



Beautiful
Law

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)

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St. Peter's United Church of Christ
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OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR
Sunday, March 7, 2021 10:00 AM
Third Sunday in Lent

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:

“Let us look to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was waiting endured the cross.” As we make our way through Lent, a season focusing on the Cross, let us worship the Lord, remembering why the Cross was necessary, and what you, I and our church can do in response to amazing grace.

***CALL TO CONFESSION** (from Psalm 32)

P: "Blessed are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

Congregation: *Blessed are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit."*

P: May we be as such, but only by the mercy of the Almighty. Please join me in prayer.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

P: Forgive us, great God, for all the ways we have disappointed You and gone against Your gracious ways! We hear the Ten Commandments and contemplate how we have broken the very first one without realizing it, placing people, goals, institutions or profit at the top of our priorities, and not You.

C: *We are reminded by our knowledge of Jesus' teaching how inside ourselves we have broken some of the Ten, if not also on the outside. We hear Paul and acknowledge that, yes, there are times we prefer to seek You through wisdom or signs, and not meet You in the cross.*

P: Jesus put on a show of holy anger at the Temple for righteousness' sake, yet we in our day imagine You would be as aghast as we at any such protest!

C: *How we have failed to know You. Give us ears to hear and spirits to discern.*

ALL: In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

“But as it is,” Hebrews 9 declares, “Christ has appeared once for all at the end of the age to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself . . . And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once and after that the judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him” (9:26b-28).

Friends, in the name and by the blood of Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven and guilt has been decisively dealt with in the courts of God. Let us, then, in our time, eagerly wait for him living lives of love and forgiveness ourselves.
Amen?

All: Amen!

***HYMN:**

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

SSB #2



1 Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no
2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest, sun, moon, and
3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thine own dear



shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com -
stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in
pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright



pas - sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.
man - i - fold wit - ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
hope for to - mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

Refrain



Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by



morn - ing new mer - cies I see; all I have need - ed thy



hand hath pro - vid - ed; great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me.

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866-1960

Music: FAITHFULNESS, William M. Runyan, 1870-1957

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PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Karen Christianson

Old Testament:

Exodus 20:1-17

Epistle:

I Corinthians 1:18-25

MUSICAL MEDITATION "Great is Thy Faithfulness"

GOSPEL:

John 2:13-22

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

The image shows a musical score for guitar and voice. It is in 4/4 time and G major. The first system contains the first line of music with chords Em, G/D, Am/C, D, Em, C, and B7. The lyrics are "O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me. O". The second system starts at measure 5 and contains the second line of music with chords Em, G/D, Am/C, D, Em, B7, and Em. The lyrics are "Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me. O". Both systems end with a "Last Time" instruction and a fermata over the final chord.

PASTORAL AND SILENT PRAYERS

SERMON: "The Systemic Change by Grace"

HYMN: ""When Christ went to the Temple"

(Sing to the tune of "O Jesus, I Have Promised")

**When Christ went to the Temple to worship God
one day,**

**He entered through the courtyard where anyone
could pray.**

**That court was for the nations — and all could enter
in.**

But Jesus found a market, a shameful robbers' den.

**There, cattle, sheep and pigeons were sold for
sacrifice,**

And moneychangers shouted of quality and price.

**Outsiders could not enter the inner courts for
prayer.**

**Their only place to worship was in the courtyard
there.**

**When prayer gave way to profit, and pride closed
many doors,**

**The Lord cried out in anger and made a whip of
cords.**

**He shooed the sheep and cattle and scattered
pigeons, too.**

**God's house was for all people — not for a chosen
few.**

O God, you love the nations and call us all to pray.

Forgive us when our worship turns other folk away.

**As Christ, in loving protest, fought prejudice and pride,
May we who follow Jesus now welcome all inside.**
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THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

**Exhortation and Invitation
Prayers of Thanksgiving and Consecration
The Words of Institution
Participation**

CLOSING PRAYER & 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**

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

C: Amen!

