



Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

Sunday,
March 10, 2024
10:00 AM

Fourth Sunday
in Lent





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/display?hosted_button_id=68888888888888888888888888888888)

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

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

Laura Olson (Office Manager): office@stpeteruccskokie.org

Office hours Mon-Fri 9am to 2pm

Ben Westphal (Music Director): bcwestphal@gmail.com

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

Website: 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, March 10, 2024 at 10:00am
Fourth Sunday in Lent

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: We follow Christ

C: Who says, 'Take up your cross.'

P: We follow Christ

C: Who bids us come and die.

P: We follow Christ

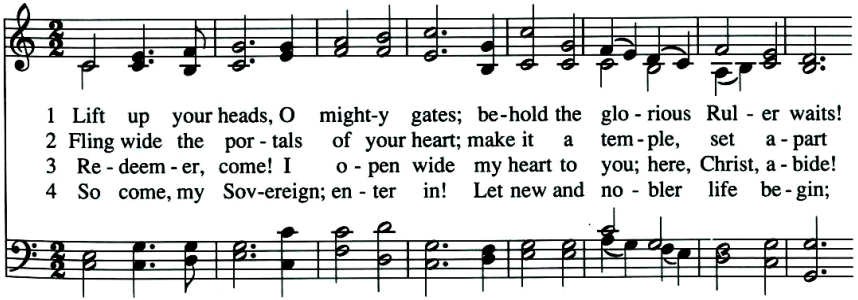
C: Who summons us to new life.

A: Come, let us worship our Triune God!

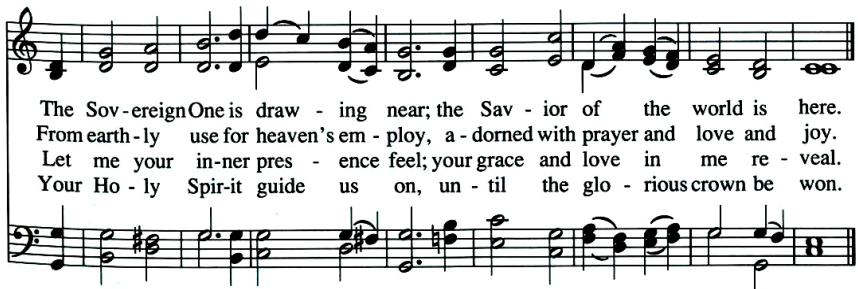
RESPONSE

"Lift up Your Heads"

SSB #9 (v.1)



1 Lift up your heads, O might-y gates; be-hold the glo - rious Rul - er waits!
 2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a tem - ple, set a - part
 3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to you; here, Christ, a - bide!
 4 So come, my Sov-ereign; en - ter in! Let new and no - bler life be - gin;



The Sov-ereign One is draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.
 From earth - ly use for heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
 Let me your in - ner pres - ence feel; your grace and love in me re - veal.
 Your Ho - ly Spir - it guide us on, un - til the glo - rious crown be won.

Georg Weissel, a Lutheran pastor, served a church in Königsberg, East Prussia. He wrote some twenty hymns, most of them for the great festivals of the church year. This hymn was written for Advent.

Tune: TRURO L.M.
 Thomas Williams' Psalmodia Evangelica, 1789

CALL TO CONFESSION

P: Standing beneath the cross of Jesus, as we observe the season of Lent, is a sobering experience, for the cross judges both our world and our individual lives.

C: Today, people are still crucified by the same forces that destroyed Jesus. Today, each of us falls short of the resolve and dedication to God which Jesus exhibited by the way He lived and died.

P: So let us, as men, women and younger ones who live in a twisted world and who are all too weak in spirit, join together in a prayer of confession.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

P: In Jesus Christ, You came among us to save us from sin and death. In walking to the cross, Christ freed us from bondage of guilt and judgment. We come before You now, O God, seeking grace freely given.

C: Grant us Your grace, O Lord, and free us.

P: When we hear and obey the voice of the world rather than turning to You for guidance –

C: Grant us Your grace, O God, and free us.

P: When we critically judge others without wanting to look at ourselves –

C: Grant us Your grace, O God, and free us!

P: When we fail to love any of Your people out of prejudice and fear –

C: Grant us Your grace, O God, and free us.

TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION

P: In Christ's name we pray.

C: Amen.

