



Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

Sunday,
March 20,
2022
10:00 AM

**Third Sunday of
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&from=seller=&to=buyer=&source=paypal) 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, March 20, 2022 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 Now Thank We All Our God arr. Callahan

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS Jen Schneider

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: We have gathered in the presence of God, who is love.

C: *We have gathered in the shadow of the cross, sign of God's love.*

P: Let us give thanks for the compassion of God, the grace of Jesus Christ, and the unity of the Holy Spirit.

A: We will pray and sing, praising God with hearts and hands and voices!

Those who are able please stand.

OPENING RESPONSE "Now Thank We All Our God"

#72 (v.1)

1. Now thank we all our God With heart, and hands, and voi - ces,
 2. O may this boun-teous God Through all our life be near us,
 3. All praise and thanks to God, The Fa - ther, now be giv - en,

Who won - drous things hath done, In whom His world re - joi - ces;
 With ev - er joy - ful hearts And bless - ed peace to cheer us;
 The Son, and Him who reigns With them in high - est heav - en,

Who from our moth - ers' arms Hath blest us on our way
 To keep us in His grace, And guide us when per - plexed,
 The One E - ter - nal God, Whom earth and heaven a - dore;

With count - less gifts of love, And still is ours to - day.
 And free us from all ills In this world and the next.
 For thus it was, is now, And shall be ev - er - more. A-MEN.

CALL TO CONFESSION

P: “Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon God while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that God may have mercy on them, and to our God, for God will abundantly pardon.”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we acknowledge that when the going gets rough, we begin to assert ourselves and our own needs, and we pull back from community. Like the Israelites in the desert, we murmur and complain; we criticize and blame. In Your compassion, forgive us; help us, through the grace of Jesus Christ, to maintain our unity of purpose and commitment even in the wilderness days. For it is in Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

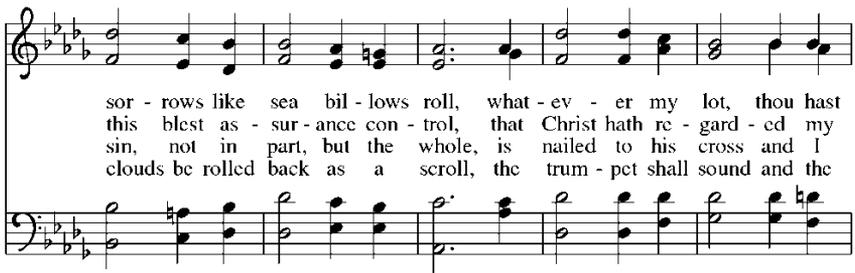
“For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45). In giving up his life in his suffering, death and burial, Jesus served the world and saved the world, if the world saw such grace and let it change them. All the same, Christ gave his life that we may be freed from our sins and the guilt of them, and freed for service and self-giving love. Our sins are forgiven! What can you and I say to such tidings of salvation?

A: Thanks be to God! Amen.

HYMN "Peace Like a River (It is Well)" SSB #24 (vv. 1,2,3)



1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when
 2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let
 3 He lives—oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my
 4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the



sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast
 this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my
 sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I
 clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.
 help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
 bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
 Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.

Refrain



It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.
 It is well with my soul.

Please be seated.

WORDS ABOUT OFFERINGS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Judy Paige

The Prophet:

Isaiah 55:1-9

Epistle:

I Corinthians 10:1-13

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Seek the Lord

by Heimhaus

Those who are able please stand.

GOSPEL

Luke 13: 1-9

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*

Please be seated.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND SILENT PRAYERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER ('debts')

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*

SERMON

"Listen Carefully and Live"

Rev. Richard Lanford

Those who are able please stand.

HYMN “We Pray for Peace”

(Please sing to the tune of Finlandia, aka "This is My Song")

**We pray for peace, O God of love and justice,
as once again, we face a time of war.**

**The meek and humble try— amid the crisis—
to love and build, to nurture and restore.**

**May leaders hear the truth the prophets teach us—
that gifts of peace are worth the struggling for.**

**We pray for peace, O Christ who calmed the waters—
who stilled the storm, who stilled disciples’ fear.**

**You spoke with love and with amazing power
be with us now when trouble is so near.**

**May leaders see the miracle you offer—
that words and deeds can calm the nations here.**

**We pray for peace, O Spirit here among us;
your love emboldens, judges and restrains.**

**Take any hate and acts of impulse from us;
make leaders wise, amid competing claims.**

**May we seek peace, O God of love and justice;
may love and mercy be our highest aims.**

*(Text: Copyright © 2022 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.
Permission is given for free use of this hymn, including online. Rev. Winfrey
Gillette wrote this text the morning of Tuesday, Feb. 22nd).*

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

P: Our Lenten journey marches still onward. Jesus sets his face toward Jerusalem, and we travel that road with him. There are no faithful detours, nor can we rush to the end of the story. But in the meantime of Lent, we can live, move and have our being in a God who assures us: “I am going to open the graves, and you shall know I am the Lord.” Let us depart in hope and confidence that, although the wilderness of Lent stretches still before us, God’s promises go with us, today and always.

