



Welcome

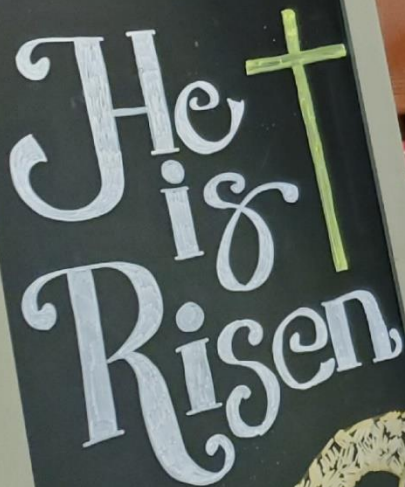
ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

Sunday,

March 31, 2024

10:00 AM

Easter Sunday



He
is
Risen





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/display?host=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 31, 2024 at 10:00am
Easter Sunday

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

PRELUDE “ Voluntary in D minor” by Stanley

PROCLAMATION OF THE RESURRECTION

Choir, Pastor, Ben: “The angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying.’”

Will those who are able please begin to rise!

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS AND ENTRY OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

HYMN "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" #167 (vv. 1, 2, 3)

You may choose to sing in verse 1, line 2, "All of us" instead of "Sons of men"

Andantino

1. Christ the Lord is risen to - day, Al - - le - lu - ia!
 2. Lives a - gain our glo - rious King, Al - - le - lu - ia!
 3. Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - - le - lu - ia!
 4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - - le - lu - ia!

Sons of men and an - gels say, Al - - le - lu - ia!
 Where, O death, is now thy sting? Al - - le - lu - ia!
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - - le - lu - ia!
 Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head, Al - - le - lu - ia!

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high, Al - - le - lu - ia!
 Once He died, our souls to save, Al - - le - lu - ia!
 Death in vain for - bids Him rise, Al - - le - lu - ia!
 Made like Him, like Him we rise, Al - - le - lu - ia!

Sing, ye heavens, and earth re - ply, Al - - le - lu - ia!
 Where's thy vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - - le - lu - ia!
 Christ has o - pened Par - a - dise, Al - - le - lu - ia!
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - - le - lu - ia! A-MEN.

CALL TO CONFESSION

P: The Apostle Paul wrote to the church at Corinth: “I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins . . . ” In the mystery of that atoning sacrifice, we come to this time of prayer, bringing our sins to the cross and the door of the empty tomb. If you haven’t done so already, please read the prayer of confession silently to yourselves now, in hopes of making it our own. Then we will pray it together aloud.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

A: **We cannot truly worship You, loving God, until we recognize how unloving we have been. We cannot truly live until we admit the many ways we have been dwelling in death. We cannot know forgiveness until we honestly face the wrong we have done and the good we have neglected.**

We admit before You now the anger and spite we have carried in our hearts, the doubts and fears we have allowed to paralyze us, the misplaced priorities that have led us away from Your will and way. Help us break down the barriers we have erected so we can experience this new, resurrection life today. In the name of the Risen Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

P: Paul speaks of Abraham's righteousness being reckoned to Abraham because of his faith, and continued, "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 our Lord Jesus from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification."

Friends, believe the Easter gospel: In Jesus Christ born, later crucified, and now risen, God's love has saved us from our sins. With justification comes forgiveness. Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection wash away our sins and give us a new, everlasting quality of life in this life and the next. "What then shall we say to this?"

**A: "If God is for us, who is against us?"
Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed!
Alleluia! Amen.**

HYMN "The Day of Resurrection" #165 (vv. 1, 2, 3)

Jubilantly

1. The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad,
2. Our hearts be pure from e - vil, That we may see a - right
3. Now let the heavens be joy - ful, Let earth her song be - gin;

The Pass - o - ver of glad - ness, The Pass - o - ver of God!
The Lord in rays e - ter - nal Of res - ur - rec - tion-light;
Let the round world keep tri - umph, And all that is there - in;

From death to life e - ter - nal, From this world to the sky,
And, lis - tening to His ac - cents, May hear, so calm and plain,
In - vis - i - ble and vis - i - ble, Their notes let all things blend,

Our Christ hath brought us o - ver With hymns of vic - to - ry.
His own "All hail!" and, hear - ing, May raise the vic - tor strain.
For Christ the Lord is ris - en, Our Joy that hath no end. A-MEN

Please be seated

THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peggy Reins

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Jennifer Schneider

The Epistle:

I Corinthians 15:1-11

The Gospel:

John 20:1-18

CHORAL ANTHEM “This Joyful Eastertide”

by Taylor

INTRODUCTION OF THE OFFERING

P: Since our cups run over with the gifts of grace,
Let us respond with our love and ourselves and our
gifts.

