



Welcome

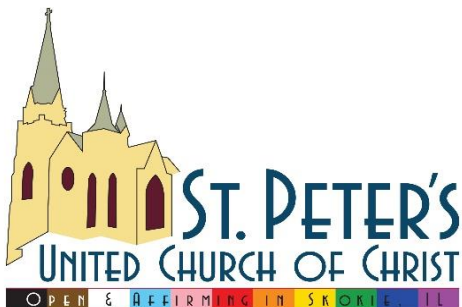
ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,  
February 18,  
2024**

**10:00 AM**

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**First 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/merchpot/display/cpPage?merchantid=1234567890)

**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**

**St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Skokie**  
**Order of Worship for**  
**Sunday, February 18, 2024 at 10:00am**  
**First Sunday in Lent**

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

**PRELUDE**      “Just As I Am, Without One Plea”  
are. Lehenbauer

**THE RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**      Peggy Reins

*Will those who are able please stand up*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**P:** Seek the Lord in this season of reflection and preparation.

**C:** **We are here to seek the Lord and the Lord's favor.**

**P:** Let us open our eyes, ears and hearts. The Lord is near those who love him and are called by God's name.

**C:** **We are here to worship and praise the God whom we love and serve.**

**A:** **Let us seek and praise the Lord our God this day. Praise the Lord!**

**RESPONSE “Heaven and Earth”**

#45 (v.1)

1. Heaven and earth, and sea and air, All their Mak - er's praise de - clare;  
 2. See the glo - rious orb of day Break - ing through the clouds his way;  
 3. See how He hath ev - ery - where Made this earth so rich and fair;  
 4. Lord, great won - ders work - est Thou! To Thy sway all crea - tures bow;

Wake, my soul, a - wake and sing: Now thy grate - ful prais - es bring.  
 Moon and stars with sil - very light Praise Him through the si - lent night.  
 Hill and vale and fruit - ful land, All things liv - ing, show His hand.  
 Write Thou deep - ly in my heart What I am, and what Thou art. A-MEN.

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**P:** In our day, we cannot escape temptation, for it comes in so many forms, from so many sources. Often it is not any clear choice to choose something ungodly or wrong, but it is temptation nonetheless. As Jesus was tempted, so are we.

**C:** **But we have yielded to temptation, and Jesus did not. Sometimes we do not even recognize the sins into which we have slipped or were unwisely chosen.**

**P:** We would recall them now, if we could. Let us do as Jesus said, and repent and believe in the good news. Let us start with prayer.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

P: Have mercy on Your church, O God, for we forget the covenant into which You call us. We muddle along in our self-serving schemes rather than waiting on Your word. We follow the path of least resistance without seeking Your higher way.

**C: We forget our baptism into a faith community built on trust and forgiveness. We turn from the vision of heaven to the treacherous hell of competing egos.**

P: O God, we turn to You to lead us to a new day.

**A: According to Your steadfast love, forgive us, and transform us with spiritual progress, we pray. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON *Romans 5:18-19- 21*

P: "Therefore, just as one man's (Adam's) trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's (Jesus') act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous . . . as sin exercised dominion in death, so grace might also exercise dominion through justification leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

This is a long way of saying that in Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven and we are right with the Lord by God's grace. Such forgiveness opens the gates of heaven for us and all who call on the Name in truth. Truly God is good! It is not just for me to proclaim it but for us to accept it. Do we then accept it and live under the umbrella of God's love?

**All: Yes we do! Thank You Jesus! Amen.**

HYMN

“Amazing Grace”

SSB #5 (vv. 1, 2, 3)

1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that  
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I  
 4 My God has prom - ised good to me, whose  
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
 grace my fears re - lieved; How pre - cious did that  
 have al - read - y come; 'Tis grace has brought me  
 word my hope se - cures; God will my shield and  
 shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to

now am found, was blind but now I see.  
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

*John Newton's autobiographical hymn reflects his conversion from his earlier existence as a slave trader. While serving as curate in the English village of Olney, Newton met William Cowper, and together they published Olney Hymns, which included this hymn.*

Tune: AMAZING GRACE. C.M.  
 (NEW BRITAIN)  
 Columbia Harmony, Cincinnati, 1829  
 Arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1900

*The congregation may be seated*

## **MISSION MOMENT**

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Old Testament:

Annie Noorts

Genesis 9:8-17

Epistle:

I Peter 3:18-22

### **CHORAL ANTHEM**

“Give Me Jesus”

arr. Hughes

### **GOSPEL**

Mark 1:9-15

### **RESPONSE**

“Thy Word”

SSB #33 (v.1)

*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/DOXOLOGY** *tune #551*

**Praise God from all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ all creatures here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit, comforter;  
One God Triune, whom we adore. Amen.**

### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**A: O God of Creation, Maker of heaven and earth, we  
give You thanks for the works of Your hands.  
Heaven and earth testify to Your glory and majesty.  
We now worship You through the giving of the fruits  
of our labors for Your ongoing work in the world.  
We ask that You bless the gifts and the givers. In  
Christ's name. Amen.**

