



Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,
February 25,
2024**

10:00 AM

**Second Sunday
in Lent**



40 DAYS
OF
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/x-cmd=donations&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, February 25, 2024 at 10:00am
Second Sunday in Lent

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

PRELUDE "Sinfonia from Cantata No. 156"
by J.S. Bach
Judith Brown, flute

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS Peggy Reins

Will those who are able please stand up

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: On these days of Lenten journey,

C: Christ goes with us side by side.

P: While we gather here for worship,

C: May our lives be focused with praise and care.

P: As we sing, pray and listen,

C: May God's Spirit deep within us come alive.

P: And may this time of worship,

C: Be for us a constant guide.

P: Now let us sing with joy and vigor,

C: As we learn how to serve Christ more fully.

RESPONSE “My Jesus, I Love Thee” SSB# 29 (vv.1, 2)

1 My Je - sus, I love thee, I know thou art mine;
 2 I love thee be - cause thou hast first lov - ed me,
 3 I'll love thee in life, I will love thee in death,
 4 In man - sions of glo - ry and end - less de - light,

for thee, all the fol - lies of sin I re - sign;
 and pur - chased my par - don on Cal - va - ry's tree;
 and praise thee as long as thou lend - est me breath;
 I'll ev - er a - dore thee in heav - en so bright;

my gra - cious Re - deem - er, my Sav - ior art thou;
 I love thee for wear - ing the thorns on thy brow;
 and say, when the death - dew lies cold on my brow;
 and sing - ing thy prais - es, be - fore thee I'll bow;

if ev - er I loved thee, my Je - sus, 'tis now.
 if ev - er I loved thee, my Je - sus, 'tis now.
 if ev - er I loved thee, my Je - sus, 'tis now.
 if ev - er I loved thee, my Je - sus, 'tis now.

Text: William R. Featherstone, 1846-1873

Music: GORDON, Adoniram J. Gordon, 1836-1895

CALL TO CONFESSION *from Psalm 51*

P: With David we say, “Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

C: **For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.**

P: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

C: **Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.”**

A: **Let us confess our falling short, our missing the mark, our sins to the Lover of our souls!**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

A: **Forgive us, Lord, for our preoccupation with things; for believing we would be happy if we only had more; for neglecting family in the pursuit of advancement; for giving low priority to the kingdom of God; for judging right and wrong on the basis of profit; for allowing discontent to cloud our lives; for pampering the body while starving the soul. With cries and petitions, we call out to You in the midst of our hurting. In the agony of our pain, we reach for You. In the turmoil of our brokenness, we plead for Your healing touch.**

Save us, God. Save us from death, illness, pain, depression, economic oppression, racial inequity, fear, loneliness, violence and hate. We accept Your grace and providential care for us in every area of life and cling to Your assurance of love and acceptance. Forgive us, Lord, for our preoccupation with the things of the world, and enable us to seek first Your kingdom and Your righteousness. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

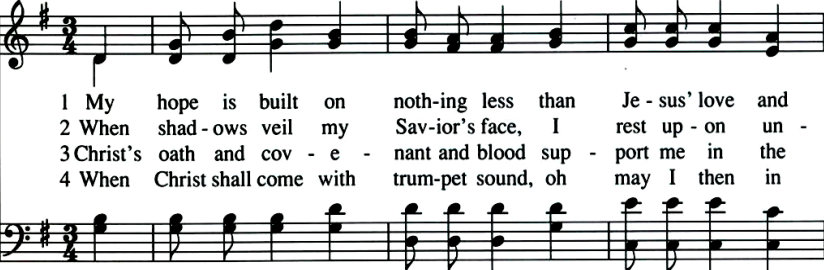
ASSURANCE OF PARDON | *Peter 3:18*

P: “For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit.”

