



Stories Jesus Told  
"The Mustard Seed"



Glencoe Union Church

*April 14, 2024*

PRELUDE

*Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus  
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

sett. Paul Manz

WELCOME

Erin R. Raska

\*GATHERING SONG

*Come, All You People*

Come, all you people, come and praise your maker, (3x)  
Come now, and worship the Lord!

\*OPENING PRAYER

Erin R. Raska

\*OPENING HYMN

*Christ Is Alive*

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring. Love, drowned in death,  
shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine,  
But saving, healing, here and now, and touching every place and time.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age,  
Till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

CALL TO CONFESSION & PRAYER

Ken Crews

Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed;  
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

*(time for silent confession)*

For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,  
so that we might delight in your will  
and follow in your ways, to the glory of your name.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

By dying, Christ destroyed our death.

**In rising, Christ restores our life;**

In giving us his Spirit,

**He grants us peace.**

May the peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

*All are invited to greet one another with signs and words of peace: "The Peace of Christ be with you."*

During the Passing of the Peace, **children 1st-4th grade** are invited to join Ms. Cristina for Sunday school. Children will be met by Cristina at the back of the sanctuary.

**\*RESPONSE**

*Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!*

**All: Halle, halle, hallelujah!  
Halle, halle, hallelujah!  
Halle, halle, hallelujah!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

**Solo:** O God, to whom shall we go? You alone have the words of life.  
Let your words be our prayer and the song we sing: hallelujah,  
hallelujah!

**All: Halle, halle, hallelujah!  
Halle, halle, hallelujah!  
Halle, halle, hallelujah!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

**INTERVIEW** with Executive Director of Restore Justice, Wendell Robinson

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Mark 4: 30-32

Erin R. Raska

He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

**ANTHEM**

*My Beloved Spake*

Patrick Hadley

My beloved spake, and said unto me,  
Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away.  
For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone;  
The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come,  
and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land;  
The fig tree putteth forth her green figs,  
and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell.  
Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.

**SERMON**                    “Stories Jesus Told: The Mustard Seed”                    Erin R. Raska

**SERMON RESPONSE**                    *Mustard Seed*                    Ellie Holcomb

If you held a mustard seed in your hand,  
You’d see that it was tiny, like a grain of sand,  
But Jesus says that even when our faith is small,  
Nothing is impossible for Him at all,  
Nothing is impossible for Him at all.

‘Cause our God is faithful,  
He can move mountains,  
And He asks us to believe.  
Our God is faithful,  
He can move mountains,  
Even when our faith is like a mustard seed,  
Even when our faith is like a mustard seed.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER**                    Ken Crews

**\*CLOSING HYMN**                    *We Walk By Faith and Not By Sight*                    Hymn No. 817

**\*BENEDICTION**                    Ken Crews

**\*POSTLUDE**                    *Toccata on Gaudeamus Pariter*                    sett. James Biery

\* Please rise in body or spirit.



Special thanks to all who assisted in  
this morning’s Worship Service:

Dr. A.J. Keller, Music Director  
Dr. Hyea Young Cho, Pianist & Organist  
Frank Hudson, Livestream Production  
Rev. Erin R. Raska, Rev. Ken Crews, Worship Leaders



*Today’s flowers are given in celebration of  
my niece Ophelia, who turns nine this month.  
Libby Snediker*

## *Welcome to Glencoe Union Church*

We are delighted that you are here and trust you will find yourself at home among us, where our mission is to Love God, Love Others and Love the World. If you are visiting today, we invite you to fill out a Visitor Card found in the pew back and place it in the offering tray at the rear of the Sanctuary. To stay up to date on GUC's news, events and opportunities sign-up for our weekly email by emailing us at, [office@glencoeunionchurch.org](mailto:office@glencoeunionchurch.org).

We look forward to meeting you and please don't hesitate to reach out to either of the GUC pastors.

Rev. Erin Raska, Senior Minister, [erin@glencoeunionchurch.org](mailto:erin@glencoeunionchurch.org), 847-858-0925

Rev. Ken Crews, Associate Minister, [ken@glencoeunionchurch.org](mailto:ken@glencoeunionchurch.org), 773-569-1115

### *Fellowship Hour*

We believe that our worship extends beyond the Sanctuary and into the Great Hall for a time of refreshment and fellowship. All are invited to join us immediately following today's service.

*You may contribute online to the ongoing ministry of  
Glencoe Union Church by visiting our website,  
([www.glencoeunionchurch.org](http://www.glencoeunionchurch.org)).*

*~Our Coffee Hour host today is Helen Weaver~*

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### *Sundays at GUC*

10:00 a.m. Service in the Sanctuary

Infant-Kindergarten Sunday School, located in the Nursery, Lower Level.

10:15 a.m. First-Fourth Sunday School, located on Third Fl. North Building.

11:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour, located in the Great Hall.

## *Sunday School During Worship*

At GUC, we are passionate about Youth, Children and Family Ministries. We believe that young people play a critical role in the life of this church and have much to add to our faith community. Children are always welcome in worship, and they are also invited to join one of our Sunday School classes:

Parents of small children, infant - kindergarten are welcome to bring their child(ren) to the Nursery located on the Lower Level. Ms. Anne and the rest of our nursery staff will be ready to welcome your child to an hour of Bible stories, free play time, and art making.

