

SEVEN STANZAS AT EASTER John Updike (1964)

Make no mistake: if He rose at all It was as His body; If the cells'dissolution did not reverse, the molecules reknit, The amino acids rekindle, The Church will fall.

It was not as the flowers, Each soft spring recurrent; It was not as His Spirit in the mouths and fuddled eyes of the Eleven apostles; It was as His flesh; ours.

The same hinged thumbs and toes The same valved heart That—pierced—died, withered, paused, and then regathered Out of enduring Might New strength to enclose.

Let us not mock God with metaphor, Analogy, sidestepping, transcendence, Making of the event a parable, a sign painted in the faded Credulity of earlier ages: Let us walk through the door.

The stone is rolled back, not papier-mâché, Not a stone in a story, But the vast rock of materiality that in the slow grinding of Time will eclipse for each of us The wide light of day. And if we have an angel at the tomb,
Make it a real angel,
Weighty with Max Planck's quanta, vivid with
hair, opaque in
The dawn light, robed in real linen
Spun on a definite loom.

Let us not seek to make it less monstrous, For our own convenience, our own sense of beauty, Lest, awakened in one unthinkable hour, we are embarrassed By the miracle, And crushed by remonstrance.

When I was thinking about the upcoming celebration of Easter, the Resurrection of Christ, on April 9, 2023, I thought of the poem "Seven Stanzas at Easter" written by the American author and two-time Pulitzer Prize winner John Updike (1932-2009). Updike's famous and demanding Easter poem, published in 1964, has become important to me. Updike will not allow us to modernize Easter. He demands a physical resurrection – that Christ rises bodily from the grave. Updike knows that to the modern rational ear, this is "monstrous." Science demands that we accept that the dead do not rise. But Updike won't concede this: "if the cells' dissolution did not reverse, the molecules reknit, the amino acids rekindle, the Church will fall." He will not let us off the hook. Yet, in some surveys, up to a quarter of American Christians say they do not believe Christ's resurrection happened. And yet, to believe that it did happen is a radical act of faith. I once heard a visiting Swedish theologian at the University of Oxford refer to the resurrection as "the impossible" an event that we are called upon to believe, in spite of its seeming impossibility. It reminds me of the famous dictum attributed to the

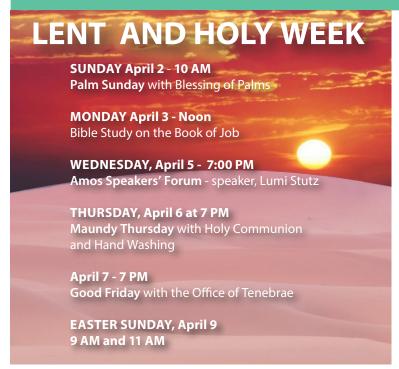
Roman Christian writer and theologian Tertullian of Carthage (155-220 AD): *credo quia absurdum* ("I believe because it is absurd").

Christianity is not a rational scientific faith. It is a faith grounded in incarnation; in the Divine that takes on human flesh. If there is no 'real' Easter, there is no 'real' Christmas. To say, "Christ is risen!" is an act of defiance against the limitations of earthly material life. Resurrection faith stands before death itself and declares that death does not have the last word. I believe that now more than ever we need a radical Easter faith in the glorious Christ bursting out of the tomb in his body as well as his divinity; the kind that Updike demands: "Let us not mock God with metaphor... Let us walk through the door."

Christ is risen indeed! Happy Easter!

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Rev. Dr. James Matarazzo, Senior Minister



CONCERT FOR PEACE: UTOPIA

Hands of Peace is extremely grateful to Katherine Hughes for organizing the 9th annual *Concert for Peace: Utopia* and *Art Exhibit*, part of the Simple Gifts Concert Series at Glenview Community Church. A special "thank you" to Laura Heyser, Sheryl Long, Betsy Martin, Tania McCarthy, and Robin Woodsome for their help in publicizing the event and organizing the art exhibit. Thank you to everyone who joined us on Sunday, whether in person or on-line, and thank you to Glenview Community Church for hosting the event. Through free-will donations and art sales, the concert generated \$1,338 in donations that will be used to empower the next generation of change-makers from Israel, Palestine, and the United States this summer.



Enjoy an inspirational evening at Chevy Chase Country Club for "Power of Purple" – the Hands of Peace Chicago Benefit on Sunday, May 7, 2023, from 5:30 p.m. – 9 p.m., celebrating over 20 years of bringing together Israeli, Palestinian and American youth for dialogue, education and action. Bid on Silent Auction items to empower young leaders to find their voice, share their narratives and develop the compassion and skills they need to resolve conflict and serve their communities. Go go https://aesbid.com/ELP/CHI23 for tickets and more information.

