

Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Friday,
April 7,
2023**

7:00 PM

Good Friday



AN OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION IN SKOKIE, IL



Welcome to Worship!

SUNDAYS @ 10:00AM

In-person Worship. Following COVID safety protocols

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. 844-997-2346 Super easy after a first-time setup

PayPal. [PayPal.me/stpeteruccskokie](https://www.paypal.com/merchot/?x=1&url=https://www.paypal.com/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 Friday April 7 2023 at 7:00 PM

Good Friday

Welcome to worship. We ask everyone to join in silence upon entering the sanctuary.

PRELUDE

“When Twilight Comes”

Sung by Ben Westphal

A WELCOME

From: Praying Light into Shadows, Rev. Katherine M. Schreiber

INVOCATION

Ever-present God, on this Good Friday night, our whole world is engulfed in shadows as we remember the story of Jesus' death. We confess that we want to push the fast-forward button on this familiar story because it hurts so much. It hurts to think of the betrayal and arrest of Jesus. It hurts to imagine Jesus abandoned and suffering on the cross with only a faithful few watching him breathe his last breath. It hurts to watch your light overtaken by the shadows of the world. But we must find our place in this crucifixion story and feel the pain that is there: The pain of the world, of faithless decisions; of betrayal; of injustice. Jesus entered that pain out of faithfulness to you and to us, to witness to the Truth that is Justice, Wholeness and Love. We confess, we are afraid to enter this pain with Jesus. Strengthen us with your courage; offer glimpses of hope

in the shadows of death; let us know you are present with us here in this moment of pain; now as always.

VOCAL REPRISE “When Twilight Comes”

A Reading from the Book of Psalms

Psalm 22: 1-23

Read by Peggy Reins

P: In the silence of our Sanctuary, let us come to our loving God in prayer.

CALL TO PRAYER

Em G/D Am/C D Em C B7

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me. O

5 Em G/D Am/C D Em B7 Em *Last Time*

Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me. O

Last Time

SILENT PRAYERS

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE READING OF CHRIST'S PASSION

In the Garden

Read by Diane Meggs

Matthew 26: 36-46

Vocal Response: Stay with Me

The Arrest of Jesus

Read by Judy Paige

Matthew 26: 47-56

Musical Response

Jesus before the Sanhedrin:

Read by Beth Lanford

Matthew 26: 57-68

Musical Response

Peter Disowns Jesus:

Read by Barb Todd

Matthew 26: 69-75

Musical Response

Jesus Before Pilate:

Read by Rich Schneider

Matthew 27:11-26

Musical Response

The Crucifixion of Jesus:

Read by Ben Westphal

Matthew 27:27-50

SILENCE

THE CANDLES EXTINGUISHED

A READERS THEATER OUTCRY BASED ON PSALM 22

Pat Erdman, Rich Schneider, Pastor Lanford

SILENCE

THE TOLLING OF THE BELL

THE CHRIST CANDLE EXITS

What Wondrous Love is This?
The Return of a Light

Sung by Ben Westphal

The congregation is invited to leave the sanctuary, silently, as they feel ready.

FOR WORSHIP TONIGHT

MINISTER

Rev. Richard Lanford

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Ben Westphal

LIVESTREAM

Beth Lanford

News in the Pews

Welcome and thank you for attending our Good Friday Vespers service of Scripture, music, candlelight, song, silence and prayer.

There are offering plates in the Narthex and by the Schmidt Memorial window near the pulpit for any who wish to make an offering tonight.

Thank you to everyone who played a role in tonight's service, including our Deacon and live-streamer! We could not do it without you.

The bell tolls 33 times for each year (approximation) of Jesus' earthly life.

The candle brought in at the end represents Jesus' words to His disciples that the Son of Man would rise again on the 3rd day.

Following some Sanctuary and Easter Egg Hunt prep work tomorrow, we celebrate Christ's Resurrection in our Sunday 10 AM service! We will celebrate the Lord's Supper, sing some great hymns (with a little trumpet added), enjoy an Anthem, homily, and Scriptures. Then the young ones can take part in our Easter Egg Hunt prepared in our Gym (11:15) and then, for those who planned to stay for it, an Easter Brunch at 11:30 downstairs. There will not be any pews roped off, but we do ask that respect and some distance be given to those who for safety's sake come masked. The nursery will be attended, as it is every Sunday.
