



Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

Sunday,
March 24, 2024
10:00 AM

Palm Sunday





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=1&from=paypal-merchant-directory&to=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

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 24, 2024 at 10:00am
Palm Sunday

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 are gathered in the presence of God our creator,
who sets before us the ways of life and death.

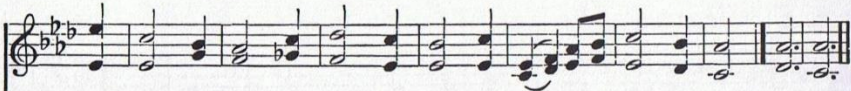
C: **We have gathered in the presence of Jesus the Christ,
who calls us to accept the cost of discipleship that we
may know its joy.**

P: We have gathered in the presence of the Spirit, who
sustains us in trial and rejoicing.

A: **In our living and in our dying, we belong to God. In
the shadow of God's wings, we sing for joy. Let us
praise the Savior entering Zion; let us worship God!**

RESPONSE "Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed" #153 (v.1)

1. A - las! and did my Sav - iour bleed, And did my Sov - ereign die,
2. Was it for crimes that I have done He groaned up - on the tree?
3. Well might the sun in dark - ness hide, And shut his glo - ries in,
4. Thus might I hide my blush - ing face While His dear cross ap - pears;
5. But floods of grief can ne'er re - pay The debt of love I owe;



Did He de - vote that sa - cred head For sin - ners such as I?
 A - maz - ing pi - ty! grace un - known, And love be - yond de - gree!
 When God, the might - y Mak - er, died For man, the crea - ture's sin!
 Dis - solve my heart in thank - ful - ness, And melt my eyes to tears.
 Here, Lord, I give my - self a - way; 'Tis all that I can do. A - MEN.

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

P: Will we wave our leafy branches today and hide them tomorrow? Will our hosannas melt into another chorus of death? Will we, like the builders of old, reject the stone that is meant to hold all things together? Is Jesus Christ truly the cornerstone of our lives? Let us admit the truth about ourselves in our prayer of confession,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

P: Sovereign God, we confess that we are as fickle as the crowds in Jerusalem. When everything seems to be going well, we join the hosanna chorus, but in times of weariness or rebellion, praise can turn to insult.

C: We hide our faith when it is under attack and link ourselves with the scoffers. When there is opportunity to speak a good word for Jesus Christ, we are usually silent.

P: Our church lifts an uncertain word before the world, for we, its members, have not been as faithful to You as You are to us.

C: We need Your forgiving love today, O God, more than ever. Hear our prayer, offered through Jesus. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *Psalm 118:21*

P: "I thank You that You have answered me and have become my salvation." God forgives our falling short as we return to walk anew in God's ways, and in Christ we know how far and deep God went to show His love and bring in forgiveness and eternal life. God has indeed become, and remains, our salvation!

A: PRAISE JESUS! THANKS BE TO GOD!

HYMN "All Glory, Laud and Honor"

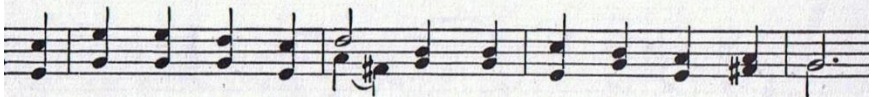
#135



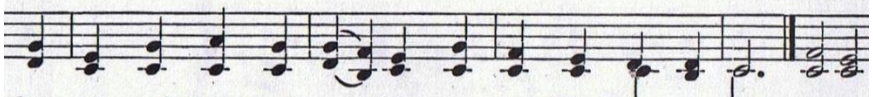
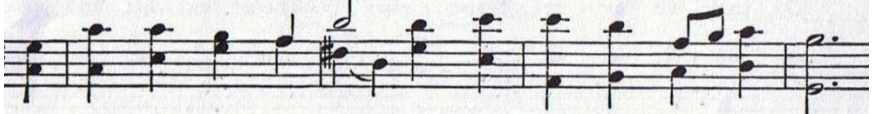
1. All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or To Thee, Re - deem - er, King,
 2. Thou art the King of Is - rael, Thou Da - vid's roy - al Son,
 3. Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; Ac - cept the prayers we bring,



To whom the lips of chil - dren Made sweet ho - san - nas ring!
 Who in the Lord's name com - est, The King and bless - ed One!
 Who in all good de - light est, Thou good and gra - cious King!



The peo - ple of the He - brews With palms be - fore Thee went;
 To Thee, be - fore Thy pas - sion, They sang their hymns of praise;
 All glo - ry, laud, and hon - or To Thee, Re - deem - er, King,



Our praise and prayer and an - thems Be - fore Thee we pre - sent.
 To Thee, now high ex - alt - ed Our mel - o - dy we raise.
 To whom the lips of chil - dren Made sweet ho - san - nas ring!

