



Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

Sunday,
March 3, 2024
10:00 AM

Third Sunday in
Lent





Welcome to Worship!

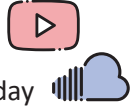
SUNDAYS @ 10:00AM

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=1&from=seller=&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 3, 2024 at 10:00am
Third Sunday in Lent

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

PRELUDE “The Heavens are Telling the Glory of God”

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peggy Reins

Will those who are able please stand up

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: Let us come to this holy space and time in humility.

C: We come with hearts bowed, but also open.

P: Let us center our mind and heart on the journey of
Jesus.

C: May we take on the mind of Christ Jesus.

P: Still the voices that make noise in the head.

C: We turn our attention to You, O Christ.

**A: We worship with awe the One who takes us to
Jerusalem!**

RESPONSE**"Awesome God"**

SSB# 21

Our God is an awe - some God, he
 reigns from heav - en a - bove with wis - dom,
 pow'r, and love— our God is an awe - some God!
 Our God is an awe - some God! Our God is an awe - some God!

CALL TO CONFESSION

P: The Psalmist declared that our souls are revived by God's perfect law. We are confronted by that law today.

C: **At its center is the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ It is more desirable than all the gold in the world!**

P: Let us confess those things in our lives that keep us from realizing that love. Let us read it together silently first, and then pray it together aloud.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

A: **We have come to Your temple, loving God, because this is Your place, not ours. We confess that we sometimes forget whose house this is. We forget**

that all the world belongs to You as we scramble for all we can claim for ourselves. Our actions deny Your love, which is at the heart of Your perfect law. Our minds have justified the bending and breaking of Your law to suit current trends and feelings. We cry out for forgiveness and the opportunity for a truly fresh start. Clear us of hidden faults and redeem us from those we recognize and confess. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, we pray. Amen.

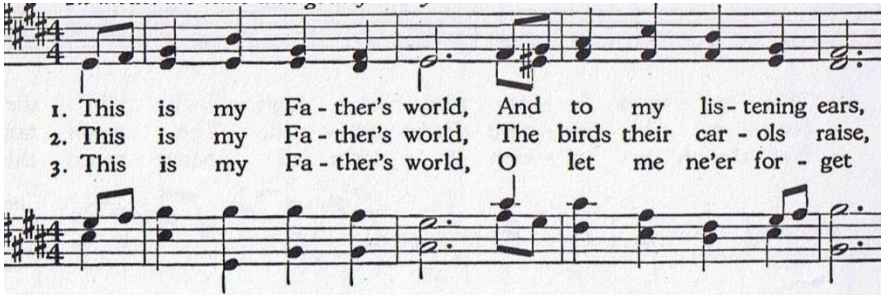
ASSURANCE OF PARDON *Luke 12:32,34*

P: Jesus said to the disciples, "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom . . . for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

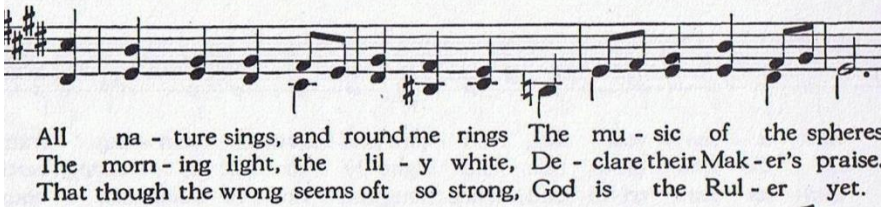
Need we hear more? God is ever more willing to forgive than we are to confess; though returning to God and God's ways is always the divine will. Here Jesus teaches us that God loves those who follow him and wants to share the kingdom with them . . . with us. This implies our sins are wiped away, no barriers any longer keeping us from receiving the kingdom of love and justice. This is fantastic news! Please join me in words of abundant gratitude and say . . .

