



DEEP IN OUR  
HEARTS

**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, March 21, 2021 10:00 AM**  
**Fifth Sunday in Lent**

**WELCOME GUESTS!**

\* Indicates all who are able are invited to stand

**PRELUDE** "Slane" arr. Charles Callahan

**THE RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS** Jenn Schneider

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Pastor: O great God, who are You? O great God,  
where are You?

***Congregation: O great God, show Yourself to us,  
where we are, at this time.***

P: We are listening for You.

***C: We have tuned in because we want  
to know You more fully.***

**ALL: LET US LISTEN AND SING AND PRAY  
TOGETHER.**

## **\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

P: The doubts and inattention that mark our response to God summon us now to confess our sin. The promises of God which we have ignored draw us back to consider the covenant God offers.

***C: The obedience of Jesus can inspire in us a reverent submission to God's will. Let us seek forgiveness and reconciliation!***

P: Let us take a minute to read our prayer to ourselves silently. Then I will lead us into praying it aloud together.

## **\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Have mercy on us, according to Your steadfast love. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity and cleanse us from our sin. We know more of our own transgression that we have been willing to admit, even to ourselves. We cannot escape from the sin that clings so closely. By our actions and our neglect, we have done what is evil in Your sight. May Your judgment help us to face the truth about ourselves. Then wash away the stain of our iniquity. Create in us clean hearts, and renew our spirits. We are ready for a new life. In the name and for the sake of Jesus we pray. Amen.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON (31: 33-34)**

In Jeremiah we hear God say, "But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more."

Going back over two thousand years plus, God desired to make a new covenant bringing forgiveness and writing God's law of love onto human hearts. In this our sins are forgiven, and God remembers our sin no more. In responding to this eternity-changing news, will the church wherever and whenever we are present join me in saying .

. .

**All: THANKS BE TO GOD!**

**\*HYMN:**

**I Will Sing of the Mercies"**

**SSB #4**

I will sing of the mer - cies of the Lord for - ev - er, I will  
sing, I will sing. I will sing of the mer - cies of the *Fine*  
Lord for - ev - er, I will sing of the mer - cies of the Lord.  
With my mouth will I make known thy  
faith - ful - ness. thy faith - ful - ness. With my mouth will I make  
*D.C. al fine*  
known thy faith - ful - ness to all gen - er - a - tions.

Text: Psalm 89:1  
Music: FILLMORE, J. H. Fillmore

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Beth Sterba

The Prophet:

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Epistle:

Hebrews 5:5-10

**MUSICAL MEDITATION "Be Thou My Vision"**

arr. Line

**GOSPEL:**

John 12: 20-33

**A CALL TO OFFERING**

## CALL TO PRAYER "O Lord, hear my prayer . . . "

Musical score for "Call to Prayer" in G major, 4/4 time. The score consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line and a bass line. The second system starts at measure 5 and includes a "Last Time" marking. Chords are indicated above the staff: Em, G/D, Am/C, D, Em, C, B7, and Em.

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

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

*Last Time*

## 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:** "Returning to 'Normalcy' Goes Against the Grain"



**HYMN:**

**"Be Thou My Vision"**

**SSB #20**

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,  
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,

naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
 I ev - cr with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:  
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!

thou my best thought by day and by night,  
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, thou my high tow'r,  
 thou, and thou on - ly, first in my heart,  
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.  
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish 8th–10th cent.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.  
 Music: SLANE, Irish tune

## CHARGE

P: Act with faith;

**C: *Believe, with humility;***

P: Love one another and love those whom nobody loves;

**C: *Serve the Lord!***

## BENEDICTION

**\*POSTLUDE:** Selected

---

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

---

MINISTER

Rev. Richard Lanford

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Ben Westphal

---

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

---

**Good Morning!** Some people said to the disciple Philip, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus" (John 12:21). We are here because we too wish to see Jesus. Open your heart: Jesus is here. Welcome.

