



# Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,**

**April 23, 2023**

**10:00 AM**

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**Third Sunday of  
Easter**



AN OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION IN SKOKIE, IL



# Welcome to Worship!

**SUNDAYS @ 10:00AM**

**In-person Worship.** Masks and distance recommended, not required

**Livestream on YouTube.** Live at 10am then available on our channel

**"The Redheaded Preacher" Podcast.** Available wherever you get your podcasts, includes sermon and scriptures only, posted weekly by Tuesday



## Ways to Give

**Text Your Gift.** Text your gift to [844-977-2346](tel:844-977-2346)

After a short set-up the first time, simply text your gift amount

**Use PayPal.** [PayPal.me/stpeteruccskokie](https://www.paypal.com/merchot/x-cmd=showitem&item=STPETERUCCSKOKIE)

**Send a Check.** Mail to the address below ... this way still works fine

**Set up Vanco.** Contact the church office to enroll in regular giving



## Open Communion

**All Christians** and seekers after God are invited to partake of the Lord's Supper with us the **first Sunday of every month** and special Holy Days (Christmas, Maundy Thursday, and Easter). **At-home Communion** participants are invited to provide their own elements and join when Pastor bids you, "take, eat, and drink."



## About St. Peter's UCC

We've been in the heart of downtown Skokie since 1867. 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 **joyously welcome all people** to share worship, membership, marriage, baptism, funeral, and fellowship with us.



## Contact, Follow, or Talk to Us

**Rev. Richard Lanford (Pastor):** [revlanford@gmail.com](mailto:revlanford@gmail.com)

In the office Wed-Sat (times vary) and Sundays

**Laura Olson (Office Manager):** [office@stpeteruccskokie.org](mailto:office@stpeteruccskokie.org)

Office hours Mon-Fri 9am to 2pm

**Ben Westphal (Music Director):** [bcwestphal@gmail.com](mailto:bcwestphal@gmail.com)

**Facebook/Instagram/YouTube:** [stpeteruccskokie](https://www.facebook.com/stpeteruccskokie)

**Website:** [www.stpeteruccskokie.org](http://www.stpeteruccskokie.org)

*Like, follow, or join our email list for up-to-date info about events and activities!*



**8013 Laramie Avenue, Skokie, IL 60077 | 847-673-8166**

**St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Skokie**  
**Order of Worship for**  
**Sunday, April 23 2023 at 10:00am**  
**Third Sunday of Easter**

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*Welcome to worship. The music before the service is intended as a time of silent prayer and preparation.*

**PRELUDE** Selected

**THE RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** Peggy Reins

*Will those who are able please stand up*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

P: Welcome to God's new day!

**C: Everywhere we look we see new life!**

P: In seeds and buds, in smiles and touch, we discover  
God's energizing presence.

**C: Death can never be the last word.**

P: God has raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Christ is  
present among us today.

**C: Praise God for new life within and among us this  
day! Amen.**

**OPENING RESPONSE “This is the Day”**

SSB #22



This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made, that the



Lord has made; we will re-joice, we will re-joice and be



glad in it, and be glad in it. This is the day that the



Lord has made; we will re-joice and be glad in it.



This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made.

**CALL TO CONFESSION** *from Psalm 69***P:** “O God, You know my folly;**C:** **The wrongs I have done are not hidden from You.****A:** **Do not let those who hope in You be put to shame because of us, O Lord God of hosts!” Let us draw near and confess our falling short; let us pray:**

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

- P: Dear God, Creator of the heavens and Maker of each small thing: what a wondrous universe You have spread before us. Each day overflows with the richness of life: with growing green and bursting blossoms, with relationships which nurture and challenge with missions accomplished and justice to be done.
- C: Each day is full of Your meaning. And yet many times we do not see this. With much around us to be done, we complain of boredom. Or we are so busy we lose track of Your presence and Your calling.**
- P: Too often we scurry to and fro without appreciation, delight, or much sense of purpose.
- A: Call us, O God, out of emotional poverty into the richness of life lived in love. Move us toward You and one another. For forgiveness and renewal in the name of Christ Jesus we pray. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON** *First Peter 1:18,19*

P: “You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish.”

The concept of ransom is but one theology of atonement in the Bible; the point here agrees with other theologies, in that by the blood of Jesus willingly given in love, you and I are liberated from the grip of our sins and guilt that hold us back and away from God. In Jesus crucified and risen we are free to come back Home, forgiven and changed by God’s grace. In claiming this amazing good news, let the congregation join me in saying . . .