We the unrighteous, brought back to God by Christ the righteous, the Son of God. Amazing grace! In His name our sins are washed away, the power and guilt of sin vanquished by his suffering, death and resurrection. Let the congregation join me in lauding our God and Savior by saying

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

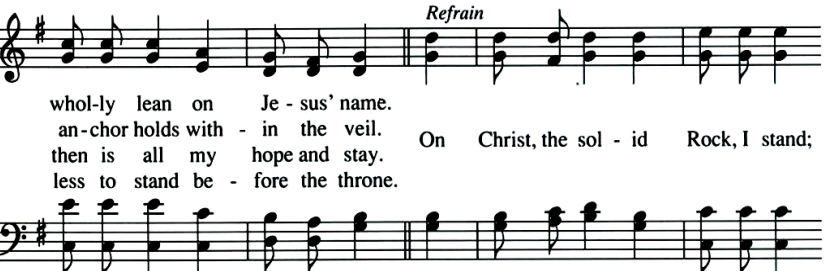
HYMN "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less" SSB #8



1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je - sus' love and
 2 When shad - ows veil my Sav-ior's face, I rest up - on un -
 3 Christ's oath and cov - e - nant and blood sup - port me in the
 4 When Christ shall come with trum-pet sound, oh may I then in



righ-teous-ness; I dare not trust this earth - ly frame, but
 chang-ing grace; In ev - ery high and storm - y gale, my
 ris - ing flood; When all a - round my soul gives way, Christ
 Love be found, Dressed in God's righ - teous - ness a - lone, fault -



Refrain

whol-ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 an-chor holds with - in the veil. On Christ, the sol - id Rock, I stand;
 then is all my hope and stay.
 less to stand be - fore the throne.



all oth-er ground is sink-ing sand, all oth-er ground is sink-ing sand.

The congregation may be seated

MISSION MOMENT

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Beth Lanford

Old Testament:

Genesis 17:1-8, 15-16

Epistle:

Romans 4:13-25

MUSICAL MEDITATION “In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

Judith Brown, flute

arr. L. Smith

GOSPEL

Mark 8:31-38

RESPONSE

“Thy Word”

SSB #33 (v.2)

**Refrain: Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light
unto my path.**

**I will not forget your love for me, and yet my heart
forever is wandering. Jesus, be my guide and hold me
to your side, and I will love you to the end.**

Refrain

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 Gloria Creator

tune #493

**Glory 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.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

A: Here, O Lord, we give You a concrete expression of what we really believe. Bless it, O lord, that it may help us to bless others. In Christ's name. Amen.

The congregation may be seated

SERMON "In Return for our Life"

Will those who are able please stand up

HYMN "What Does it Mean to Lose One's Life"

Sing to the tune "Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life" (#394)

**What does it mean to lose one's life?
What does it mean to save one's soul?
How are we called to follow Christ?
What does it mean to be made whole?**

**What does it mean to stand for good?
What will we risk to turn from wrong?
How can we, in this neighborhood,
Serve humbly, knowing God is strong?**

**What is the heart of Jesus' Way?
What does it mean to bear his cross?**

**Will we have courage to obey
When we know there will be a cost?**

**What is the cost to stand for truth
Here in this world where hatred thrives?
We pray, Lord: make us living proof
That love can heal and change our lives!**

**Christ, teach us how we're called to live;
Show us the risks we need to take.
May all we seek and do and give
Be done, Lord, for your gospel's sake.**

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CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

P: Go now into the world.
Go now, following the example of our Lord Jesus.
May your lives reflect God's love and grace.
May your lives reflect the life and teachings of Jesus.
May we continue on this Lenten journey, ever growing
closer to Jesus Christ and ever growing more perfect in
God's love. Go now in God's peace. Amen.

