



Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

Sunday,
March 17, 2024
10:00 AM

Fifth 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=paypal-merchant-directory&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

RESPONSE

"O Worship the King"

#10 (v.1)

1. O wor - ship the King, all glo - rious a - bove,
 2. O tell of His might, O sing of His grace,
 3. Thy boun - ti - ful care, what tongue can re - cite?
 4. Frail chil - dren of dust, and fee - ble as frail,

O grate - ful - ly sing His power and His love;
 Whose robe is the light, whose can - o - py space;
 It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
 In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail;

Our Shield and De - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,
 His char - iots of wrath the deep thun - der - clouds form,
 It streams from the hills, it de - scends to the plain,
 Thy mer - cies how ten - der, how firm to the end,

Pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor, and gird - ed with praise.
 And dark is His path on the wings of the storm.
 And sweet - ly dis - tils in the dew and the rain.
 Our Ma - ker, De - fend - er, Re - deem - er, and Friend! A - MEN.

CALL TO CONFESSION *First John 1:8,9*

P: "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

P: So let us claim this promise and come before our God with honest hearts and words, yearning to be made whole.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

A: Merciful God,

**We confess that we have sinned against You
In thought, word and deed.**

We have not loved You

With our whole heart and mind and strength;

We have not loved our neighbor as ourselves.

In Your mercy, forgive what we have been,

Help us amend what we are,

And direct what we shall be,

So that we may delight in Your will

And walk in Your ways,

To the glory of Your holy name.

TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION

P: In Christ's name we pray.

C: Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *Jeremiah 31:20*

P: "Is Ephraim my dear son? Is he the child I delight in? As often as I speak against him, I still remember him. Therefore I am deeply moved for him; I will surely have mercy on him, says the Lord."

As God had mercy on one of the 12 tribes of Jacob, how much more will God have mercy and forgive those who are following God's Son Jesus, in whom we believe, who died for our sins and was raised to defeat death? His love covers a multitude, as in all, of our sins, and in His name we are forgiven. Let the congregation join me in acclaim and praise, saying . . .

A: Thanks be to God!

HYMN "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" **SSB #6**

1 O for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
 2 My gra-cious Sav-ior and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
 3 Je-sus! the name that calms our fears, that bids our sor-rows cease
 4 Glo-ry to God, and love and praise be ev-er, ev-er given

The glo-ries ev-er ech-o-ing the tri-umphs of God's grace!
 To spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.
 Is mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, is life, and health, and peace!
 By all the saints in ev-ery age, the church in earth and heaven.

The congregation may be seated

MISSION MOMENT

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

The Prophet:

David Iannotti
Jeremiah 31:31-34

Gospel:

John 12:20-33

CHORAL ANTHEM

"Good Soil"

by Hanson

Will those who are able please rise

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *The United Church of Christ Statement of Faith (In the form of a Doxology)*

**We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit,
God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God,
and to your deeds we testify:
You call the worlds into being,
create persons in your own image,
and set before each one the ways of life and death.**

**You seek in holy love to save all people from
aimlessness and sin.**

**You judge people and nations by your righteous will
declared through prophets and apostles.**

**In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and
risen Savior,
you have come to us
and shared our common lot,
conquering sin and death
and reconciling the world to yourself.**

**You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit,
creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues,
and races.**

**You call us into your church
to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,
to be your servants in the service of others,
to proclaim the gospel to all the world
and resist the powers of evil,
to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,
to join him in his passion and victory.**

**You promise to all who trust you
forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,
courage in the struggle for justice and peace,
your presence in trial and rejoicing,
and eternal life in your realm which has no end.**

**Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you.
Amen.**

RESPONSE Gloria Creator tune #493

A: Gloria 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.