KIDS CORNER

We are beginning to plan for summer and fall church school—if you are interested or have questions please contact Chris Calandra, Designated Director of Children's Ministry at *chris.calandra*@ *gccucc.org.*

Our Sunday meeting schedule includes:

- April 2, Palm Sunday, 10 a.m.
 - NO CHURCH SCHOOL. Families process into sanctuary with palms, families sit together in worship (spring break). Childcare for babies and toddlers available in Room 107.
- April 9, Easter Sunday, 9 and 11 a.m.

 NO CHURCH SCHOOL. Families sit together in worship. Child-care for babies and toddlers available in Room 107 at 9 am service only.
- April 16

Church School and childcare resumes its regular schedule—the classes will be seeing the spring puppet presentation in the Community Room following children's time in the sanctuary.

- April 23
 - Regular church school schedule; 4th graders will receive their Bibles at the beginning of the church service and then proceed to their classroom.
- April 30
 Community Sunday—grades 2-6 meet together.

You can find our church school curriculum and resources at: https://www.wearesparkhouse.org/store/category/286768/
Spark-Lectionary

PALM SUNDAY PROCESSIONAL

There will be a family/children's processional into the sanctuary with palms on Palm Sunday, April 2. Families and/or children who would like to participate should be in the Narthex by 9:45-9:50 to line up. There is NO regular church school that day, so if the kids come, they will sit with their families—there will be coloring sheets on the table for those who would like them. Childcare for babies and toddlers will be available as usual in Room 107.



TACO TUESDAY!

On Tuesday, April 4, please support **GCCNS** by dining at **Chipotle** on Willow Road. **Chipotle** will give 33% of sales back to our preschool! Just mention **Glenview Community Church Nursery School** when you're ordering in person, or use the code **28PFFWH** to order on-line for pickup. Our teachers and students thank you!

GCC CALENDAR FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH

Event Time	Event Name	Primary L
Sunday, 02 April 202	23	
10:00 AM to 11:00 AM	GCC Worship - Palm Sunday	Sanctuary
11:00 AM to 11:30 AM	Fellowship Time	Upper Com
Monday, 03 April 20	23	
12:00 PM to 1:30 PM	Bible Study	Upper Com
Wednesday, 05 Apri	I 2023	
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You	New To Yo
7:00 PM to 8:00 PM	Amos Speaker's Forum - Lumi Stutz	Chapel
Thursday, 06 April 2	023	
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM	New To You	New To Yo
7:00 PM to 8:00 PM	Maundy Thursday Service	Sanctuary
Friday, 07 April 2023	•	,
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You	New To Yo
7:00 PM to 8:00 PM	Good Friday Service - Tenebrae Service	Sanctuary
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Saturday, 08 April 2 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You	New To Yo
		14644 10 10
Sunday, 09 April 202 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM		Construction
	GCC Faster Calabration Service	Sanctuary
11:00 AM to 12:00 PM	GCC Easter Celebration Service	Sanctuary
Monday, 10 April 20		
8:00 AM to 8:30 PM	GCC Closed for Easter Holiday	Sanctuary
Tuesday, 11 April 20	023	
6:00 PM to 9:00 PM	STL Rehearsal	Sanctuary
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	Ministry Steering Group	Founders
Wednesday, 12 Apri	I 2023	
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You	New To Yo
Thursday, 13 April 2	023	
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM	New To You	New To Yo
6:15 PM to 7:20 PM	Joyful Ringers	Bell Room
7:00 PM to 8:45 PM	156 Troop Meeting	Community
7:30 PM to 9:00 PM	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary
Friday, 14 April 2023	3	
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You	New To Yo
Saturday, 15 April 2	023	
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You	New To Yo
Sunday, 16 April 202	23	
10:00 AM to 11:00 AM	Second Easter - Bridge Over Troubled Water	Sanctuary
11:00 AM to 11:30 AM	Fellowship Time	Upper Com
4:00 PM to 5:00 PM	GCC Confirmation	Sanctuary
5:00 PM to 7:00 PM	GCC Chili Cook Off!	Community
Tuesday, 18 April 20	023	
5:30 PM to 8:45 PM	STL Dress Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Wednesday, 19 Apri	I 2023	,
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You	New To Yo
Thursday, 20 April 2 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM	023 New To You	New To You
6:15 PM to 7:20 PM	Joyful Ringers	Bell Room
7:00 PM to 8:45 PM	156 Troop Meeting	Community
7:30 PM to 9:00 PM	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary
Friday, 21 April 2023		
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You	New To You
Saturday, 22 April 20		
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You	New To You
7:30 PM to 0:00 PM	Sing To Live Concert	Sanctuary

