



Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

Sunday,

April 3,

2022

10:00 AM

**Fifth Sunday in
Lent**



40 DAYS
OF
Lent



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/paypalme/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 Sunday, April 3, at 10:00am

Fifth Sunday in Lent

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

PRELUDE "Herzliebster Jesu" by J. Kantor

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS Jen Schneider

Those who are able please stand.

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: Lent is a coming home,

C: Home from weary years,

P: Home to calm our fears,

C: Home to dry our tears.

P: Lent is a coming home,

C: Home to remember our name,

P: Home to a warm embrace,

C: Home to a hopeful place,

P: Home to God's own heart,

C: Home to a renewal of joy and a song of love.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

A: Suffering God, you told us to deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Jesus. We're still not sure we want to go that far. We had hoped that becoming followers in this day and age would be a more rational business; we had hoped to fit our religion in the spare corners of our lives. It wasn't supposed to be an inconvenience. Yet you continue to call us, and we squirm uncomfortably. Teach us to respond gratefully to your invitation. Teach us to sacrifice — not only for others, but for you. And take what we can give right now, transforming it into an offering of our deepest selves. In your Son's name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

P: "Since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by God's grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith . . . it was to prove at the present time that God's own Self is righteous, and justifies the one who has faith in Jesus" (Romans 3:23-25a, 26).

Friends believe the gospel: In Jesus Christ crucified and risen, God's love redeems us and forgives us. Our sins no longer stand in the way of our relationship with God! In laying hold of this amazing grace, let the congregation join me in praise by saying . .

A: Thanks be to God! Amen.

HYMN "The Old Rugged Cross" SSB #10 (vv. 1, 2, 3)



1 On a hill far a - way stood an old rug - ged cross,
 2 Oh, that old rug - ged cross so de - spised by the world,
 3 In the old rug - ged cross, stained with blood so di - vine,
 4 To the old rug - ged cross I will ev - er be true,



the em - blem of suf - f'ring and shame;
 has a won - drous at - trac - tion for me;
 a won - drous beau - ty I see;
 its shame and re - proach glad - ly bear;



and I love that old cross where the dear - est and best
 for the dear Lamb of God left his glo - ry a - bove,
 for 'twas on that old cross Je - sus suf - fered and died,
 Christ will call me some day to my home far a - way,



for a world of lost sin - ners was slain.
 to . . . bear it to dark Cal - va - ry.
 to . . . par - don and sanc - ti - fy me.
 where his glo - ry for - ev - er I'll share.



So I'll cher - ish the old rug - ged cross, till my



tro - phies at last I lay down; I will cling to the old rug - ged



cross, and ex - change it some day for a crown.

Text: George Bennard. 1873–1958

Music: THE OLD RUGGED CROSS. George Bennard. 1873–1958

Please be seated.

WORDS ABOUT OFFERINGS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Annie Noorts

The Prophet:

Isaiah 43:16-21

The Epistle:

Philippians 3:4b-14

MUSICAL MEDITATION “Ebenezer”

by T. Williams

CALL TO PRAYER

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of two systems of music. The first system contains measures 1 through 4, and the second system contains measures 5 through 8. Each system has a treble clef staff with a vocal line and a bass clef staff with a guitar accompaniment line. Chord symbols are placed above the treble staff. The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

Chords: Em, G/D, Am/C, D, Em, C, B⁷, Em, B⁷, Em

Lyrics:
 O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me. O
 Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me. O

Measure 8 includes the instruction *Last Time* with a fermata over the final note.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND SILENT PRAYERS

HOMILY

“A New Thing, Inside and Out”

Rev. Richard Lanford

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Exhortation and Invitation

Rev. Lanford

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.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Consecration

RESPOND

153

Eat of This Bread

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a tempo marking of ♩=65. 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, and Ab.