*As the ushers come forward, our morning offering will be given and
received at this time.*

OFFERTORY

“Te Deum”

by Charpentier

Will the congregation please rise to sing

DOXOLOGY

tune # 551

A: Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Praise God all creatures here below!

Praise God above, you heavenly host,

Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost!

PRAYER

A: O God, we thank You that Christ has entrusted us with the task of feeding Your people. Make us faithful, welcoming and courageous in our ministry of love and may we use these gifts to Your glory. Amen!

The congregation may be seated

HOMILY

“ What We Hand On”

Will the congregation please rise to sing

HYMN

“Christ Arose!”

SSB #39

1. Low in the grave he lay, Je-sus my Sav-ior, wait-ing the com-ing day,
 2. Vain-ly they watch his bed, Je-sus my Sav-ior; vain-ly they seal the dead
 3. Death can-not keep its prey, Je-sus my Sav-ior; he tore the bars a-way,

Refrain

Je-sus my Lord! Up from the grave he a-rose, (he a-rose) with a

might-y tri-umph o'er his foes; he a-rose a vic-tor from the
 (o'er his foes)

dark do-main, and he lives for-ev-er, with his saints to reign. He a-

rose! He a-rose! Hal-le-lu-jah! Christ a-rose!
 (he a-rose) (he a-rose)

The congregation may be seated

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

The Words of Institution

Participation

CLOSING PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

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**

Those who are able please stand.

HYMN

“Thine is the Glory”

(vv. 1, 2)

Inside the rear cover of the hymnal

1. Thine is the glo - ry, Ris - en, con-qu'ring Son; End-less is the
 2. Lo! Je - sus meets thee, Ris - en from the tomb; Lov-ing - ly he
 3. No more we doubt thee, Glo - rious Prince of Life! Life is nought with -

vic - t'ry Thou o'er death hast won. An - gels in bright rai - ment
 greets thee, Scat-ters fear and gloom; Let his church with glad-ness
 out thee; Aid us in our strife; Make us more than con-qu'rors,

Rolled the stone a - way, Kept the fold - ed grave - clothes
 Hymns of tri - umph sing, For her Lord now liv - eth;
 Through thy death-less love; Bring us safe through Jor - dan

REFRAIN

Where thy bod - y lay.
 Death hath lost its sting. Thine is the glo - ry, Ris - en, con-qu'ring Son;
 To thy home a - bove.

End - less is the vic - t'ry Thou o'er death hast won. A - MEN.

BENEDICTION *(with a Celtic flavor)*

P: May all the joy and excitement of this day be with us.

C: May the power of Christ's resurrection go with us.

P: May the good news of this wondrous day be with us.

C: May the promise and hope of Easter go with us.

P: May we in the days ahead, sing, pray, live, love, act and serve all for the glory of God. For Christ is risen!

A: Christ is risen indeed! A joyous Easter to all. Live boldly! Amen!

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

POSTLUDE "Fanfare on "Victory" by 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	Jenn Schneider
LIVESTREAMER	Beth Lanford
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Laura Olson



IN HONOR AND IN MEMORY EASTER 2024



Altmayer Family

**In Memory of Tom
Altmayer**

Barb & Sue Bailey

**In Memory of our Loved
Ones**

Ann Herren

**In Memory of Dr.
Eugenie Anderson**

Sharon Johnson

**In Memory of Susan &
Johnnie**

Lana Kahn

**In Memory of Grandma &
Grandpa Peterson and
our Loved Ones**

Chad and Peggy McCoy

**In Memory of John J.
McCoy and in Honor of
JoAnn McCoy**

Rita McMahan

**In Memory of Gary
McMahan and Raymond
McMahan**

Laurie Mitchell

**In Memory of John &
Nancy Kammin and Sam
Salamone**

Annie Noorts

**In Memory of my son
Charlie**

Judy Paige

**In Memory of Loved
Ones and In Honor of
Pastor and Beth Lanford**

Marlene Russell

**In Honor of Pastor
Richard and Beth**

Alice & Bill Schaller

**In Memory of Loved
Ones**

Beth Sterba

**In Honor of Barb & Jim
Todd to their dedication
to family and church**

James & Barbara Todd

**In Memory of our Loved
Ones**



News in the Pews

Alleluia! As the Risen Jesus greeted Mary (John 20:16), so he greets us. Welcome to Easter worship!

Thank you to everyone who played a role in putting this, and the Holy Week services together, including running the live-streaming. Thank all of you for coming here to praise the God of Resurrection together!