***POSTLUDE:** “O, the Deep Love of Jesus”

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

MINISTER

Rev. Richard Lanford

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Ben Westphal

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Good Morning! Welcome to worship online! May zeal for God's house consume us, as it did Jesus (John 2:17), but remember that the Holy Spirit lives in every human heart.

This is a Communion Sunday, and so we ask you to have a piece of bread, a roll, or something small like this with you, and a cup of wine, juice, water, coffee or something else, each of which will be your "bread and cup." As if we were gathered in person together, please partake of what you have when so prompted during Communion by Pastor Lanford.

The Lenten Bible Study meets over Zoom on Wednesdays, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM, with the first half hour for finishing up dinner and catching up, and then the study for the hour which follows. The topic is the Sermon on the Mount using the book about it by Dr. Amy Jill Levine.

The Worship and Music Committee meets over Zoom at 7 PM this Thursday the 11th.

The deadline for articles for the April newsletter is Monday, March 22nd.

The next Village Inn Food Fundraiser is Sunday, March 21, 2021. Plan to order food on that day from our Community Partner, Village Inn Pizzeria in Skokie, mention St. Peter's UCC Fundraiser and we get 20% of your bill!

Easter Flower orders are also due March 21st! We hope you'll participate – while we don't know yet how our services will go, at the very least it will add so much color to our LIVESTREAM worship, and we'll have a pick up day for everyone to come get there flowers shortly after. You can mail in the form at the end of this bulletin, or email it to the office or call it in!

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 can be found 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 Rich Schneider, Jamie Iannotti, Don Kahn, Jeff Loach, Lana Kahn, Ray Erdman, Tracy (Paige) Puckett, Adrianna Paige, and Roy Svenson.

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

According to the schedule next week's Lector is Rich Schneider. Finishing the month of March are Beth Sterba (the 21st) and Carolyn Van Til (the 28th, Palm Sunday).

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: _____

Beautiful Law***Amistad Sunday / UCC Women's Week, March 7 - 13***

This week, we remember *La Amistad*. In 1839, the slave ship *La Amistad* traveled from one part of Cuba to another. The slaves on board were threatened by the cook, who said that he would kill and eat the captives. Led by Sengbe Pieh, a Mende man, the brave captives took control of the ship and demanded to be returned to Sierra Leone, their home country. Instead, they were taken further north, where the slavers hoped to encounter rescue in the form of an American ship. Another ship was indeed found, but those on board, with the help of anti-slavery activists including members of churches that preceded the United Church of Christ, were able to successfully sue for the freedom of all the people on board.

No wonder the *Amistad*, with the faith, courage and steadfastness shown by so many, has become a symbol of the UCC. It is fitting, too, that the Chapel at the United Church of Christ Church House at 700 Prospect Avenue in downtown Cleveland, Ohio is named for this ship and all that it represents.

Today, *Amistad* Chapel continues the legacy of the ship by being a place of sanctuary for all who worship there.

It is a place of marvelous beauty, inviting visitors in with delightful sounds of splashing water and the welcome of a table where all are fed. It is a place of prayer and quiet reflection in the midst of a busy downtown, and a community that gathers for worship to feed the soul. It is a place that tells a story in each design element and furnishing, which was carefully planned to tell the story of the *Amistad* and the captives it carried, whose struggle for freedom – “a story of faith and courage at sea” – inspired our Congregationalist forebears to stand with them in the fight against slavery.

You can find out more about *Amistad* Chapel by visiting in person or online at: <http://amistadchapel.org/home/>.



SCRIPTURES FOR THE CONGREGATION

MARCH 7, 2021

Exodus 20:1 - 17

Then God spoke all these words: I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy. 9Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and consecrated it.

Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

1 Corinthians 1:18 - 25

Paul writes, “For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,

and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.”

John 2:13 – 22

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, “Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a marketplace!” His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.” The Jews then said to him, “What sign can you show us for doing this?” Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” The Jews then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?” But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.