Event Time	Event Name	Primary Lo
Sunday, 23 April 20	23	
10:00 AM to 11:00 AM	GCC Worship Service	Sanctuary
11:00 AM to 11:30 AM	Fellowship Time	Upper Comm
3:00 PM to 6:00 PM	Confirmation Class	Youth Room
Tuesday, 25 April 20	023	
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM	GCC Leadership Council	Founders
Wednesday, 26 Apr	il 2023	
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You	New To You
Thursday, 27 April 2	2023	
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM	New To You	New To You
6:15 PM to 7:20 PM	Joyful Ringers	Bell Room
7:30 PM to 9:00 PM	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary
7:30 PM to 8:30 PM	Troop 156 Meeting	Community F
Friday, 28 April 202	3	
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You	New To You
Saturday, 29 April 2	023	
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	New To You	New To You
7:30 PM to 9:00 PM	Chicago Master Singers	Sanctuary
Sunday, 30 April 20	23	
10:00 AM to 11:00 AM	GCC Worship	Sanctuary
11:00 AM to 11:30 AM	Fellowship Time	Upper Comm
3:00 PM to 4:30 PM	Chicago Master Singers	Sanctuary
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MUSIC AND MOVEMENT SPRING 2023

Debbie Berg, GCCNS music teacher, continues to offer *Music and Movement* classes for children ages 9 months – 4 years. Classes are offered on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings at 9:15-10 and 10:15-11. Classes will be of mixed age and parents or caregivers are required to stay with the child/children. The Spring session (6 weeks) will begin the week of April 3 and continue until the week of May 15. Non-GCCNS families are welcome as well, so share the information with your friends from playgroups, library story time, or neighbors. Please use the following link to go directly to the spring registration form: Music and Movement — Glenview Community Church Nursery School (*gccns.com*) If you have any questions, please contact Debbie Berg at *debbieberg23@gmail.com*.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FELLOWSHIP HOUR

Please sign up to volunteer to serve at Sunday Fellowship Hour or to bring cookies, brownies, cake, coffee cake, fruit, donut holes, cheese and crackers (or be creative). Sign up by contacting JoAnne Peters at jo.gramma.peters@gmail.com or the sign up link:

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040445a5ac2eabfe 3-fellowship1#/. Thank you from the Fellowship Team:

Ann, Dina, Holly, JoAnne, Laura, Marion and Sally.

7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

Sanctuary

Sing To Live Concert



The 7th and 8th grade confirmands will be collecting cat and dog items as a confirmation service project for Lent. You can drop off your donations by the church office during the week and in the narthex and outside the chapel on Sundays through Easter Sunday.

ITEMS NEEDED

Gently used bath towels

Wet dog food (any brand)

Nylabone or Benebone toys

Dog treats (any brand)

Canned kitten food

Cat toys (no catnip)

Cat scratching mats

AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION



MANATEE, Female

HEARTLAND ANIMAL SHELTER
586 Palwaukee Drive, Wheeling, IL
847-296-6400

FIND YOUR COMMUNITY
C H U R C H

The GCC Chili Cookoff

Sunday, April 16 5 PM

GCC Community Room



Walk around, enjoy fellowship, hear music and taste chili. Vote for your favorites and watch the fireworks!

Vote as many times as you'd like. Voting tickets cost: \$3 per ticket, 5 for \$10, 10 for \$15

Salad, bread and dessert will be provided.

Chili Contestants: Contact Justin Bill at billjust@gmail.com to sign up

Sponsored by the Congregational Life Ministry and the Pilgrim Youth Fellowship. Proceeds will benefit the PYF trip.



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Web: gccucc.org

Facebook: facebook.com/ GlenviewCommunityChurch/

SENIOR MINISTER

Rev. Dr. James Matarazzo, Jr.

BROADCASTER DEADLINES

April 19, 2023 by 9:00 AM May 24, 2023 by 9:00 AM Email your article to Tania McCarthy at *tania.mccarthy@gccucc.org* by 9:00 AM on the deadline date.

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Enriched by Faith.
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for Justice, Compassion,
and Peace.

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