POSTLUDE "Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said"
by C. Everest

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	Carolyn Van Til

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:

A for the Veterans

Move-in Essentials Collection

GIVE A GIFT TO VETERANS EXITING HOMELESSNESS

Personal Hygiene:

Bath Soap ★ Hand Soap
Toothbrush ★ Toothpaste
Deodorant
Shaving Cream
Hairbrush ★ Comb
Nail Clippers

Kitchen & Cleaning:

Dishwashing Liquid
Paper Towels ★ Windex
Kitchen Trash Can
Garbage Bags ★ Dish Cloth
Mop & Bucket ★ Sponge
Broom & Dustpan

Bathroom:

Toilet Brush ★ Plunger
Toilet Bowl Cleaner
Bath Towels ★ Wash Cloth
Shower Curtain
Toilet Paper

Miscellaneous:

Flashlight ★ Light Bulbs
Sandwich Bags
Laundry Detergent
Hamper ★ Laundry Basket
Aluminum Foil
Pot Holders

VISIT STPETERUCCSKOKIE.ORG FOR MORE INFO

Feb 17th 9-12_{pm}

Feb 18th 12-3_{pm}

St Peter's UCC

8013 Laramie

Open to All!

News in the Pews

We're so glad you are here! Good morning! Welcome to worship, Christian education and fellowship among the family of faith.

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

We bid a special welcome to Judith Brown whose flute-playing is an extra bonus to our worship music; thank you!!

Thank you those who took part or helped out in last weekends' public A ❤️ for the Veterans Collection! We collected A LOT of items. You have until February 28th to get your items in. We are collecting household goods AND easily accessible food (food bars, individual drinks, snacks & microwavable food with pop tops) for the Military Outreach's program for Vets exiting homelessness as well as their food pantry for Vets who come in their doors to have a hot meal. Items will be collected in the Memorial room and can be brought on Sundays or during office hours.

The Lenten Soup-n-Study continues this week on Wednesday the 28th, 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. Newcomers welcomed!

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!

No Spring Craft Show this year! There just wasn’t enough shoppers even with all the advertising we do. We will however have our Fall/Holiday craft show on Saturday November 2nd so "Save the Date."

Our People

Tonight there is a Zoom meeting of the Micah 6:8 Committee at 6:30 PM.

Birthdays this week belong to Eric and Lincoln Svenson, Erik and Liesl Christianson's son Auden, and Susan Garcia's grandchildren Joshua and Grace Castillo. Blessings to them 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!

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! Especially during these cold months, we can use donations. 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

February 25, 2024

Second Sunday in Lent

Psalm 22:23-31

Always Close

Seminary Sunday

Church Vocations Sunday

Psalm 22:30-31

Posterity will serve him;

*future generations will be told about the Lord,
and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying that he has done it.*

The psalmist is confident that those to come will be taught about the ways of God, and proclaims boldly that even generations yet to be born will know to praise the Divine One.

How confident are you and your congregation that “future generations will be told” about God? If your confidence is wavering, maybe now is the time to look around, to notice those who have gifts for leadership and ministry, and to lift them up. Maybe it’s time for your church to be a place that nurtures ministers.

Congregations who successfully call out gifts of ministry from among their members do so intentionally and prayerfully.

Wondering how your congregation can nurture the call to ministry in young people? Here are some ideas to try.

1. Remember that the church needs a variety of kinds of leadership in the future. Maybe that tech genius who always helped you fix the projector in your confirmation class is called to ministry. Maybe the young person who is always ready to argue with authority figures or scripture is ready for ministry. Maybe the artist, whose bulletin doodles often echo the theme of worship, is ready for ministry.
 2. Too often we see gifts in others and fail to recognize or celebrate them. Calling out what we see in others can help them see something new in themselves. If you think someone has a gift for ministry, say so!
 3. Create an atmosphere where people can try and mess up and try again. Ministry has a steep learning curve, and giving lay people the chance to preach, to make pastoral calls and to stretch their skills in other ways can be the best preparation of all for those who are called to ministry.
 4. Support those who are called to ministry spiritually and practically. Pray for and with them. And find ways to support those who are called to ministry materially as well, whether it's through gifts of money, books or just the occasional cup of coffee and listening ear.
-

Genesis 17:1 – 8, 15-16

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.” ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴“As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. ⁸And I will give to you, and to your offspring after you, the land where you are now an alien, all the land of Canaan, for a perpetual holding; and I will be their God.”

¹⁵God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

Romans 4:13-25

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Mark 8:31 - 38

³¹Then Jesus began to teach the disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow

me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”