**A: Alleluia! Amen.**

# HYMN "The Strife is O'er"

#173 (vv. 1-3)

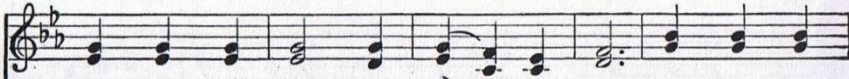
*Jubilantly. With majesty*



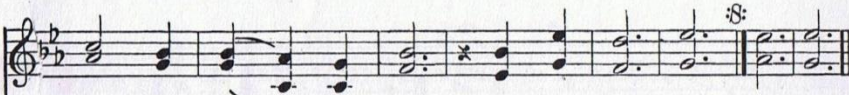
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



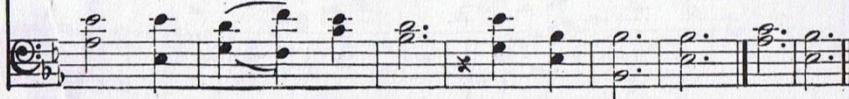
1. The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done;  
 2. The powers of death have done their worst,  
 3. The three sad days have quick - ly sped;  
 4. He closed the yawn - ing gates of hell,  
 5. Lord, by the stripes which wound - ed Thee,



The vic - to - ry of life is won; The song of  
 But Christ their le - gions hath dis - persed: Let shouts of  
 He ris - es glo - rious from the dead: All glo - ry  
 The bars from heaven's high por - tals fell: Let hymns of  
 From death's dread sting Thy serv - ants free, That we may



tri - umph has be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 ho - ly joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 to our ris - en Head! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 praise His tri - umphs tell! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 live and sing to Thee. Al - le - lu - ia! A - MEN.



*The congregation may be seated*

## **WORDS ABOUT OFFERINGS**

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Carolyn Van Til

The Epistle:

First Peter 1:17-23

The Gospel:

Luke 24:13-35

### **MUSICAL MEDITATION**

Selected

## **PASTORAL AND SILENT PRAYERS**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**A: 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**

### **HYMN** "We Were Born Out of the Waters"

*Sing to the tune "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" This was written to be sung in honor of Earth Day*

**We were born out of the waters that give life to all the earth.**

**We were made God's sons and daughters at the font of our rebirth.**



**Every day, God's waters bless us! We are nourished and renewed;**

**For the waters that surround us give us life and health and food.**

**Just as rivers join each other, all creation joins in song.**

**All of nature works together, bold and beautiful and strong.**

**Fish that fill a flowing river, springs of water from below**

**Daily point us to the Giver from whom blessings overflow.**

**God, we hear the troubling thunder of the shouts of "Profit first!"**

**Land and streams are torn asunder till creation cries in thirst.**

**God, we thirst for healthy waters and for justice for the land,**

**As your faithful sons and daughters, may we rise to take a stand.**

**God who made the whole creation, with its rivers, fields and streams,**

**You have given us a vision of what caring for them means.**

**May we care for all your waters, for your land, for sky above;**

**May we serve you as protectors of this world that you so love.**

*Text: Copyright © 2017 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.  
Permission is given for free use of this hymn to all who seek to care for creation.*

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

P: We have been called away from a corrupt generation. We have been ransomed from our futile ways.

**C: Life’s meaning is not to be found in silver or gold. We have found new life in trusting God.**

P: We have been born anew through God’s enduring Word. We embrace a living faith and hope.

**C: We purify our souls through obedience to truth. We love one another deeply from the heart.**

P: Christ is alive in our midst.  
Christ goes with us along all life’s roads.

**C: May we go out to serve in Christ’s name. May the love of Christ find expression in us.**

P: Amen!

**C: Amen!**

**POSTLUDE**

Selected

*The music after the service is intended as a time of reflection. Pastor will be pleased to greet you at the Sanctuary doors as soon as the postlude has concluded, and our livestream has stopped.*

**FOR WORSHIP TODAY**

MINISTER	Rev. Richard Lanford
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Barb Bailey
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Beth Sterba
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Rita McMahan

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# News in the Pews

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**Welcome to worship, Christian education and fellowship. May God bless and strengthen you here today.**

**We ask everyone in attendance this morning to please fill out the attendance sheet in the black pew pads, and, after it seems even latecomers have arrived, please pass your pew's pad towards the center aisle. Our Deacon will pick them up after the service. Thank you!**

**The Board of Elders is hosting a Coffee Hour for us this morning!**

**The Micah 6:8 Committee meets over Zoom at 6 PM today. If you want to join, please contact Peggy or Chad to get the link emailed to you!**

**NAMI holds its final weekly Family-to-Family session in our Memorial Room this Saturday from 10 AM to Noon.**

**Thanks to all of you who were able to come out and support our Village Inn Fundraiser last Sunday!**

**A JUST HARVEST KITCHEN – this coming Saturday, April 29th is our turn to serve lunch and help out at the Community Kitchen of A Just Harvest! We have asked for financial contributions to help provide the Kitchen staff ahead of time with the money they need to buy the groceries for the lunch, and we are calling for 1 or 2 more volunteers to be willing and able to be at the Kitchen from 11 AM to 2:30 PM that day. Please let Chad**

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McCoy know if you're among the willing, or if you have questions about it.