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

HYMN "This is my Father's World" # 65



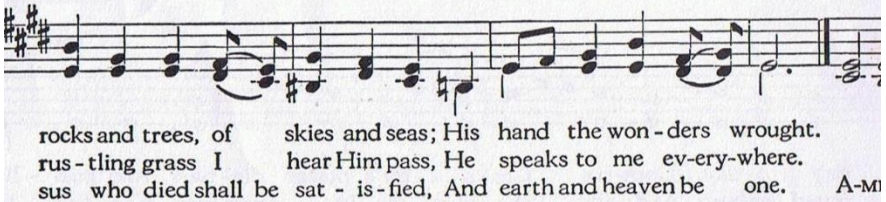
1. This is my Fa - ther's world, And to my lis - tening ears,
 2. This is my Fa - ther's world, The birds their car - ols raise,
 3. This is my Fa - ther's world, O let me ne'er for - get




All na - ture sings, and round me rings The mu - sic of the spheres
 The morn - ing light, the lil - y white, De - clare their Mak - er's praise.
 That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Rul - er yet.



This is my Fa - ther's world: I rest me in the thought Of
 This is my Fa - ther's world: He shines in all that's fair; In th
 This is my Fa - ther's world: The bat - tle is not done; Je



rocks and trees, of skies and seas; His hand the won - ders wrought.
 rus - tling grass I hear Him pass, He speaks to me ev - ery - where.
 sus who died shall be sat - is - fied, And earth and heaven be one. A-M



The congregation may be seated

MISSION MOMENT

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Barb Todd

Old Testament:

Psalm 19

Gospel:

John 2:13-22

CHORAL ANTHEM “May the Words of My Mouth”

By Brad Nix

The Congregation may be seated

PASTORAL AND SILENT PRAYERS

OFFERTORY

Will those who are able please rise to sing

RESPONSE “We Praise Thee, O God” tune #19

We praise Thee, O God, our Redeemer, Creator,

In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.

We lay it before Thee, we kneel and adore Thee,

We bless Thy holy name, glad praises we sing.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

A: Gracious Spirit, you have showered us with Your gifts, and we embrace You with thanksgiving! May our embrace be arms wide open, ready to share, to serve and to love. Use our financial and spiritual gifts that we may live the spiritual life, moving according to the Spirit's heated touch and bending in the direction of God's holy will. In Christ's name. Amen.

The congregation may be seated

HOMILY

“Speaking of God . . .”

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

Exhortation and Invitation

Sursum Corda:

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts!

C: We lift them up to the Lord!

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Prayer of Consecration

RESPOND
153

Eat of This Bread

The musical score is written in G minor (three flats) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are: 'Eat of this bread, drink of this wine; come and be fed, come now and dine. Eat of this bread, drink of this wine; here all are fed, here all may dine.' The chords are: Eb, Ab, Ddim, Gm, Cm, Fm, Fm7, Bbsus, Bb, Eb.

Eat of this bread, drink of this wine;
come and be fed, come now and dine.
Eat of this bread, drink of this wine;
here all are fed, here all may dine.

The Words of Institution Participation

CLOSING PRAYER AND 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.**

Will those who are able please stand up

HYMN "When Christ Went to the Temple"

Sing to the tune "Lead On, O King Eternal"

**When Christ went to the Temple to worship God one day,
He entered through the courtyard where anyone could pray.
That court was for the nations — and all could enter in.
But Jesus found a market, a shameful robbers' den.**

**There, cattle, sheep and pigeons were sold for sacrifice,
And moneychangers shouted of quality and price.
Outsiders could not enter the inner courts for prayer.
Their only place to worship was in the courtyard there.**

**When prayer gave way to profit, and pride closed many
doors,
The Lord cried out in anger and made a whip of cords.
He shoed the sheep and cattle and scattered pigeons, too.
God's house was for all people — not for a chosen few.**

**O God, you love the nations and call us all to pray.
 Forgive us when our worship turns other folk away.
 As Christ, in loving protest, fought prejudice and pride,
 May we who follow Jesus now welcome all inside.**

Text: Copyright Text: Copyright © 2015 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.

Included in I Sing to My Savior: New Hymns from the Stories in the Gospel of Luke (2022) which Pastor Lanford owns and is therefore granted permission to use this in worship.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

P: Go forth, in Christ's name, to transform existence, to bring consolation to the desperate,

C: **Hope to the hungry and homeless, reconciliation to a community and a world divided.**

P: And in Christ's name, may we be blessed to find a cause we can live for, a self we can live with, and a Redeemer for whom we can die.

C: Amen.

POSTLUDE

“Lancashire”

arr. Callahan

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

Jenn Schneider

LIVESTREAM RECORDING

Peter Svenson

NURSERY ATTENDANT

Rita McMahon

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!