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 “We Give Thee But Thine Own” #258 (v.1)

1. We give Thee but Thine own, What - e'er the gift may be:
 2. May we Thy boun - ties thus As stew - ards true re - ceive,
 3. To com - fort and to bless, To find a balm for woe,
 4. The cap - tive to re - lease, To God the lost to bring,
 5. And we be - lieve Thy word, Though dim our faith may be:

All that we have is Thine a - lone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.
 And glad - ly, as Thou bless - est us, To Thee our first fruits give.
 To tend the lone and fa - ther - less, Is an - gels' work be - low.
 To teach the way of life and peace - It is a Christ - like thing.
 What - e'er for Thine we do, O Lord, We do it un - to Thee. A - MEN.

The congregation may be seated

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

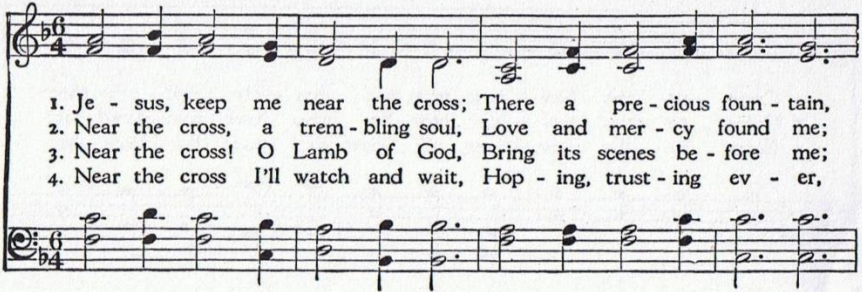
A: We dedicate these offerings, great God, to the proclamation of Your Word, the teaching of Your ways, and the living of Your will for all humankind. We reach out with joy and gladness to offer Your love to the world. May these gifts enable the sharing of Your presence with many who have not experienced a sense of their own value as Your children. As we keep covenant with You, we would also share its joys and obligations with our neighbors. In the majestic name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

The congregation may be seated

SERMON “Wishing to See Jesus”

Will those who are able please stand up

HYMN "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross" #462

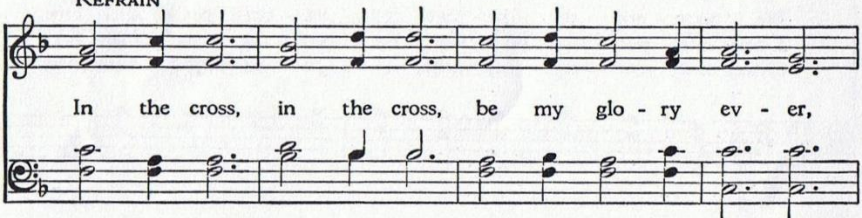


1. Je - sus, keep me near the cross; There a pre - cious foun - tain,
 2. Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, Love and mer - cy found me;
 3. Near the cross! O Lamb of God, Bring its scenes be - fore me;
 4. Near the cross I'll watch and wait, Hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,

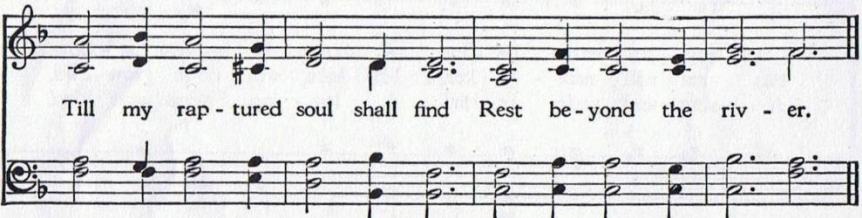


Free to all— a heal - ing stream—Flows from Cal - vary's moun - tain.
 There the bright and morn - ing Star Shed its beams a - round me,
 Help me walk from day to day With its shad - ow o'er me.
 Till I reach the heav - en - ly land, Just be - yond the riv - er.

REFRAIN



In the cross, in the cross, be my glo - ry ev - er,



Till my rap - tured soul shall find Rest be - yond the riv - er.

CHARGE *from Colossians 3*

P: “As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

C: Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

P: Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.”

BENEDICTION *2nd Thessalonians 3:16*

P: “Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in all ways. The Lord be with all of you.”