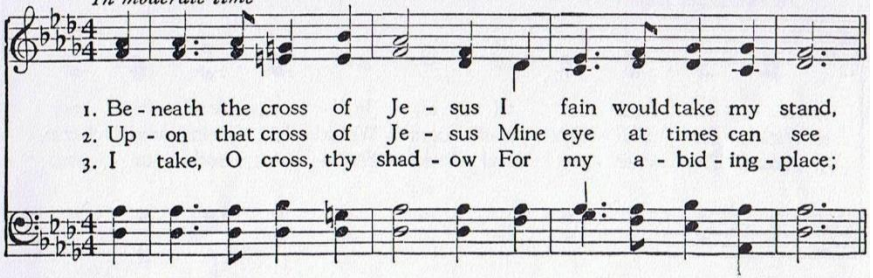
ASSURANCE OF PARDON

P: In the Cross, you and I see God's amazing love for us. We are God's children living in a confused world. So in abundant grace, God answers our doubt, heals our pain, and forgives our failures in grace. I announce therefore in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free in grace.

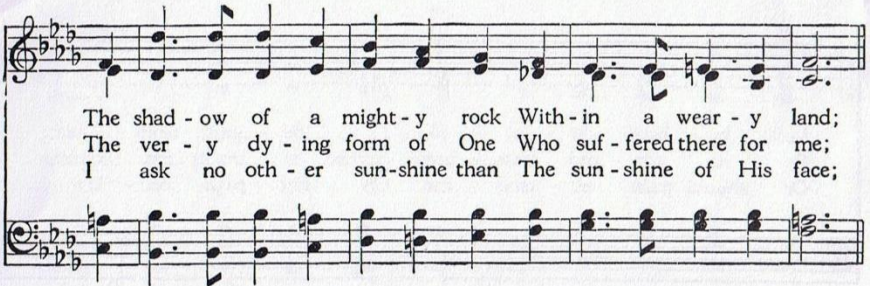
**A: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free in this grace. Thanks be to God forevermore!
Amen.**

HYMN "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

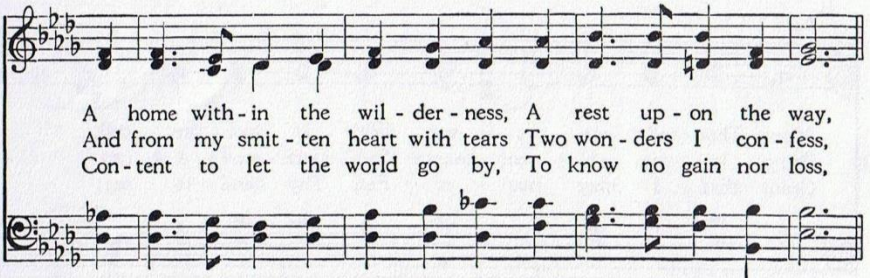
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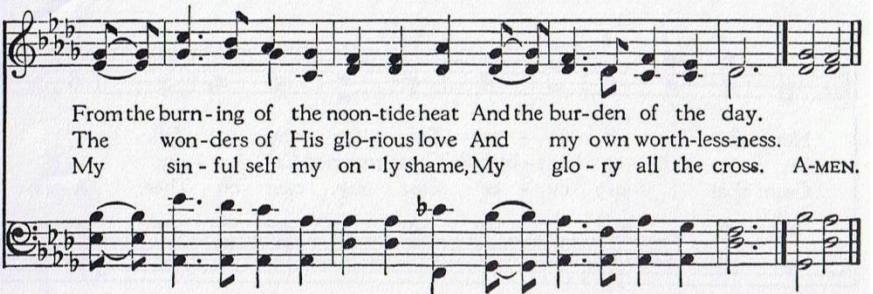
1. Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I fain would take my stand,
 2. Up - on that cross of Je - sus Mine eye at times can see
 3. I take, O cross, thy shad - ow For my a - bid - ing - place;



The shad - ow of a might - y rock With - in a wear - y land;
 The ver - y dy - ing form of One Who suf - ered there for me;
 I ask no oth - er sun - shine than The sun - shine of His face;



A home with - in the wil - der - ness, A rest up - on the way,
 And from my smit - ten heart with tears Two won - ders I con - fess,
 Con - tent to let the world go by, To know no gain nor loss,



From the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat And the bur - den of the day.
 The won - ders of His glo - rious love And my own worth - less - ness.
 My sin - ful self my on - ly shame, My glo - ry all the cross. A - MEN.

The congregation may be seated

MISSION MOMENT

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Carolyn Van Til

Old Testament:

Numbers 21:4-9

Epistle:

Ephesians 2:1-10

MUSICAL MEDITATION Selected

Will those who are able please rise

GOSPEL

John 3:14-21

RESPONSE

Gloria Creator

tune #493

A: Gloria to the Creator

And to the Christ

And to the Holy Ghost!

