**Last week and Holy Week our services were “hybrid”** as in there was live-streaming access and limited in-person worship at the same time. As mentioned earlier, the Church Council wants to take a step back after Holy Week and Easter to evaluate how things went, how folks felt, what is happening in our community related to the Virus, what the health priority and attendance may merit, and more, before deciding about regathering. Today we resume live-streaming only.

**Your Church Council meets next Sunday, April 18th.** As always, if you are responsible for a report, please prepare it and drop it into the Council April Drop Box as early as you are able this week. That gives other Council members as much lead time to read it as possible. Thank you for this extra effort! The link to the meeting will be sent in an email.

**Our Village Inn Food Fundraiser is also April 18<sup>th</sup>!** After a morning of worship and Council, it’s a great opportunity to order out then relax for the rest of your day! Just remember to tell your server you are ordering for St. Peter’s UCC Fundraiser, and we get 20% of whatever you spend! Good for carryout, delivery or call ahead for in person dining.

For our Muslim neighbors, Ramadan begins Tuesday the 13th.

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

**MAY EVERYONE HAVE A BLESSED EASTER SEASON!**

---

**CHURCH LEADERSHIP**

---

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

---

## SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 11, 2021

John 20:19-31

### Marks of Faith

For years, maybe even decades, the church has wrestled with how to both retain the intimacy of in-person worship and also to embrace the technological changes in communication that are burgeoning in every other aspect of modern life.

When the church, along with the rest of society, was placed under quarantine, the decision was made for us. As communities of faith, we had to adapt some technological ways of staying in community in order to continue to worship with one another.

While many local churches moved their worship services online, the national United Church of Christ pivoted and moved online, too.

"Thursdays for the Soul" and "Tuesdays for Nurture" are offerings from the United Church of Christ to unite, uplift and equip the Church for such a time as this. These videos are streamed live and are available to rewatch and share at: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL6VgfHt6zEy7yDgdSE-fLLYEVaNBM2943>

These online offerings have opened church-wide conversations ranging from the decidedly practical to the unapologetically philosophical. They offer guidance for churches and church leaders seeking information about how to be church in these challenging times, along with conversations with a variety of individuals at the forefront of faith and social justice movements.

One of the gifts of these digital days is that if you missed the offerings at "Thursdays for the Soul" or "Tuesdays for Nurture" the first time around, they are still available to you now. You can find them by entering the above url or searching for *Worship and Care for the Entire Church Webinars* on YouTube.



## SCRIPTURES FOR THE CONGREGATION

April 11th, 2021

### 1 John 1:1 - 2:2

1 We 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—

2 this 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—

3 we 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.

4 We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

5 This 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.

6 If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true;

7 but 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.

8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

9 If 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.”