



Welcome



ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

Sunday,

April 16, 2023

10:00 AM

**Second 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. On Soundcloud, includes sermon and scriptures only, posted weekly by Tuesday



Ways to Give

Text Your Gift. 844-977-2346 Super easy after a first-time setup

PayPal. [PayPal.me/stpeteruccskokie](https://www.paypal.com/merchot/?x=1&url=https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/stpeteruccskokie) Uncheck the "Paying for Goods or Services" box to not pass on the fees to St Peter's

Check or Cash. Mail to the address below ... this way still works fine

Vanco GivePlus App. Contact the church office to set up 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 invite 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, April 16 2023 at 10:00am
Second Sunday of Easter

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

PRELUDE "O Fillii et Filae" arr. Callahan

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS Peggy Reins

Will those who are able please stand up

CALL TO WORSHIP

- P: We come again to celebrate resurrection.
God gives us new birth into a living hope.
- C: Death has no power over us.
Christ goes before us in the new life God offers.
- P: Blessed be the God of our Savior Jesus Christ!
Our faith, tested by fire, is renewed.
- C: Our hearts are glad, our souls rejoice.
God shows us the path of life.
- P: Again, Jesus says to us, Peace be with you.
Come to receive life in Christ's name.
- C: We rejoice in God's amazing good news.
In God's presence, we find fullness of joy;
So let us worship God!

OPENING RESPONSE

“I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord”

SSB #4

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The score consists of six lines of music. The lyrics are: "I will sing of the mercies of the Lord for - ev - er, I will sing, I will sing, I will sing of the mercies of the Lord for - ev - er, I will sing of the mercies of the Lord. With my mouth will I make known thy faith - ful - ness, thy faith - ful - ness. With my mouth will I make known thy faith - ful - ness to all gen - er - a - tions." The score includes performance markings such as "Fine" and "D.C. al fine".

I will sing of the mer - cies of the Lord for - ev - er, I will
sing, I will sing, I will sing of the mer - cies of the *Fine*
Lord for - ev - er, I will sing of the mer - cies of the Lord.
With my mouth will I make known thy
faith - ful - ness, thy faith - ful - ness. With my mouth will I make
D.C. al fine
known thy faith - ful - ness to all gen - er - a - tions.

Text: Psalm 89:1

Music: FILLMORE, J. H. Fillmore

CALL TO CONFESSION

P: How quickly you and I forget that we are an Easter people, raised up out of the ways of death into fullness of life. The power of death leaves us shaken and afraid, but God in Christ calls us out of our fear to experience a presence that embraces us with eternal hope.

C: **We confess now all that keeps us from accepting the gift of the Holy Spirit.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

P: God of all worlds and all time, we gather giving voice to our thanks for this season of resurrection. May our worship ever be as an Easter tide.

C: Wash over us and seep into us to refresh and to cleanse. Dissolve the prejudices that cling to us like barnacles, the jealousies that lodge in the crevices of memory.

P: Move toward us with power and might when we are rock-rigid in our views and when we are as unforgiving as granite. Let us hear the thunderous sound of good news as it breaks upon our hardness of heart.

C: And bid us, God, to dare to journey upon the sea of the Spirit. May the waves of an Easter tide buoy us up and beckon us to leave our sins behind and enter the adventure of resurrection living. It is the name of Christ Jesus we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *First Peter 1:3, 8-9*

P: “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead . . . Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.”

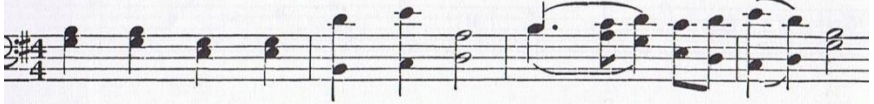
Our sins were forgiven on the Cross, and this grace is made alive by the raising of Christ from the dead! In His death and resurrection, our sins are washed away and our own ability to forgive others comes alive. In this salvation we trust in Christ to guide and strengthen us, never leave us nor forsake us, in this life or the next. In claiming the everlasting gospel, let the congregation join me in saying . . .

A: Alleluia! Amen.

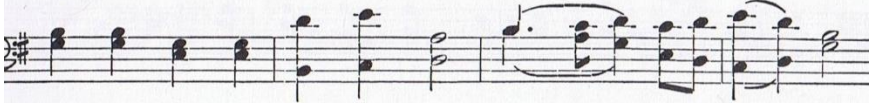
HYMN "Jesus Christ is Risen Today" # 166 (vv. 1-3)



1. Je - sus Christ is risen to - day, Al - - le - lu - ia!
 2. Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - - le - lu - ia!
 3. But the pains which He en - dured, Al - - le - lu - ia!
 4. Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - - le - lu - ia!



Our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - - le - lu - ia!
 Un - to Christ, our heav - en - ly King, Al - - le - lu - ia!
 Our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - - le - lu - ia!
 Praise e - ter - nal as His love; Al - - le - lu - ia!



Who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Now a - bove the sky He's King, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Praise Him, all ye heav - en - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!



Suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - - le - lu - ia!
 Sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - - le - lu - ia!
 Where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - - le - lu - ia!
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - - le - lu - ia! A-MEN



The congregation may be seated

WORDS ABOUT OFFERINGS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Beth Sterba

The Psalm:

Psalm 16

The Epistle:

First Peter 1:3-9

CHORAL ANTHEM

“We Walk By Faith and Not By Sight”

GOSPEL

John 20: 19-31

DOXOLOGY *sing to Hymn tune 551*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!’

Praise God all creatures here below;

Praise God above, you heavenly host;

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost! Amen

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 "A New Birth into a Living Hope"

HYMN

"Alleluia! Alleluia!"