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,

World without end. Amen, Amen.

The Congregation may be seated

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.

OFFERTORY

Will those who are able please rise to sing

RESPONSE “We Are An Offering” SSB #11

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to You, we are an offering.

Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our lives, they are Yours, we are an offering.

All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be we give to You.

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to You, we are an offering, we are an offering.

The congregation may be seated

SERMON “Our Way of Life”

Will those who are able please stand up

HYMN "The Old Rugged Cross" SSB #10 (vv. 1-3)



1 On a hill far a - way stood an old rug-ged cross,
 2 Oh, that old rug-ged cross so de - spised by the world,
 3 In the old rug-ged cross, stained with blood so di - vine,
 4 To the old rug-ged cross I will ev - er be true,



the em - blem of suf - f'ring and shame;
 has a won - drous at - trac - tion for me;
 a won - drous beau - ty I see;
 its shame and re - proach glad - ly bear;



and I love that old cross where the dear - est and best
 for the dear Lamb of God left his glo - ry a - bove,
 for 'twas on that old cross Je - sus suf - fered and died,
 Christ will call me some day to my home far a - way,



for a world of lost sin - ners was slain.
 to bear it to dark Cal - va - ry.
 to par - don and sanc - ti - fy me.
 where his glo - ry for - ev - er I'll share.

Refrain



So I'll cher - ish the old rug - ged cross, till my



tro - phies at last I lay down; I will cling to the old rug-ged



cross, and ex - change it some day for a crown.

Text: George Bennard, 1873–1958

Music: THE OLD RUGGED CROSS, George Bennard, 1873–1958

CHARGE

P: Act, with faith;

C: Believe, with humility;

P: Love one another,

C: And love those whom nobody loves;

A: Serve the Lord.

BENEDICTION

P: Our Lenten journey marches still onward. Jesus sets his face toward Jerusalem, and we travel that road with him. There are no faithful detours, nor can we rush to the end of the story. But in the meantime of Lent, we can live, move, and have our being in a God who assures us: "I am going to open the graves, and you shall know I am the Lord." Let us depart in hope and confidence that, although the wilderness of Lent stretches still before us, God's promises go with us, today and always.

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

Beth Sterba

LIVESTREAM RECORDING

Jenn Schneider

NURSERY ATTENDANT

Mike Ryan

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS PALM SUNDAY MARCH 24, 2024

ADULTS

CHILDREN 3-6

UNDER 3

I WILL DONATE COFFEE CAKES/BREADS _____

HELP SAT. 10:00AM

HELP EASTER

NAME _____

PHONE # _____

EASTER BRUNCH

SUNDAY March 31, 2024

11:30 AM (after the Egg Hunt)

Join us for Easter Brunch after worship in the Memorial Room starting at 11:30. Eggs, bacon, and baked goods will top the menu.



The cost at the door is \$5.00 for adults, \$2.00 for children 3-6, and no charge for children under 3. Please RSVP by filling out this form and placing it in the offering plate (no payment) or by sending it to or dropping it off at the church office.

We are calling for donations of coffee cakes, muffins, and other baked goods. Please fill in the blank with what you will bring. And we are asking for help on Saturday the 30th and Easter morning. Please check the appropriate boxes to let us know how you want to volunteer. If you have any questions, please contact Barb Todd or Rich Schneider. Hope to see you there!

2024 EASTER FLOWER ORDERS



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 G & E will substitute 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 write a separate check for your flower order made out to St Peter's UCC.

Orders must be placed by Sunday, March 10, 2024.

Quantity	Type	Price	Total
	Easter Lily 6" pot	11.00	
	Azalea 6" pot	19.00	
	Hyacinth 6" pot	8.50	
	Tulip 6" pot	8.00	
	Rieger Begonia 6" pot	10.50	
Total			

Name

Phone

In Honor/In Memory:

News in the Pews

We're so glad you are here! "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son" (John 3:16). May you sense that divine love through this time of worship. Welcome.

After worship this morning, our Board of Trustees will do a walk-through of our facilities. Thank you, Trustees!

Thanks to everyone who volunteered in the several ministries of the church this morning – ministries of worship, education, hospitality, and administration.

The Women's Guild is meeting this coming Wednesday, starting at 10:30 AM with the annual "Clean the Kitchen!" project, with a soup luncheon to follow.

