



# Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Thursday,  
March 28,  
2024**

**7:00 PM**

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**Maundy Thursday**



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/display?hosted_curl=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**

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**St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Skokie**  
**Order of Worship for Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 7:00 PM**  
**Maundy Thursday**

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*Welcome to worship. We ask everyone to join in silence upon entering the sanctuary.*

**PRELUDE**

“In Memory”

**THE RINGING OF THE BELLS**

*Those who are able please stand.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

P: We are gathered in the presence of God,  
who asks us to choose  
between life and death,  
between  
blessing and curse.

**C: We are gathered like the people of Israel,  
who were challenged to choose the way of life.**

P: Like them, we often follow the ways of death.

**C: Yet, like them, we have the freedom each day  
to begin anew by the grace of God.**

P: By our presence here on this holy night, before the  
Table, we are saying that we choose life.

**C: Let us praise the God of love and life  
who has called us to this place tonight. Amen.**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

P: On this night the Cross looms before us, judging our world.

**C: It judges our lives as individuals, as churches, as communities and nations. We remember that we, like the original Twelve, eat at Christ's table, but then abandon, betray or deny Him.**

P: We need God's mercy by divine design; this too comes from the Christ. He too looms ahead of us. Let us draw near to the Lord and confess our sins; let us pray:

**CONFESSION OF SIN** *(following a time of silent prayer)*

**A: Lord Jesus, there is nothing we could do to earn what You went through for us.**

**How forgetful we can be, taking lightly what sins You sought to rid us of by the Cross.**

**We hear Simon Peter's denial and know our faith can crumble too when we're threatened.**

**We know Judas Iscariot's betrayal, and confess that we also have sought an easier, softer way of salvation.**

**In our own ways, often obvious to You, often unrecognized by us,**

**We have denied You and exchanged Your way for something more comfortable.**

**Yet You invite us to the Table, sinners, to know Your mercy and victory.**

**Forgive us all the ways we have grieved You, and others,  
In that matchless name of Jesus the Christ,  
Who came not to be served but to serve,  
And gave His life a ransom for many. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON** | *Timothy 2:4-6*

P: “God our Savior . . . desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all . . . “

Friends, in Jesus Christ crucified, God has brought forgiveness of sins and the supreme demonstration of divine mercy. More than mercy, Christ is the embodiment and sharer of grace. In claiming the good news, let the congregation say . . .

**A: Thanks be to God!**

**HYMN** “The Night You Were Arrested”*Sing to Hymn tune # 322, “The Church’s One Foundation.*

**The night you were arrested, you told us to recall  
the bread, your body broken, the wine, poured out for all.  
You told them, "Take and eat it," and in that time and place  
you gave to all creation the wonders of God's grace.**

**That night you sat at table and looked around at friends;  
you talked about forgiveness and how God's love extends.  
You surely tried to teach them, to help them see anew,  
the joy of God's salvation that comes to us, through you.**

**This night we come together to worship and to pray.  
We hear your love's commandment; we seek to learn your  
Way.**

**May bread and cup now give us the strength we need to be  
your church, your loving body, in this community.**

*(Text copyright 2019 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. Used by permission)**The congregation may be seated.***SCRIPTURES**