A-MEN



The congregation may be seated

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Ann Herren

The Psalm:

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Epistle:

Philippians 2:5-11

CHORAL ANTHEM “The Palms”

by Faure

Will those who are able please stand up

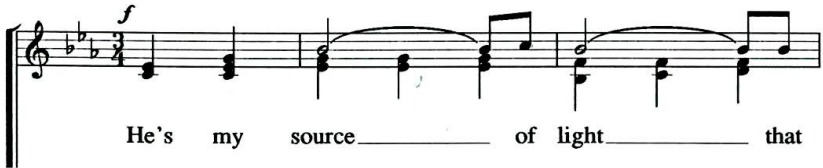
GOSPEL

John 12:12-16

RESPONSE

“He’s My Source”

SSB #17



He's my source _____ of light _____ that



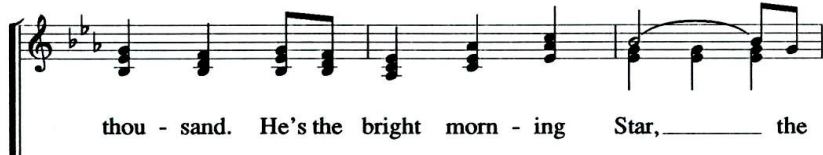
shines in my dark - ness. He's my source of liv - ing




wa - ter that I need ev - 'ry day. He's my



sword and my shield, _____ the fair - est of ten



thou - sand. He's the bright morn - ing Star, _____ the



soon com - ing King, the ris - en Lord. _____

The congregation may be seated

PASTORAL AND SILENT PRAYERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: 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 stand up

RESPONSE "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna!" #136 (v. 1)

Joyfully

1. Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na The lit - tle chil - dren sang;
 2. From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed 'Mid an ex - ult - ant crowd,
 3. "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an - cient song we sing,

Through pil - lared court and tem - ple The love - ly an - them rang;
 The vic - tor palm - branch wav - ing, And chant - ing clear and loud;
 For Christ is our Re - deem - er, The Lord of heaven our King.

To Je - sus, who had blessed them Close fold - ed to His breast,
 The Lord of men and an - gels Rede on in low - ly state,
 O may we ev - er praise Him With heart and life and voice,

The chil - dren sang their prais - es, The sim - plest and the best.
 Nor scorned that lit - tle chil - dren Should on His bid - ding wait,
 And in His bliss - ful pres - ence E - ter - nal - ly re - joice! A-MEN.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

A: What You have done for us is marvelous in our eyes, gracious God. Our gifts can never match Your goodness toward us. Your saving grace, Your healing light, Your personal sacrifice are far beyond our imagining! We can only offer ourselves, all we have and all we are, in response to the coming of Christ Jesus. Hosanna in the highest! Receive, O God, our humble service. Amen.

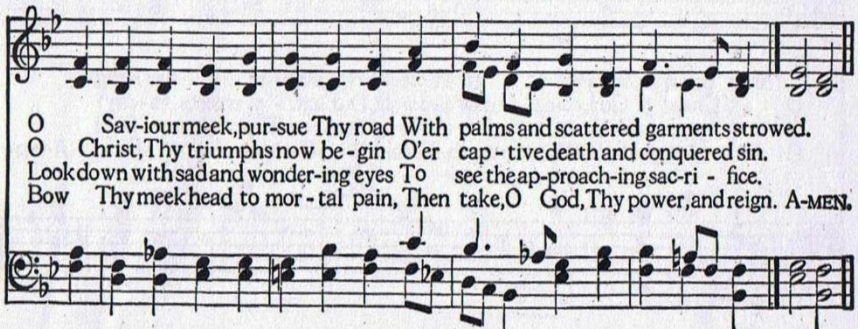
The congregation may be seated

SERMON “Jesus' Donkey Entry”

Will those who are able please stand up

HYMN**“Ride on! Ride on in Majesty!”****#133**


1. Ride on! ride on in maj - es - ty! Hark! all the tribes ho - san - na cry;
 2. Ride on! ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly pomp ride on to die;
 3. Ride on! ride on in maj - es - ty! The wing - ed squad - rons of the skies
 4. Ride on! ride on in maj - es - ty! In low - ly pomp ride on to die;



O Sav - iour meek, pur - sue Thy road With palms and scattered garments strowed.
 O Christ, Thy triumphs now be - gin O'er cap - tive death and conquered sin.
 Look down with sad and wonder - ing eyes To see the ap - proach - ing sac - ri - fice.
 Bow Thy meek head to mor - tal pain, Then take, O God, Thy power, and reign. A - MEN.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

- P: Lift high the branches that honor Jesus Christ.
Lift high the cross that proclaims love's sacrifice.
- C: We will wave our greeting with joyous praise.
We will risk the commitment that led to a cross.**
- P: We are under oath before the living God.
May we have no reason to weep when the cock
crows.
- C: The promises we have made excite us and
challenge us. We seek to be loyal and courageous
in Christ's service.**
- P: God keeps covenant with us in all circumstances.
The cup of blessing is extended to us every day.
- C: May our flesh be strengthened to match our willing
spirits. May love prevail in all our dealings this
week.**
- 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	Laurie Mitchell

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!