**It's Misericordia days and our members the Riley family can sure use your help with donations.** Please donate under

Anna's link: <https://secure.frontstream.com/misericordia-candy-days->

[2023/participant/AnnaRiley?fbclid=IwAR1UY8iEKM4KwQHUKQpocdeYfhe1opAfEvhhk\\_EvTI2fKyqtZj-tIjeE7FQ](https://secure.frontstream.com/misericordia-candy-days-2023/participant/AnnaRiley?fbclid=IwAR1UY8iEKM4KwQHUKQpocdeYfhe1opAfEvhhk_EvTI2fKyqtZj-tIjeE7FQ)

The family hopes one day to find a place with them for their son Ricky, and donations help ensure that so please give if you can, and thank you!

**This week in addition to tonight's Micah 6:8 Zoomer,** Pastor will attend the Wednesday morning (April 26th) gathering of the Niles Township Clergy Forum at 8:30 AM; The Trustees will have a Spring Walk-through and Planning at 6 PM on Thursday; the ONA Support Committee meets Thursday also, in person from 6:30 to 8 PM; and then on Saturday, the Kitchen service as previously noted.

**COMING UP MAY 6th is the Spring Craft Fair!** It is from 10 AM to 3 PM. Ask Beth Lanford if you have any questions. You can also contact Wendy Svenson with questions if you have her contact info.

**BUNCO PRIZES NEEDED!** Our Bunco fundraiser will be May 20<sup>th</sup> and we need lots and lots of brand new prizes to make it a big success!! You can buy something big or something small, we need it all. Talk with Carol Iannotti if you have questions, and prizes can be left in the church office. Thank you!

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# Our People

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**Birthdays this week belong to** Darrell Kerbel (today), Mark Taylor, Susan Garcia, Elisa Meggs and baptizee Roman Salvatierra. Happy birthdays are wished for each of you!

**Next Sunday we're going to celebrate the baptism of** Christine and Peter Svenson's son Fredrik!

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## CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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PRESIDENT	Peggy Reins
VICE-PRESIDENT	Beth Lanford
TREASURER	Chad McCoy
SECRETARY	Annie Noorts
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Maria Altmayer

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## Regular Reminders!

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**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.

**Please remember that we can always use food contributions for the Mini-Pantry!** There are now copies of a list of suggestions and items by the narthex and on the shelves where the food is kept by the offices. Take one home! Demand has increased considerably since it was first installed last September. We always appreciate what is brought in, and the need does not go away. Perhaps if you are employed you could ask about doing a collection at your job. Thank you!

**Pastor's podcast is available wherever you listen to podcasts!** Just type in "The Redheaded Preacher" and you'll find us! Pastor's weekly podcasts include the prior Sunday's scriptures and sermon, and some words and prayer from Pastor just for the listeners of the podcast!

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## **MISSION MOMENTS**

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**April 23, 2023**

**Third Sunday of Easter**

**Luke 24:13-35**

**Breaking Bread**

**Break the Silence Sunday**

A conversation about Break the Silence Sunday.

One: Today we Break the Silence about sexual abuse and violence, because breaking the silence can bring about healing and reparation.

Two: Usually we don't break something in order to heal it. How does breaking the silence lead to repair?

One: The silence must be broken, because the silence in this case is one of the tools that makes violence seem acceptable, or shameful to the victims rather than the perpetrators.

Two: I see. It's like the silence is another act of violence!

One: Yes, exactly.

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Two: So the healing comes from talking about it.

One: For some people it does, if they want to talk and when they are ready to do so.

Two: Do you know that talking helped lead to healing in today's scripture story?

One: What do you mean?

Two: The disciples thought Jesus was dead and gone forever. It might have been tempting to just keep quiet about their feelings, and the events that had occurred. They might have thought that keeping it inside would make the feelings about that time go away. But they knew better. Starting with the women who told the story, they kept talking about it. And eventually, that led to all of them seeing the Living Christ.

One: That's right! Breaking the silence has been a path for healing since the beginning!

Break the Silence Sunday is a day set aside each year for United Church of Christ churches to speak up about the epidemic of sexual abuse and violence. Learn more about Break the Silence Sunday at <https://www.ucc.org/break-the-silence-sunday/>.

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**1 Peter 1:17 - 23**

<sup>17</sup>If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. <sup>18</sup>You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, <sup>19</sup>but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. <sup>20</sup>He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. <sup>21</sup>Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

<sup>22</sup>Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. <sup>23</sup>You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

**Luke 24:13-35**

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him.

And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?"

He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him."

Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?"

That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what

had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.