Those who ordered Easter flowers and are here, please come and take yours after the service, including the Postlude, has ended. Thank you!

Thank you very much to all of you who contributed to our gathering of items for our Kids Easter Egg Hunt!! It's really appreciated.

Sunday School classes resume at 9 AM next Sunday.

Let's Talk about Saying Goodbye- We have two special events planned to bid our Pastor and Beth a fond farewell, so save the dates. May 19th we're bringing back the Spaghetti Dinner. Then Sunday, June 30th (Pastor's last day) we'll have a formal dinner. More details on these will be given out closer to the events. We are taking donations now to offset the cost of the events, those can be directed as the "Lanford Celebration Fund."

Misericordia days are here again, and our very own Ricky can use your donations!! Ricky was born prematurely in January

2006 and as many of you know is developmentally about 5 years old - and is sunshine in human form. He has an intellectual disability and will not be able to live independently when his parents, members of St. Peter's, can no longer take care of him. Misericordia is a beautiful place that offers living arrangements and assistance to people like our Ricky. Please consider donating to this beautiful organization that helps people that are unable to care for themselves, *and use the link following to do it, to make sure the Riley family gets credited.* <https://secure.frontstream.com/misericordiacandydays2024/participant/AnnaRiley>
Thank you so much for your consideration!

Come back or tune in next Sunday because the story is far from over! Be part of it!

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Our People

A Birthday this week belongs to Kristine Mau. Happy Birthday!

Earlier this week Jane ABRAMCHIK was hospitalized in Evanston but she may now be in a rehabilitation facility.

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 WE ARE VERY LOW! 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!

About Communion: All Christians and seekers after God are invited in to partake of the Lord's Supper here regardless of denominational background. We practice open Communion. We do, however, ask our own St. Peter's U.C.C. young folk to first go through the Communicants Class (6th grade), and both Drew and Jake Ryan have recently done so. If you are with us in person, the ushers will come to the pews with trays, with pre-filled cups of wine or juice as designated. The wafer is on top. When the Pastor prompts us, please have peeled off the top layer of the cup covering to get at the wafer, then pull the wafer off to eat. If you are worshipping with us on-line, the prayer of consecration extends to all who participate wherever you are and whenever you partake of the service (thank You, Holy Spirit!). When prompted, please take whatever bread you have set aside for yourself and anyone with you, take and eat as prompted; when it's time for the cup, please do the same with whatever you have put in your cup at home (juice, wine, water, etcetera).



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

MISSION MOMENTS

March 31, 2024

Easter Sunday

“Now What?”

Mark 16:1-8

The gospel story this morning begins with two women setting out to perform a routine task. These women, along with their companions and good friends have had a most disconcerting week. First they saw Jesus - the one who is to them teacher and healer and leader - welcomed into the city of Jerusalem, only to see the crowd and those closest to him turn on him, and then to witness his excruciating death. Now these two women – these two Marys – are heading toward the tomb to perform the distressing but necessary task of anointing the body of their friend who has died. A difficult task, yes, but a routine one.

Coming to the tomb to complete their task they find not, as they had expected, the heavy stone and the body of their teacher but instead a young man in white, an angel who gives them instructions that the text tells us they are too frightened to repeat.

Although some verses were added later, most scholars agree that the gospel of Mark originally ended here.: "So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid." Not only does this verse fail to provide proper narrative closure, writes preacher Tom Long, it also lurches to an awkward grammatical stop. A more literal translation would read, "To no one anything they said; afraid they were for..." It is almost as if the author of this gospel of Mark had suddenly been dragged from his writing desk in mid-sentence

Perhaps they were afraid because they realized in seeing the impossibly heavy stone moved easily away, in seeing the empty space where the dead body they had come to anoint was supposed to have been should have been that Jesus really was who he said he was. He was not only a teacher or a healer or a leader and their friend, but the Christ. And if that is true, and they really are going to follow him, it means the Marys' lives are going to be anything but routine from now on.

So, for a while they said nothing, as this new reality took root in their souls. But they couldn't keep silent forever. We know that, because although those two first witnesses said nothing to anyone, here you are on Easter morning twenty centuries later and half a world away, telling their story. It was a story too powerful, too holy, and too good to keep silent.

Happy Easter! This is your story now! And that awkward ending? It's not the end. It's just the beginning.

1 Corinthians 15:1 - 11

¹Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you,

which you in turn received,

in which also you stand,

²through which also you are being saved,

if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you

—unless you have come to believe in vain.

³For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas (pron. KAY-phass), then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

John 20:1-18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know

where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself.

Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher).

Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.