*The congregation may be seated*

**SERMON** "Jesus' Juice"



*Will those who are able please stand up*

**HYMN**            “Our Lord, You Were Sent”

*Sing to the tune “How Firm a Foundation”*

**Our Lord, you were sent to a place wild and vast  
To ponder your mission, to pray and to fast;  
Then hungry and weary, you faced night and day  
The subtle temptations to turn from God's way.**

**How could it be wrong to want bread on the shelf?  
To seek, in one's serving, to first serve one's self?  
But by God's own word you remained ever sure:  
It's only in God that our lives are secure.**

**How could it be wrong to step out and to dare,  
To prove with great drama the depths of God's care?  
But you knew God's word, true since all time began:  
It's wrong to expect God to work by our plan.**

**How could it be wrong to just once bow the knee,  
To shake hands with sin to achieve victory?  
Yet you made it clear that no matter the cost:  
Your path was obedience, your way was the cross.**

**Our Lord, in your struggle you chose to obey;  
God's word filled your heart and you trusted God's way.  
Now risen, you save us from sins that destroy;  
You give us your Spirit, your peace and your joy.**

*Text: Copyright © 2000 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.  
Included in Songs of Grace: New Hymns for God and Neighbor (Upper  
Room Books, 2009), which includes a permission note for those who own  
this book to use this hymn (along with the 76 other new hymns in the  
book) in their local church's worship services. Pastor Lanford owns the  
book.*

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

P: Go forth on the path of discovery as a people of God bringing hope to the world.

**C: Go forth and be of service to all you meet.**

P: May the blessing of the journey bring you wisdom and courage for the work of God’s realm.

**C: May you know the peace of Christ this day and forevermore.**

**POSTLUDE**

“Psalm 68”

by Barr

*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.*

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**FOR WORSHIP TODAY**

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MINISTER	Rev. Richard Lanford
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Maria Altmayer
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Beth Lanford
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Heidi Tarzian

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# 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.**

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

**Name**

**Phone**

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**In Honor/In Memory:**

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# 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](http://STPETERUCCSKOKIE.ORG) FOR MORE INFO**

**Feb 17<sup>th</sup> 9-12<sub>pm</sub>**

**Feb 18<sup>th</sup> 12-3<sub>pm</sub>**

**St Peter's UCC**

**8013 Laramie**

*Open to All!*

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# News in the Pews

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**We're so glad you are here!** During the season of Lent, may we look to Jesus, "the pioneer and perfecter of faith" (Hebrews 12:2), and grow in love toward God and one another. Welcome to worship.

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

**Thank you to everyone who helped out for our Savers Soft Goods fundrive!!** We collected 4,545 lbs. of soft goods!! Our total raised was \$984.00!! Special thanks to Annie Noorts for coordinating and donating the cost of the truck rental, which is included in our total as Savers reimbursed us \$75.00 for it.

**The Lenten Soup-n-Study starts this week** on Wednesday the 21st, 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. 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! As of now we still need volunteers for soups for this coming Wednesday.

**A ❤️ for the Veterans Collection** - Yesterday and today we are holding the public drop off – today from 12PM – 3PM. Many thanks to those who volunteered to be here to collect the donations! We are collecting household goods AND easily accessible food (food bars, individual drinks, snacks &

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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 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](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."

**Thanks to all the Officers and Board members** who were able to join us for the All-Boards Brunch last Sunday after worship! A good bit of getting-going work was accomplished; thank you, and also to Peggy for bringing the food and those who made coffee and perhaps brought other parts of lunch!

This morning's Call to and Prayer of Confession are reprinted by permission of United Church Press from Led by Love by Lavon Bayler. Copyright 1996 by United Church Press.

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# Our People

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**Birthdays this week** belong to Atlas Fink, Autumn Fink, Lois Jarmuth and Richard Schaller. God bless them in their celebrations! Atlas and Autumn were baptized here and are still very young.

**The Church Council** meets after church this morning.

**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!

**Tomorrow, Monday the 19th**, is President's Day and ALSO the deadline for articles for the March newsletter!

**Both Drew and Jake Ryan have completed their Communicants Class with Pastor** and are now eligible to join in with us when we celebrate the Lord's Supper!

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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!** 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!

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UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

## **MISSION MOMENTS**

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**February 18, 2024**

**First Sunday in Lent**

**Psalm 25:1-10**

**God's Loving Paths**

The psalmist asserts that God is with them all the way along the path. Sometimes, it is not so clear to see God's hand at work. To understand God's movement in your life, it can be helpful to create a spiritual timeline. Why wait? Use this paper to begin creation of your spiritual timeline right now.

When was the first time you remember sensing God's presence?

What names or images of God did you hold when you were younger that are different now?

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List two or three times of illness, grief or despair when you experienced God with you.

List two or three times of gratitude or joy when you experienced God with you.

Looking back, was there a circumstance or common thread that is carried across all the memories you share here? Were you alone or with a group? Were you in a church building or in nature? Were you actively seeking God's presence, or did the Divine intrude unexpectedly into everyday life?

What does this exercise reveal about the presence of God in your life? Up to now? In this present moment? Into the future?

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**Genesis 9:8-17**

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark.

I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth."

God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

**1 Peter 3:18 - 22**

<sup>18</sup>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, <sup>19</sup>in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the

ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup>And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

### **Mark 1:9 - 15**

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

<sup>12</sup>And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup>He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

<sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”