Epistle: 1st Corinthians 10:16, 17; 11:23-26

Gospel: John 13

**CHORAL ANTHEM** “You the Christ”**MEDITATION** “In Living Memory”**SILENCE**

**THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

Invitation

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Consecration

The Words of Institution

Participation

**CLOSING PRAYER** (*Unison*)

**A: O God, by coming to Your Table**

**We receive more gifts than we deserve.**

**We give thanks for Jesus Christ,**

**Through whom we receive life**

**And in whom, with whom, we are bound in  
covenant.**

**Renew us so we may willingly serve as Christ  
served.**

**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.**

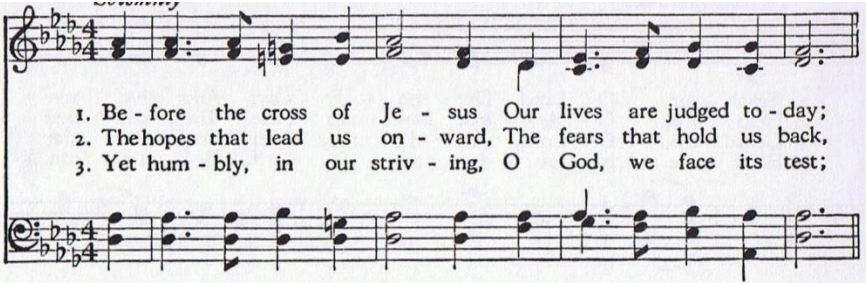
**SCRIPTURE**

John 18: 1-14

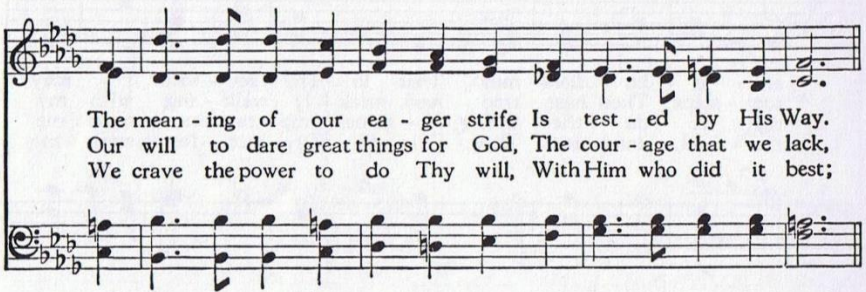


*Will those who are able please rise*

**HYMN: "Before the Cross of Jesus" #261**



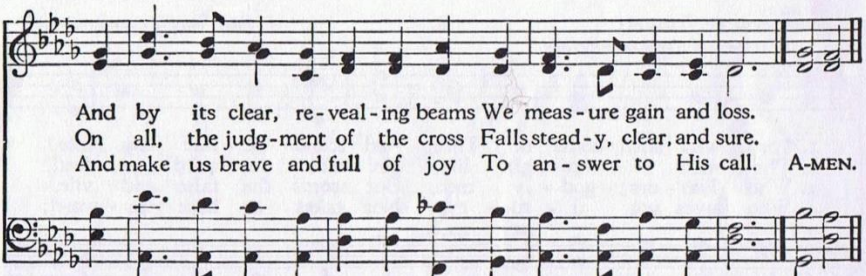
1. Be - fore the cross of Je - sus Our lives are judged to - day;  
 2. The hopes that lead us on - ward, The fears that hold us back,  
 3. Yet hum - bly, in our striv - ing, O God, we face its test;



The mean - ing of our ea - ger strife Is test - ed by His Way.  
 Our will to dare great things for God, The cour - age that we lack,  
 We crave the power to do Thy will, With Him who did it best;



A - cross our rest - less liv - ing The light streams from His cross,  
 The faith we keep in good - ness, Our love, as low or pure—  
 On us let now the heal - ing Of His great Spi - rit fall,



And by its clear, re - veal - ing beams We meas - ure gain and loss.  
 On all, the judg - ment of the cross Falls stead - y, clear, and sure.  
 And make us brave and full of joy To an - swer to His call. A - MEN.



## THE VEILING OF THE CROSS

### CHARGE

P: In the name of Jesus, who washed feet and suffered long;

**RIGHT: Let us love one another!**

P: In the name of Jesus, who broke the bread and served the cup;

**LEFT: Let us love one another!**

P: In the name of Jesus, who willingly gave himself up to death on a cross;

**CHOIR: Let us love one another!**

P: In the name of Jesus, who gave us a new commandment;

**RIGHT: Let us love one another!**

P: In the name of Jesus, who died, was buried, who rose and ascended;

**LEFT: Let us love one another!**

P: Brothers and sisters, let us love one another, according to the way of Jesus.

**A: For by this, everyone will know that we are his disciples, if we love one another. Amen.**

**BENEDICTION**

P: May we go forth on our journeys. May we walk through the next hours with confidence and courage. Even though the darkest of moments lie ahead, may we go forward by the strengthening and steady presence of God's Holy Spirit. Amen.

