

ST. PETER'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 19, 2023

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

10:00 AM

[www.youtube.com/stpetersuccwashmo](http://www.youtube.com/stpetersuccwashmo)

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*\* - Please rise in body or spirit.*

“One Great Hour of Sharing”

CENTERING OURSELVES IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

PRELUDE

Andrew Jackson, Principal Organist

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Phil Butler, Liturgist

One: It's time to share!

**Many: With those we know.**

One: It's time to share!

**Many: With those we may never know.**

One: It's time to share!

**Many: When it seems easy and when it seems a more difficult task.**

One: It's time to share!

**Many: Let us not grow weary. For the time has come for One Great Hour of Sharing.**

\*HYMN

“God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

565

**God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,**

**Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door:**

**Gifted by you, we turn to you offering up ourselves in praise;**

**Thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.**

**Skills and time are ours for serving, that your will on earth be done:**

**All at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the Church made one.**

**Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone;**

**Born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne.**

Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through powers your grace conferred;  
 Ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel Word.  
 Open wide our hands in sharing as we heed Christ's ageless call,  
 Healing, teaching, and reclaiming, honoring you by loving all.

Lend your joy to all our giving, let it light our pilgrim way;  
 From the night of anxious keeping, loose us into generous day.  
 Then when years on earth are over, and we've lived our human span,  
 God, fulfill beyond our dreaming, all our stewardship began.

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of abundant life, we come to worship this day from various walks of life and places of engagement, yet we are drawn together through the connection in this community of faith. We pray that during this time, we would be reminded yet again of the power of doing good and of changing the lives of others. It can be so easy to get caught up in our own lives that we forget the simple acts of kindness which can make a world of difference. We want to seize the day and not miss any opportunities. Show us the paths where we might follow in the footsteps of your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

\*LAMB OF GOD

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.  
 Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.  
 Jesus, redeemer of the world: give us your peace.

\*WORDS OF GRACE

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

THE FIRST LESSON                      John 9:1-23

CHOIR ANTHEM “For God So Loved the World” Martin    The Chancel Choir  
(lyrics p. 7)

THE SECOND LESSON                      John 9:24-41

SERMON

HYMN                      “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”                      547

**Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!**

**I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see.**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;**

**How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!**

**Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;**

**'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.**

**My God has promised good to me, whose word my hope secures;**

**God will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.**

**When we've been here ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,**

**We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we first begun.**

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

**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.**

WE GIVE WHAT GOD HAS ENTRUSTED TO US

INVITATION TO GIVE

\*RESPONSE

Doxology

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise God, all creatures here below;**

**Praise God above, you heavenly host:**

**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

**Generous God, we offer these gifts in the spirit of gratitude and with an open heart. These offerings are one way of showing our commitment to sharing with those who are in need, neighbors near and far, whom we are unlikely to meet. Let us not grow weary in giving our gifts to others. Bless them, just as you have us, with an extra measure of your grace. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

## \*HYMN

“Arise, Your Light Is Come”

164

**Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;  
Show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today!**

**Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;  
Proclaim the captive's liberty, Good tidings to the poor.**

**Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born,  
Bind up the broken hearted ones And comfort those who mourn.**

**Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!  
Rise up like eagles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.**

## \*BENEDICTION

## \*POSTLUDE

Today's printed liturgy is adapted from worship resources written for  
“One Great Hour of Sharing”.

☞ Thank You for Worshipping Here Today ☞

The Rev Kurt Schaller Blaufuss, Transitional Senior Pastor

The Rev. Eric W. Moeller, Associate Pastor

Ken Tucker, Director of Music

Andrew Jackson, Principal Organist

Carol H. Hackmann, Office Manager

Nathaniel Pfitzinger, Building & Grounds Custodian/Cemetery Sexton

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St. Peter's United Church of Christ welcomes you to today's worship. If you are visiting us today for the first time, please fill out the "Welcome Card" in the pews and place it in the offering plate.

**For the Children:** Children are welcome to utilize the Prayground at the front right of the sanctuary during worship. This space is specifically for kids, and is stocked with activities for them to utilize for the duration of the service. A pastor or other volunteer is seated there as well, so parents can worship where they choose. Sunday School is offered for all ages following worship.

The altar flowers are placed by Patricia & Dennis Sahm in celebration of their 68<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

**Call to Congregational Meeting:** The Spring Congregational Meeting will be held today immediately after worship.

Pastor Kurt will be on vacation from Wed., March 22 through Tues., March 28. He will be in the Chicago area where his daughter, Rebecca Blaufuss and Jake Stokes will be married.

"These Days" devotional booklets, the March Newsletter and the 2022 Annual Report are available in the atrium and the office.

Worship Attendance – March 11 & 12, 2023

Saturday In-Person: 25 Sunday In-Person: 70 YouTube Views: 39

**Please pray . . .**

With Ervin E., Larry R., Dan H., Nate P., Cara C., Ruth K., Grace, Clayton, Rita R., Marigene, Betty B., Deloris B., D. Dale, Dave P., A. James, Mary Lou E., Ruth D., Darlene B., Thelma L., Joan G., Florence S., Glen M., Delores B., Michael A., Bill D., Fred K., and all who need God's tender care today.

For the Search Committee and the search process

For all children, parents, school officials and personnel

For residents of all the nursing homes and assisted living facilities

For friends who have had surgery and those undergoing various kinds of medical tests and treatments

For all who are lonely, sad, or depressed; may God bless them with comfort and hope.