Children, grades 1 – 4, are invited to begin in worship with their families and then, during the passing of the peace, meet Ms. Cristina, at the rear of the Sanctuary. Ms. Cristina will lead children to their classroom, located on the Third Floor of the North Building, for a time of Bible stories, conversation, activities, and art making.

## This Week at GUC

<b>Sun, April 14, 11:00 a.m.</b>	C24/7 Snack Drive, Sanctuary
<b>Sun, April 14, 11:00 a.m.</b>	Restore Justice Letter Writing Campaign, Great Hall
<b>Sun, April 14, 5:00-6:30</b>	Pitch Youth Grades 8-12, Youth Room
<b>Tues, April 16, 7:00 p.m.</b>	Board Meeting, Great Hall
<b>Wed, April 17, 7:30 p.m.</b>	Choir Rehearsal, Cornell Room
<b>Sat, April 20, 9:30 a.m.</b>	Women's Breakfast, Great Hall
<b>Sun, April 21-April 27</b>	Family Promise, Cornell
<b>Sun, April 21, 5:00-6:30 p.m.</b>	Prepare Youth Grades 5-7th, Cornell

### **Progressive Dinner, Friday, April 26**

We'll all gather at 6 p.m. at Hal Lochner's home in Glencoe for drinks and appetizers, and then at 7:30 p.m., we'll progress in smaller groups to 'host' homes.

If you are interested in being a 'host home' for the dinner portion or would like to RSVP for this event please email Virginia at [office@glencoeunionchurch.org](mailto:office@glencoeunionchurch.org).

Or RSVP on the sign up sheet in the Great Hall.

### **Women's Breakfast: Sat, April 20 & May 18, 9:30 a.m.**

Consider joining other GUC women for this potluck breakfast and the opportunity to build friendship and community!

We begin with a warm, full breakfast, an inspiring reading, along with insightful conversation and reflection. We hope you will join us!

To RSVP please contact Virginia at [office@glencoeunionchurch.org](mailto:office@glencoeunionchurch.org)

### **Storytelling Workshops: Adult Education**

**Tuesdays, April 23, 30, & May 7, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**

This workshop will invite each us into the spiritual practice of telling our own stories and noticing how those stories are a part of a larger story; God's story. Former GUC Associate Pastor, Rebecca Anderson, will lead our time together. This workshop promises to be fun, and funny, meaningful, and will move us towards a deeper understanding of how God is at work in our lives.

**June 1, 9am - 12pm**

How to build a (better) story; gather for a fun, conversational (but structured!) workshop, generating ideas and getting some tools in the mix to craft your own stories.

What's in it for you:

- Tools for the craft of true, first person storytelling.
- How to listen for your own stories.
- How to build a story. (Spoiler: by knowing what it's about, and what to leave out!)
- Structure, delivery, and how to land that elusive mic-drop last line.

Come work on a story for GUC summer worship or just to flex your storytelling muscles.

**The Family Action Network (FAN)** presents Anne Lamott, novelist and non-fiction writer: **April 23, 7 p.m.**, Loyola Academy, Wilmette

Lamott will speak on her book, *Somehow: Thoughts on Love*, where she explores the transformative power that love has in our lives: how it surprises us, forces us to confront uncomfortable truths, reminds us of our humanity, and guides us forward. "Love just won't be pinned down," she says. "It is in our very atmosphere" and lies at the heart of who we are. We are, Lamott says, creatures of love.

# SPRING SEASON OF SERVICE

## **C24/7 Snack Drive, Sunday, April 14th, 21st 11:15 am**

After a full day of school, the kids at C24/7 are ready to refuel! Help feed young minds and bodies, and make the C24/7 after-school program a success. Donations can be dropped in collection bins located at the rear of the Sanctuary. Suggested donation items: individual bags of goldfish, granola bars, applesauce cups, fruit cups, individual bags of popcorn, snack crackers, fruit snacks.

## **Restore Justice Letter Writing, Sunday, April 14th, 11:15am**

Support the work of our Outreach partner during Coffee Hour by writing a letter to an incarcerated person, or picking up the information and supplies, including a small calendar, to do so from home. This is a simple reminder that someone is thinking about them. Want more information about the organization?

Visit [www.restorejustice.org](http://www.restorejustice.org).

## **La Casa Norte Lunch-making**

**Sundays, April 21st & May 11th, 11:15am, Cornell Rm**

GUC members are invited to gather the 3rd Sunday of each month to help prepare 100 lunches for clients of La Casa Norte. Scan the QR code to sign up.



## **Family Promise**

**Sunday, April 21st- Sunday, April 28th**

Many hands make the work light! Sign up today to help our Family Promise guests feel welcome and loved at GUC. Scan the QR code to sign up.

Contact Sarah Staffilino: [sarah.staffilino@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.staffilino@gmail.com)  
or Megan Donahue: [meganndonahue@gmail.com](mailto:meganndonahue@gmail.com) with questions.