**POSTLUDE** "When Twilight Comes"

*The music after the service is intended as a time of reflection.  
After the postlude, please depart in silence.*

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**FOR WORSHIP TONIGHT**

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|                |                      |
|----------------|----------------------|
| MINISTER       | Rev. Richard Lanford |
| MUSIC DIRECTOR | Ben Westphal         |
| DEACON         | Beth Sterba          |
| LIVESTREAM     | Jenn Schneider       |

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# News in the Pews

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**Welcome. Today is Maundy Thursday: Maundy from the Latin for “command.”** As you hear Jesus’ “new commandment” (John 13:34), ponder what it means in a concrete way for your life.

**Tonight we remember Jesus’ last meal with His friends which is the background of the Lord’s Supper.** We also remember His new commandment after washing the feet of the disciples, and John’s version of what happened immediately before His arrest and going before Pilate first thing on Friday. With gladness, yet soberly, we welcome all friends of Christ to this worship service and His table.

**Tonight we ask everyone to sit as close to the front as you are able; the back pews will be left empty.**

**Thanks to everyone who attended tonight’s service** and to those who served in the church’s ministries tonight -- the Deacon, Choir, ushers, Communion Elder, chairlift operator, and Music Director!

**Why do we call this day “Maundy Thursday”?** The “Maundy” is from the Latin word *mandatum* which means “command.” Jesus gave two commandments at the Last Supper; to love one another as He loved us, and to “do this in remembrance” of Him.

**Please sign the black attendance pad** and pass it toward the center aisle when no one else seems to be coming, even late.

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**If someone can help the Pastor change the cross cloth to Black for tomorrow, either tonight after the service, or sometime tomorrow, it would be greatly appreciated!**

**Our Holy Week services continue with a Good Friday service** of vespers and readings, including a Readers Theater and the tolling of the bell. That service starts at 7:00 PM. Resurrection Sunday worship service will be at 10:00 AM this coming Sunday, March 31st! The Nursery will be attended. At 11:15 there will be an Easter Egg hunt for kids in our Gym that is open to community kids as well. The Easter Brunch will follow at 11:30 AM.

**There is no Sunday School on Easter Sunday.** It resumes April 7th at 9 AM.

**Offering plates are in the Narthex and by the Schmidt memorial window. Thank you!**

**Part of our order of service for tonight's service is inspired by The Book of Worship of the United Church of Christ.**

**Help Needed!! Saturday March 30 10-1** (or however long you can stay) – It takes many hands to get the church ready for Easter Sunday! We'll have lots of opportunities to help, from putting out flowers, prepping the sanctuary, stuffing eggs, setting up for Easter Brunch – lots to do! Please stop by if you can. And don't forget to bring more Egg Hunt candy – we can ALWAYS use more!

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

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**Misericordia days are here again, and our very own Ricky can use your donations!!** Ricky was born prematurely in January 2006 and as many of you know is developmentally about 5 years old - and is sunshine in human form. He has an intellectual disability and will not be able to live independently when his parents, members of St. Peter's, can no longer take care of him. Misericordia is a beautiful place that offers living arrangements and assistance to people like our Ricky. Please consider donating to this beautiful organization that helps people that are unable to care for themselves, *and use the link following to do it, to make sure the Riley family gets credited.* <https://secure.frontstream.com/misericordiacandydays2024/participant/AnnaRiley>  
Thank you so much for your consideration!

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## Our People

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**Birthdays this week belong to** Sue Bailey, Jason Iannotti, and Gail Balling's husband John. 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](mailto:office@stpeteruccskokie.org), or bring or mail them in and we'll scan and return them to you. Thanks so much for your help!

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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! 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!

**About Communion:** All who love the Lord and seek to follow Him are invited to share in the sacrament regardless of denominational background. We do ask St. Peter's U.C.C. young ones to have taken Communicants Class (6th grade), and both Drew and Jake Ryan have taken it. The servers bring the elements to the pews; take one of the pre-filled Communion cups with a wafer underneath the peel-off top lid, or, with the wine cups, beneath the wine part of the cup. We will partake as prompted by Rev. Lanford, first with the bread / wafer, and later with the fruit of the vine, together.

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