**TODAY IS OUR Village Inn Food Fundraiser, from 1 PM to 11 PM.** Plan to order food from our community partner, Village Inn Pizzeria in Skokie, mention St. Peter's UCC Fundraiser and we get 20% of your bill! You're not only helping two of Skokie's small businesses, but you're giving yourself a break from cooking, it's a win-win!

**Easter Flower orders are due today to the office!** If you didn't mail yours in feel free to call and leave a message to our phone (847) 673-8166 or email the office at [office@stpeteruccskokie.org](mailto:office@stpeteruccskokie.org) with your order. The order form

for reference is at the end of this bulletin. We will have a date to come pick up those flowers shortly after Easter services; look for that date and also you can come when Laura is in the office.

**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 deadline for articles for the April newsletter** is tomorrow, Monday, March 22nd. Please get yours in now, so Laura does not have to come and find you!

**NEXT WEEK IS PALM SUNDAY!** The service will remain live-streamed only; this Sunday the 21st the Church Council meets to consider and take action on the proposal of our Worship and Music Committee regarding any return to limited seating in-person worship during Holy Week services and Resurrection Sunday. Please be on the watch for that important news!!

**Next week's / Palm Sunday's lector** is Carolyn Van Til.

**HOSPITALIZED:** Carol Burmeister is back home undergoing rehabilitation for a renewal of strength and energy following her hospitalization over a week ago. Eleanor Bailey, the last aunt of Sue and Barb Bailey, was in the hospital over last weekend and is now in palliative care back in her Schaumburg residence with some physical therapy.

**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 the bulletin's front cover for details on how to donate.

**Our Boards have been active.** Last week, the Boards of Trustees, Finance, Elders (via teleconference call), Deacons and the Personnel Committee all met via Zoom.

**The Lenten Bible Study continues** on this coming Wednesday. The topic is the Sermon on the Mount using the book about it by Dr. Amy-Jill Levine. We are 'off' the coming Holy Week which begins next Sunday, March 28th. No class on March 31st but we'll finish up on April 7.

**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.

**Those marking birthdays this week are** Haley Jo Kahn, Jason Iannotti, and the late Lois Dennis' son-in-law John Balling. We apologize for missing Angela Washek Kuras' birthday last week!

---

**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	
<b>Total</b>			

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

## FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 21, 2021

Jeremiah 31:31-34

### Deep in our Hearts

God speaks through the prophet Jeremiah, proclaiming that God's law will be written on the hearts of the people. From ancient times until now, the heart has been associated with the capacity to love. To know God's way is to love. And to know God's love on the heart is to be compelled to act out of that love.

Born of a desire to tell the story of how God's love is enacted by God's people, the 3 Great Loves initiative of the United Church of Christ was introduced at General Synod 2017. You can participate by sharing stories of how God's love is shown in the actions of your congregation. The 3 Great Loves initiative has created a resource for congregational action and worship, which you can find here at: <https://www.ucc.org/3greatloves>. Among many other ideas and encouragements, the resource contains this powerful prayer written by Rev. Darrell L. Goodwin:

Creator you call us into discomfort, you call us to be stretched beyond our wildest dreams and imaginations, you call us into action not only for ourselves but for one another.

Humbly we pray: We pray for courage to dismantle the systems that have been rooted and grounded in White supremacy and exclusion.

God in your Power. We pray that our natural and spiritual eyes can be opened to the suffering in our local communities, our country, and the world; and that we are motivated to act for a just world for all.

God in your Grace. We pray for the strength to hear one another, truly see one another, and accompany one another in this journey called life.

God in your Love. We pray for vulnerability, a renewal of our common humanity, a reminder that we truly need one another to not only survive but thrive,

God in your Tenderness. We pray for a kin-dom where your Spirit is truly poured out upon all flesh, and that your children can walk in the fullness of all you have created us to be without limit.



## **SCRIPTURES FOR THE CONGREGATION**

**March 21, 2021**

### **Jeremiah 31:31 – 34**

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

### **Hebrews 5:5 - 10**

So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”; as he says also in another place, “You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.” In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.



## **John 12:20 - 33**

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.