POSTLUDE

“Near the Cross”

by L. Berry

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	Maria Altmayer
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Beth Lanford
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Heidi Tarzian

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!

News in the Pews

We're so glad you are here! Dear ones, welcome to worship as we gather in Jesus' name as one family in God's embrace. Amen.

After worship, everyone is invited downstairs for a special Coffee Hour, hosted by Alice and Bill Schaller on the occasion of their 61st wedding anniversary yesterday!

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

Despite earlier announcements to the contrary, the Church Council will NOT be meeting after worship this Sunday, but will meet after worship and Coffee Hour next Sunday, March 24th. If you are responsible for a report, please submit it to the Council Drop box as soon as you are able. Thank you!

The Lenten Soup-n-Study concludes this week on Wednesday the 20th, meeting from 6:30 to 8:00 PM in the Memorial Room. We'll be exploring John 11:32-44

Candy and tiny toys needed for our Easter Egg Hunt. No Chocolate please. Items are being collected in the Memorial Room.

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!

PALM SUNDAY is Next Sunday! It's the beginning of Holy Week, and we'll have services on Maundy Thursday with Communion (3/28) and Good Friday (3/29) at 7 PM!

EASTER (3/31) No Sunday School; resumes April Worship with Communion begins at 10 AM (Attended Nursery), Easter Egg Hunt 11:15 AM, then Easter Brunch 11:30 AM.

BUNCO items needed!! We are collecting Bunco items for BUNCO April 27th. Brand new items of any type are welcome, you can bring them to the office or give them to Carol Iannotti. Reservations for large tables for Bunco are also being taken, contact the office or Carol at (847) 673-4146.

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.

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Our People

Birthdays this week belong to Maria Altmayer, Angela Kuras, Matthew Riley and Haley Kahn. Alice and Bill Schaller celebrate their 61st wedding anniversary this week, too! Best wishes to all.

Using our facilities this week is violin teacher Jay Pike (Tues. and Thurs. lessons).

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!

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!



MISSION MOMENTS

March 17, 2024

Fifth Sunday in Lent

“Deep In Our Hearts”

Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah.
Jeremiah 31:32

One of the distinct features of many United Church of Christ conferences, associations and congregations compared to other faith communities is their commitment to become Open and Affirming (O&A). O&A is a stance of radical welcome to LGBTQIA+ people. Because church communities have historically been places of hurt and exclusion, it is even more imperative that churches who are Open and Affirming take a strong and public stance.

A little over a year ago, the ONA Coalition welcomed a new executive director, The Rev. Katrina Roseboro-Marsh. According to a UCC news story that came out at the time,* She is the first Black woman to head the coalition. “I am honored and excited for this opportunity,” she said. “I realize how important my selection is, and I recognize the magnitude of what this opportunity will mean for the LGBTQIA+ community. I accept this challenge because the coalition has laid the sturdy groundwork to make its

next steps forward in reimagining and revisioning, with regeneration as a goal.”

Roseboro-Marsh has more than 16 years of experience as a clinician. Her particular focus has been working with clients who identify as LGBTQIA+, as well as those who also identify as African American with an active religious and/or spiritual practice.

“We are excited to welcome Dr. Katrina to our team because of her unique voice, energy and experience,” said search committee chair and Coalition Leadership Team member the Rev. Derek Terry. “With the current attack on queerness in schools and communities across the country, we feel an obligation to protect and ensure the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community.

Terry added that “while some work to erase the experiences of BIPOC people from the pages of history books,” Roseboro-Marsh will “increase our advocacy work through an intentionally more intersectional approach.”

Roseboro-Marsh is ordained clergy and holds ministerial standing with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the Fellowship of Affirming Ministries. She is married to the Rev. Tana Roseboro-Marsh; they reside on the east coast with their Morkie, Xola Darling Roseboro-Marsh.

*<https://www.ucc.org/new-ona-director-global-ministries-exec-among-recent-hires/>

Jeremiah 31:31 – 34

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

John 12:20 - 33

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.