News in the Pews

We're so glad you are here! Welcome to worship this Palm [and Passion] Sunday. As we follow Jesus into Jerusalem, the city of his death but also his resurrection, may we experience the wonder of his love.

Please join us after worship for Coffee Hour! It is being hosted by the Board of Christian Education

A special welcome to our Guest Accompanist, Mr. Matt Peterson!

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

Holy Week at St. Peter's UCC - Maundy Thursday w/Holy Communion and **Good Friday** worship & livestream are both at 7 PM. The Good Friday service will be dramatic, along the lines of a Vespers service, but not a traditional service of shadows nor a service of the 7 Last Words exactly. Please note that Pastor would appreciate help taking down the purple cross cloth after worship on Thursday, putting up the black cloth for Good Friday, and then taking it down for the white and purple cloth before Sunday. **Easter Sunday** worship & livestream with Holy Communion will begin at 10 AM! There is no Sunday School, but there will be an attended Nursery. After the Easter service, at 11:15 AM, there will be an Easter Egg Hunt for kids in 5th grade and

TODAY IS ALSO THE DEADLINE for Easter Candy! Help us make this an extra special Easter for all the kids and donate some candy, tiny toys, stickers, tattoos, etc. for our Easter Egg Hunt.

Thanks to everyone who served in the various ministries of the church this morning, in ministries of education (Sunday School), hospitality (ushers, Nursery attendant, chairlift operator), worship (Deacon, Lector, live-streamer), and administration (President, counters). We also thank all of YOU for attending!

We have the Kitchen of A Just Harvest this month! The fifth Saturday is April 29th, and once again we are asking for contributions that will accumulate to \$500 total, so the staff of A Just Harvest's Kitchen can buy the groceries and prepare the meal. We'll need 5 volunteers or maybe more to assist in the serving (both in-person and curbside). Please mark any checks or cash in an envelope as designated for AJH Kitchen this month. Thank you, thank you!

BUNCO items needed!! We are collecting Bunco items for BUNCO April 27th. Brand new items of any type are welcome, you can bring them to the office or give them to Carol Iannotti. Reservations for large tables for Bunco are also being taken, contact the office or Carol at (847) 673-4146.

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.

Today's Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, Prayer of Dedication and Charge / Benediction are reprinted by permission of United Church Press from Led by Love, by Lavon Bayler. Copyright 1996 by United Church Press.

Our People

Birthdays this week belong to Sue Bailey, Jason Iannotti, and Gail Balling's husband John. Best wishes to all.

Using our facilities this week is violin teacher Jay Pike (Tues. and Thurs. lessons).

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!

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!

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!



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

MISSION MOMENTS

March 24, 2024

Palm / Passion Sunday

Sixth Sunday in Lent

“Into Jerusalem”

Mark 14:1 - 15:47

Today is Palm Sunday, the first day of the Holy Week that culminates in the passion and resurrection of Christ. The path of Holy Week is strewn with symbols to remind us of how Christ’s ministry, mission, suffering and new life continues to be reflected in the ministry, mission and suffering of God’s people today.

Take some time to sketch, journal about or pray the following words, visual symbols of this time. Which already have meaning to you? Which do you want to find out more about, either through reading and research or in contemplation and prayer? Which do you need to set aside as less meaningful for you, for this season at least?

-
- Donkey
 - Beautiful alabaster jar
 - Crown of thorns
 - Women disciples
 - Cross
 - Men disciples
 - Loincloth
 - Chalice
 - Overturned table
 - Robe
 - Rock
 - Washing bowl
 - Bread and Cup
 - Place of the skull
 - Torn cloth
 - Blood
 - Coins
 - Sponge
 - Rooster
 - Evening
 - Morning
 - Tomb
 - Angel
-

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

“O give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good;

His steadfast love endures forever!

Let Israel say, ‘His steadfast love endures forever.’

Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them,

And give thanks to the Lord.

This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.

I thank You that You have answered me

And have become my salvation.

The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the Lord’s doing;

It is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day that the Lord has made;

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Save us, we beseech You, O Lord,

O Lord, we beseech You, give us success!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

We bless you from the house of the Lord.

The Lord is God, and he has given us light.

Bind the festal procession with branches,

Up to the horns of the altar!

You are my God, and I will give thanks to You;

You are my God, I will extol You.

O give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good,

For His steadfast love endures forever.”

Philippians 2:5 - 11

Paul wrote, Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,

but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave,

being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form, he humbled himself

and became obedient to the point of death—

even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him

and gave him the name that is above every name,

so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

and every tongue should confess

that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

John 12:12-16

The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord— the King of Israel!" Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written:

"Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion.

Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!"

His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him.