For all who suffer with mental illness and various addictions

For all who suffer violence in our society

For the people of Turkey and Syria in the wake of the recent earthquake  
For all those around the globe whose lives are threatened with food insecurity and  
homelessness.

**This Week at St. Peter's United Church of Christ:**

**Sunday, March 19, 2023**

10:00 a.m. - Worship (In-Person & Online)

11:15 a.m. - Congregational Meeting

**Monday, March 20, 2023**

11:00 a.m. - Staff Meeting

12:00 p.m. - Quilting

6:30 p.m. - Church Council

6:30 p.m. - Girl Scouts

**Tuesday, March 21, 2023**

Newsletter deadline

1:30-3:00 p.m. - Coffee w/the Pastors at Undergrounds Espresso Bar

6:30 p.m. - Justice Witness

**Wednesday, March 22, 2023**

9:00 a.m. - Quilting

6:30 p.m. - Bell Choir

7:15 p.m. - Chancel Choir

**Thursday, March 23, 2023**

6:30 p.m. - AA (Community Room)

6:30 p.m. - Scouts (Auditorium)

**Saturday, March 25, 2023**

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Eastern Association Meeting (Auditorium)

5:00 p.m. - Worship

5:00 p.m. - Harvest Table (Dining Room)

**Sunday, March 26, 2023**

10:00 a.m. - Worship (In-Person & Online)

11:15 a.m. - Sunday School

**Immanuel's UCC Holstein**, Fish Fry – March 24, 4:30-7:30 p.m. Dine In or Carry Out

**Ebenezer UCC Augusta**, Fish Fry – March 31, 5-7:30 p.m. Dine In or Carry Out

**It's Only Rock n Roll, Right?: the Spirit & Rock n Roll** Join us at 5:30 on Wednesdays during Lent for dinner and a program about the Spirit and Rock n Roll! There is something mysterious, powerful, and life-giving at work in rock n roll and among the people it draws together. Let's have some fun exploring it together. And, of course, expect some live music along the way. (NOTE: we will not gather on March 22, but will resume March 29.)

**April Financial Support Campaign** We are hoping you will all join in helping boost the finances of our church. "Raindrops" can be found on the April Shower bulletin board found in the church atrium. Each raindrop is varied in the amount and topic, but each represents the true cost of a church expense. Select a "raindrop" to your liking, and "drop" your 'raindrop' in an envelope along with a check or cash, and place the envelope in the offering plate or the church office. If your "raindrop" has a weekly/monthly/annual amount, choose the amount that fits your budget. We hope to have a 'thundershower' of financial success before the end of April, as well as an educational enlightenment on church expenses.

**Help needed at the Harvest Table** St. Peter's and the Washington Methodist Church will co-host Harvest Table on April 22 and July 15, 2023. St. Peter's has been asked to be responsible for the desserts. We will need 120 servings and eight volunteers to help serve and cleanup after the meal. There is a sign-up sheet in the atrium with more information. If you have questions, please call Erna Holland (636-239-6019 or text (314-616-7143. Thank you.



Never have cash or a check handy but want to financially support St. Peter's UCC? Use this QR code to open a link to give via PayPal. PayPal allows you to use your credit card or checking account to give once or a reoccurring gift. Don't forget that your bank also offers reoccurring checks and/or transactions. Thank you for helping to take care of your church!

The Schwarzer Zither Ensemble and the Washington Historical Society present a Grand Zither Concert Sunday, April 2, 2023, 3:00 p.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Washington. Tickets: \$12 suggested donation. All are welcome regardless of making a donation.

**Choir Anthem:** "For God So Loved the World" Martin "For God so loved the world, He gave His priceless pearl. For God so loved the world, He gave His only Son. Love came that none should die. Christ came, a sacrifice, that whosoever believeth in Him, would have eternal life, would have eternal life. For God so loved the world, He gave His only Son. For God so loved the world. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might live, that the world through Him might live, that the world through Him might live." *(repeat from the beginning)*

**Remembering Our Loved Ones at Easter**

St. Peter's is once again giving everyone the opportunity to remember their loved ones by helping to decorate the sanctuary on Easter with lilies. If you wish to place an Easter lily or a memorial, please complete this form and return it to the church office no later than **Monday, April 3**. Place your order with an area florist, or if you know of an organization who is selling them as a fundraiser, please order from them. We ask that plants be delivered to the church **Friday, April 7 before Noon**.

**EASTER MEMORIALS/LILIES**

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone or email \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to place an **EASTER LILY** in memory of:

\_\_\_\_\_

I wish to donate an **EASTER MEMORIAL** in memory of:

\_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed find: \$\_\_\_\_\_ Memorial Fund \$\_\_\_\_\_ Building Fund \$\_\_\_\_\_ General Fund

Please note: **Any lily not picked up by noon Tues., April 11 will be delivered to shut-ins**

**Holy Week & Easter at St. Peter's United Church of Christ:**

- Palm Sunday Worship w/Communion April 2 - 10:00 a.m.
  - Maundy Thursday Worship April 6 - 7:00 p.m.
  - Good Friday Worship April 7 - 7:00 p.m.
  - Holy Saturday Worship April 8 - 5:00 p.m.
  - Easter Sunday Worship w/Communion April 9 - 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
- A potluck breakfast will be served beginning at 8:30 a.m. in the dining room. The church will provide the sausage and drinks. Please bring a dish to share.