The Lenten Soup-n-Study continues this week on Wednesday the 13th, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM in the Memorial Room, with the "soup and" going from 6:30 to 7, and then the study. If you haven't kept up, we are continuing last year's study of the Gospel according to John; see Beth Lanford for a hard copy of the lesson sheets! Or you can go to The Pilgrim Press and do a search for Listen Up! Bible studies, on John, Part 1, but section 2 of that Part 1. There you can pay \$3 or so for a downloaded copy. It's not too late to join; newcomers welcomed!

Next Sunday, March 17th, the Church Council will hold its regularly scheduled meeting. If you are responsible for a report, please submit it as early as you can this week, giving the other members of the Council time to find and read them before the meeting! Thank you.

Today is the deadline for ordering Easter chancel flowers!

Today is our focus Sunday for offerings to One Great Hour of Sharing! There are specially designated envelopes for this offering in the pew racks. Checks are made out to Saint Peter's U.C.C.; we forward the total amount to the Illinois Conference of the U.C.C. office, and from there the Conference's totals go to the national body for uses as our recent Mission Moments have described.

Candy and tiny toys needed for our Easter Egg Hunt. No Chocolate please. Items are being collected in the Memorial Room.

Good Goodbye Committee meeting - The next in person meeting will be after worship today! All are welcome to attend. This Committee was formed to plan Pastor's retirement events.

Our Call to Worship and to Confession, our Litany of Confession and Assurance of Pardon are reprinted by permission of the publisher from Flames of the Spirit, ed. Ruth C. Duck. Copyright 1985 The Pilgrim Press.

Our People

Birthdays this week belong to Jamie Iannotti, Don Kahn, Jeff Loach, Lana Kahn, Ray Erdman, Roy Svenson and William Hoellerich. Alice and Bill Schaller **celebrate their 61st wedding anniversary this week**, too! Best wishes to all.

Pictures of Pastor and Beth needed! As we adjust to the news of Pastor's retirement, we ask all you folks to go through your old photos and share them with us. You can email the church office with the photos office@stpeteruccskokie.org, or bring or mail them in and we'll scan and return them to you. Thanks so much for your help!

Guests in our building this week are the kids' SKOMOR soccer team (Tuesday night practice in Gym), and violin teacher Jay Pike (Tues. and Thurs. lessons). This is SKOMOR's last visit right now.

The Cemetery Association is looking for volunteers to serve on the board! Help us keep our cemetery strong. For more information, contact Kathy Zipperer at (847) 528-9829.

Online Building Maintenance Form! We have a new form to easily alert our Trustees to any building repair concerns you have. Go to:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1pup5wc25mt7JkJeTg7h5IlySP6hEQDUGf7KbMfUeTTk/edit?usp=drive_web

and let us know when you see something that needs to be attended too. Thanks!

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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

Regular Reminders!

We are always grateful for any and all offerings to the church. No amount is too small! See inside the bulletin's front cover for details on how to donate.

Let us know you were here! Please sign the attendance sheet in the black pew pads and when you think your pew is ready, please pass the pad towards the center aisle of the church.

Food needed for our mini-pantry WE ARE VERY LOW! Items are collected by the office area staircase.

Pastor's podcast is available wherever you listen to podcasts! Just type in "The Redheaded Preacher" and you'll find us!



MISSION MOMENTS

March 10, 2024

Fourth Sunday in Lent

“No Matter What”

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Only a portion of Psalm 107 is suggested for the reading today by the lectionary committee. But the psalm in its entirety is worth studying. Each verse reminds the reader of those who have, in moments of extremity, called upon God. The suffering of refugees, the imprisoned, the hungry and enslaved is told, bookended by the miracle of God’s saving power that has visited those who suffered. What response can there be the overflowing gratitude of grateful hearts?

Today, many UCC congregations will receive the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. Like the psalmist generations ago, our hearts break at the suffering around us. And as humans capable of holding many emotions at once, we also feel deep gratitude in situations where we see that suffering has been alleviated. Like the psalmist in those moments, we join with multitudes in offering the overflowing gratitude of our hearts back to God.

Today, One Great Hour of Sharing is one way we can co-create with God in shaping a compassionate and just response to the suffering in our nation and world.

<https://www.ucc.org/giving/ways-to-give/our-churchs-wider-mission/one-great-hour-of-sharing/>

“One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special mission offering of the United Church of Christ involves you in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery. Through OGHS you engage in holistic development programs including health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing and women’s empowerment. Because the UCC relates in mutual partnership to churches and organizations through Global Ministries and worldwide response & recovery networks, your contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing put you in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment and recovery of the most vulnerable. You meet immediate needs and you address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place.”

Numbers 21:4 – 9

“From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.”

Ephesians 2:1 - 10

“You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us

up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.”

John 3:14 – 21

”And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.”

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.