The Words of Institution

Participation in the Sacrament of Holy Communion

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 “Whatever Gains I've Had”

Please sing to the tune of "The God of Abraham Praise"

**Whatever gains I've had, whatever my success,
Whatever I've accomplished when I've done my best —
I count it all as loss compared to what was done
When God redeemed my life by sending Christ the Son.**

**I've lived through many days; there's much that I have
learned.**

**I've planned and prospered, faced new challenge,
worked and earned.**

**Yet no affirming word, no merit or award,
Can ever be as great as knowing Christ my Lord.**

**There's power in his death — in loving sacrifice.
There's power in God's gift of everlasting life.
Because I am God's own, I press on toward the goal:
To know my Savior and in him to be made whole.**

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CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

P: May you know hope in the midst of doubts, assurance in times of questioning and peace in the presence of conflict. May your journey through Lent lead you ever closer to the heart of God, and may God walk with you all your days.

C: Amen!

POSTLUDE “The God of Abraham’s Praise”

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	Dan Guenther
LIVESTREAM	Beth Lanford
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Carolyn Van Til

News in the Pews

Good Morning on this fifth Sunday in Lent. God is always creating, always doing something new (Isaiah 43:18-19). Welcome to worship, where we listen for the new word God has for us today.

Yesterday at Haben's Funeral Home we gave God thanks for the life of Carol Burmeister, 85, who died early on the morning of March 25th. She was interred in the St. Peter U.C.C. Cemetery, and we are grateful to the Women's Guild for hosting a post-burial light lunch afterwards in the Memorial Room. You can send cards to Ralph at Celebrate Senior Living, 7000 N. Newark Ave., Room 432, Niles, IL 60714. (It is no longer Elevate Saint Andrews).

We are always grateful for any and all offerings to the church. No amount is too small! You can support our work (and thus, your work too) by mailing in a check, signing up for electronic giving, or using PayPal as indicated on the pew information cards. Thank you very much for giving!

Donations needed for Misericordia through Ricky Riley! Fellow congregants and friends the Riley and Hook families, need your help to raise funds during Misericordia's Candy Days fundraiser. They hope to find space for him there when he grows up, *and being able to raise funds is a big part of that.* Please use this link so they get credited to find out more and how to donate: <https://secure.frontstream.com/misericordia-candy-days-2022/participant/AnnaRiley> and please donate; you'd be making a big difference in their goals and his life. If you'd like to write a

check, forms are available in the narthex. A HUGE thank you to those who've already donated!!!

Village Inn Food Fundraiser is April 24th! Eat in, carryout or have delivered this delicious food and mention St. Peter's UCC to your server and we'll get 20% of whatever you spend! Thanks so much, mark your calendars!

CANDY DONATIONS NEEDED: We are seeking candy donations to stuff Easter Eggs for our St Peter's children! We are not going to do an actual Hunt this year, we will have Rainbow Bags of filled eggs and candy for our families' children at the Easter Coffee Hour!

Mark May 7th to come to the "Welcome Spring" Craft Show to possibly volunteer and of course shop! Please be sure to tell all your friends and neighbors of our celebrating Spring's arrival. Also we'll have St. Peter's finest Bake Sale so please make cookies or brownies if you can!

BUNCO is May 21st and prizes are needed now!! New items of all kinds are welcomed and needed. Bunco is a HUGE fundraiser so talk to your local businesses, your work and vendors you use are good ways to solicit donations, we will advertise and thank them during the event. Talk to Carol I. with any questions, she's a pro at getting items donated. Items can be brought to the church office or given to Carol. Thanks so much!!

Our People

Believe it or not, the Church Council meets next Sunday, April 10th after worship. If you are responsible for a report, please submit it to the Council / April Dropbox as soon as you can this week. Thank you!

Pastor will be attending the monthly meetings of the Niles Township Clergy Forum (8:30 AM, on 4 / 6 over Zoom) and the CMA Cluster 1 at the First Congregational Church, U.C.C., of Des Plaines on Thursday the 7th from 10 AM to Noon.