#174

1. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Hearts to heaven and voic - es raise;
 2. Now the i - ron bars are bro - ken, Christ from death to life is born,
 3. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry be to God on high;

Sing to God a hymn of glad - ness, Sing to God a hymn of praise.
 Glo - rious life, and life im - mor - tal, On this ho - ly Eas - ter morn;
 Al - le - lu - ia to the Sav - iour Who has won the vic - to - ry;

He who on the cross as Sav - iour For the world's sal - va - tion bled,
 Christ has tri - umphed, and we con - quer By His might - y en - ter - prise,
 Al - le - lu - ia to the Spir - it, Fount of love and sanc - ti - ty;

Je - sus Christ, the King of Glo - ry, Now is ris - en from the dead.
 We with Him to life e - ter - nal By His res - ur - rec - tion rise.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! To the Tri - une Ma - jes - ty. A - MEN.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

P: May the blessings of God, who has overcome death,
strengthen you this week.

Go, following the Risen Christ!

C: Amen!

POSTLUDE

“Hyfydol”

arr. Lehenbauer

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	Maria Altmayer
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Beth Lanford
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Heidi Tarzian

News in the Pews

Happy Easter! Indeed, the season lasts 50 days. Welcome as we continue celebrating our risen Lord.

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!

Coffee hour will be immediately following worship in the Memorial Room downstairs. We will be serving baked goods and breads from last Sunday's Easter Brunch!

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

Tomorrow is the deadline for articles for the May issue of our Announcer!

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

Our Village Inn Fundraiser Sunday is next Sunday. On this day if you dine in, carryout or have delivered their delicious food, and let the server know you are there for the St. Peter's UCC

fundraiser, we'll get 20% of whatever you spend. You will have helped 2 local Skokie businesses, and yourself with a meal you didn't have to cook. Win win!

We have the Kitchen of A Just Harvest will be this Saturday, April 29th. Donations totaling \$500 are needed for the groceries and to prepare the meal. We'll need 5 volunteers or maybe more to assist in the serving, please let Chad McCoy know if you'd like to help serve. Please mark any checks or cash in an envelope as designated for AJH Kitchen this month. Thank you!

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=IwAR1UY8iEKM4KwQHUKQpocdeYfhe1opAfEvvhk_EvTI2fKyqtZj-tljeE7FQ 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!

The ad hoc Open and Affirming Support Committee met last Thursday over Zoom! Its accepted charge is "Living into our ONA Covenant by carrying out a self-assessment, identifying areas of growth, responding to immediate opportunities, and reporting back to Council." We are meeting again, in person, on Thursday, April 27th from 6:30 to 8 PM at the church. We welcome other interested members and friends of St. Peter's U.C.C. to attend and to consider being a part of this ad hoc group's work! Contact the Pastor if you have questions!

Our People

Birthdays this week belong to Ken Itter (today), Bonnie Loach and Gail (Dennis) Balling. Bob and Carol Iannotti celebrate their wedding anniversary next Saturday. Blessings to them all!

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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! 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!



MISSION MOMENTS

April 16, 2023

Second Sunday of Easter

John 20:19-31

Holy Language

Tuesday, April 18 is Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day. On a recent Yom HaShoah, Rev. Sigrid Rother of Westerville Community United Church of Christ in Columbus, Ohio was invited by a rabbi at a local reform synagogue to speak at a Holocaust Remembrance Day service for the local Jewish community.

“I was probably the only Christian in the room. It was kind of an odd feeling,” pastor Rother remembers. But she took a breath and told her story. Rother was born and grew up in a Germany imbued with a common guilt over the atrocities of the Holocaust. Her sense of responsibility was personal as well as national. Her own father, just ten years old when Adolph Hitler came to power, had been part of the Hitler Youth and then later a Nazi pilot. Growing up in a small and impoverished Polish village, Rother believes her father’s Nazi involvement had provided an outlet for activities like camping and sports that were not offered elsewhere. “I say this,” Rother explains, “not justifying, just trying to understand. I don’t want to make him into a victim.” In the post-war years, her father worked as a miner and became a difficult alcoholic. Rother’s

mother's family was less enthusiastic about the Nazi party, but were coerced in joining the party, even though they did not agree with its policies.

All of this was in the background, but rarely mentioned in her childhood. Rother got a call to ministry while still in Germany but felt constrained by the limits of the state church there. She studied in South Africa when apartheid was being dismantled, and that experience along with her childhood gave her a strong sense of justice. "When Black Lives Matter happened, I could not but stand up, because it is so ingrained in me," she says.

As she told this story to the group at the Remembrance Day service, Rother admits, "I was so nervous! Who do I think I am? Here are people who lost family members. Seeing survivors, with tattoos on their arms... there were tears in my eyes." But at the end of the event, the only response was an outpouring of love and gratitude.

It took courage for Sigrid Rother to break generational silence and admit her family's complicity in her nation's violent past. The first steps were nerve-wracking, but the path she walked led to greater understanding and healing. May her story inform us as we take the journey toward reconciliation and the creation of the Reign of God.

Psalm 16

Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you."

As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble,
in whom is all my delight.

Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows;
their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out
or take their names upon my lips.

The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.

The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
I have a goodly heritage.

I bless the LORD who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.

I keep the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand,
I shall not be moved.

Therefore, my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure.

For you do not give me up to Sheol, or let your faithful one see the Pit.

You show me the path of life.

In your presence there is fullness of joy;
in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

1 Peter 1:3 - 9

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who are being protected

by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

John 20:19 - 31

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them

and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.