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:

News in the Pews

We're so glad you are here! Welcome to worship as we continue in the season of Lent. May we listen for Jesus' voice, rest in his care and share his love with others.

Thank you to Ginger Kalensky and all others who contributed to, spread the word about, or helped in any way with the "Have a Heart for Veterans" Collection last month!

The Lenten Soup-n-Study continues Wednesday, 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!

Good Goodbye Committee formed!! On February 18th the church council created the Good Goodbye Committee to honor and celebrate our time with Pastor Richard and Beth Lanford. We want to be sure everyone who has ideas has a chance to share them and to get involved. With this in mind, we are having a few brainstorming meetings to share these ideas. With Pastor and Beth's input, we will come up with those that will happen, and then we get on with the scheduling and planning. The next in person meeting will be after worship on March 10th! If you want to be a part of things, please contact Annie Noorts, (annie@mollyu.com, 847-772-2717). She is the coordinator of this committee, but all who want to participate can be a part of these events.

Our Call to, and Prayer of, Confession are reprinted with permission of United Church Press from Led by Love by Lavon Bayler. Copyright 1996 by Lavon Bayler. Our final hymn's text is by permission of Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. The Charge and Benediction is reprinted by permission of the publisher from Touch Holiness (Resources for Worship, Updated), ed. Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi. Copyright 1990 by The Pilgrim Press; Copyright 2012 Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi.

Our People

The Board of Elders meet after worship today.

Birthdays this week belong to Rich Schneider, Britta Christianson, and Phil Lindroth! 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!

Guests in our building this week are the local Cub Scouts Pack 85 (this Tuesday), kids' soccer practice SKOMOR (also Tuesday evening), and violin teacher Jay Pike (this afternoon, Tuesday evening upstairs, and Thursday evening). Saturday the 9th we find the Chicago Rocks and Minerals Society holding their annual Silent Auction in our Gym; the actual event is from 6 to 9 PM and the set-up in the Gym will be earlier, of course.

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!



MISSION MOMENTS

March 3, 2024

Third Sunday in Lent

“Beautiful Law”

Psalm 19

Today in the United Church of Christ, we celebrate both Amistad Sunday and the first day of UCC Women’s Week. As we honor the heroes of the Amistad, we remember the captured people of African descent who spoke up and fought for freedom for themselves and those who would follow. During UCC Women’s Week, we give thanks for the women who, long before most congregations would ordain women into ministry, offered lifetimes of service, wisdom, justice work and leadership to local congregations and the wider church.

The Oxford Dictionary defines intersectionality as the interconnected nature of social categorizations such as race, class, and gender as they apply to a given individual or group, regarded as creating overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage.

On this day, a day to celebrate and honor the accomplishments of women and people of African descent, take a moment to celebrate the 2023 election of Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson as the first woman woman of African descent to be elected to the UCC’s highest office, the office of General Minister and President.

“Rev. Thompson is the third woman nominated for the post, after the Revs. Yvonne Delk (in 1989) and Barbara Brown Zikmund (in 1999), but the first to be elected. A Jamaican immigrant, Thompson is the third person of African descent to serve as leader of the denomination.

‘Today, United Church of Christ, we created a first together,” she said after the vote. “It won’t be the last first.””*

Jesus calls us to explore intersectionality, those boundary places where social categories like race, class and gender meet and merge. Rev. Dr. Thompson has bumped into those places all of her life. Now, her leadership will provide new ways for the United Church of Christ to understand our place in the intersections of intersectionality.

*<https://www.ucc.org/karen-georgia-thompson-becomes-first-woman-to-lead-ucc-in-historic-vote/>

Psalm 19:1-14

The heavens are telling the glory of God;

and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;

yet their voice goes out through all the earth,

and their words to the end of the world.

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,

which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,

and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

Its rising is from the end of the heavens,

and its circuit to the end of them;

and nothing is hid from its heat.

The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul;

the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple;

the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;

the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes;

the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever;

the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;

sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.

Moreover by them is your servant warned;

in keeping them there is great reward.

But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults.

Keep back your servant also from the insolent;

do not let them have dominion over me.

Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.
Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

John 2:13 – 22

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, “Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a marketplace!” His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.” The Jews then said to him, “What sign can you show us for doing this?” Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” The Jews then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?” But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.