This coming Saturday, April 9th, we are asking folks to please come over at 10 AM and help us move bags of rummage upstairs from the Gym by the stage apron.

The deadline for Easter Flower orders has passed.

Hospitalized: Dorothy Panzke was admitted to Swedish Hospital early last week after having no appetite and not eating for 5 days. She is at home now.

According to the schedule, the Lector next Sunday (Palm Sunday!) is Karen Christianson, and the Nursery will be attended by Kathy Zipperer.

Celebrating a birthday this week is Bruce and Linda Mau's daughter Kris.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

PRESIDENT	Jenn Schneider
VICE-PRESIDENT	Judy Paige
TREASURER	Chad McCoy
SECRETARY	Carolyn Kuechler
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Maria Altmayer

Regular Reminders!

About Communion: For those worshipping in-person with us, we hope you picked up one of the wafer-covered Communion cups as you entered the sanctuary. Peeling off the top layer will get you to the wafer; the foil covering will open the cup to you. If you are joining us via the livestream, we invite folks to have ready with them some piece of bread and a cup of something (wine, water, juice) for the elements. As always, we will partake together in the Spirit (although perhaps apart in space and time) when the Pastor prompts us.

Please remember that we can always use food contributions for the Mini-Pantry! There are now copies of a list of suggestions and items by the narthex and on the shelves where the food is kept by the offices. Take one home! Demand has increased considerably since it was first installed last September. We always appreciate what is brought in, and the need does not go away. Perhaps if you are employed you could ask about doing a collection at your job. Thank you!

Pastor's podcast is available wherever you listen to podcasts! Just type in "The Redheaded Preacher" and you'll find us! Pastor's weekly podcasts include the prior Sunday's scriptures and sermon, and some words and prayer from Pastor just for the listeners of the podcast!



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

MISSION MOMENTS

April 3, 2022

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 43:16-21

Something New

Ramadan begins

On this day, the prophet Isaiah boldly declares God's plan to do a new thing. It is one of the blessings of the scheduled lectionary readings that this is also the first day of Ramadan for our Muslim brothers and sisters. This month of fasting marks the month that the words of the Qur'an were revealed to the prophet Muhammad and is a time of growing closer to the Holy One.

As people of the Word, we are siblings with our Muslim neighbors. Yet, historically, the relationship between Christians and Muslims has been fraught with misunderstanding and even violence.

How might your church or conference be part of a new thing done in God's name, as we begin to rewrite that history by building bridges where traditionally there have been walls?

The New York Conference of the United Church of Christ has built a bridge by providing resources for education and inspiration. The

conference has added a web page about supporting Muslim neighbors to their website. Besides personal narratives, it provides quotes and helpful resources for those wanting to learn and read more. You can read them here:

<http://uccny.org/resources/resources-to-support-muslim-neighbors/>

Some churches have taken the next step, from education to action. The United Church of Christ Pacific Northwest Conference encourages churches to do a new thing by honoring their Muslim neighbors very tangibly during Ramadan. These churches were invited to do one or more of these actions:

- 1) Hang a banner or change their message boards in a way that honors our Muslim neighbors.
- 2) Take time to make an appointment to visit a local mosque or Islamic center to bring greetings from their local congregation.
- 3) Consider hosting an event to learn more about Islam and make a special effort to speak up against anti-Muslim rhetoric.

You can read more about the Pacific Northwest Conference's outreach to the Muslim community during Ramadan here:

https://www.ucc.org/honoring_sacred_time_uniting_ucc_muslim_faith_community_in_pacific_northwest/

Learn more about the United Church of Christ at www.ucc.org.

ISAIAH 43:16-21

"Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:

Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.

I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise."

PHILIPPIANS 3:4b-14

"If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the

righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus."

JOHN 12:1-8

"Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.)

Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."