C: Amen!

POSTLUDE

Finlandia

arr. Raney

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

Beth Lanford

NURSERY ATTENDANT

Annie Noorts

News in the Pews

Welcome to worship this third Sunday in Lent. God invites us through Isaiah: “All you who are thirsty, come to the waters” (55:1, NIV). Jesus, the Living Water, is eager to quench your parched soul.

Thanks to everyone who serves in the ministries of the church this morning: in Sunday School, Nursery, worship, administration and live-streaming.

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!

Today’s Call to Worship and Prayer of Confession are reprinted by permission from the publisher of *Flames of the Spirit*, ed. Ruth C. Duck. Copyright 1985 The Pilgrim Press.

The Lenten Bible Study started March 9th. Time is running out to still join in; Pastor has some extra books. We are studying a book with a Biblical discussion guide. The book is *The Third Reconstruction* by the Rev. William Barber II and Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove. See Pastor if you need a study guide, schedule of lessons, a book, and to tell him you're participating, since the Zoom link will come from the Lanfords! As of now we are starting over Zoom.

The Church Council meets today after worship!

The deadline for the April newsletter is tomorrow.

TODAY IS ALSO our Village Inn Fundraiser! From 11 to 11, eat-in, carry-out or delivery, whatever you order (and mention you are with the St. Peter's U.C.C. fundraiser when you do) will help St. Peter's, because afterward the Village Inn will give the church 20% of all proceeds from your orders! We hope you can participate, and thank you if you do.

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!

Our People

According to the schedule next Sunday's lector is Barb Todd, and the Nursery will be attended by Heidi Tarzian.

Celebrating birthdays this week are Haley Kahn, Jason Iannotti and Lois Dennis' son-in-law John Balling Our best wishes to all!

An early heads-up that Office Manager Laura Olson will be out of the office on a few days' vacation on Monday through Wednesday, March 28th through the 30th.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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

Regular Reminders!

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!



MISSION MOMENTS

March 20, 2022

Third Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 55:1-9

Open Invitation

Amistad Sunday

Among the resolutions at the United Church of Christ's 2021 General Synod gathering, was a resolution declaring racism to be a public health crisis. On this Amistad Sunday, we remember the brave captives aboard a slave ship who took on the system of slavery through the legal system. Nearly two hundred years later, people of faith are still called to address the systems and institutions that perpetuate racism. Only by addressing these systems of oppression can the evil of racism be dismantled. We follow a Christ who himself took on systems and institutions that perpetuated power for a few at the expense of a marginalized many. How is your faith community living out the powerful language of this General Synod resolution? Portions of the resolution follow:

"...WHEREAS "racism is a marriage of racist policies and racist ideas that produces and normalizes racial inequities," in the words of Ibram X. Kendi.

WHEREAS without exception and across generations, racial inequities persist in every system of society—as evidenced through health care access, education, criminal justice,

employment, housing, access to food and clean water, services to youth, older adults, and persons with disabilities, organizational leadership, governmental office, voting, and immigration, among many others—and thus a specific anti-racist lens is required for health equity and broader systemic change.

WHEREAS inequities based on race also intersect with other dimensions of identity—such as income, sex, gender, sexuality, citizenship and incarceration status, geographic location and housing status, ability, education, language proficiency, etc.— and thus racial justice is a necessary method from which to respond to other intersecting oppressions impacting health and equity overall.

WHEREAS public health promotes and protects the health of people and the communities and environments in which they live, learn, work and play.

WHEREAS the word crisis comes from the ancient Greek word that means “turning point,” and comes from the verb meaning “to decide”—thus connoting a call to change and action.

WHEREAS framing racism as an issue of public health rallies and compels faith communities, organizations, and the government to address the crisis through systemic change, in the same way other threats to public health have been addressed, such as through policies, practices, enforcement, education, and support services....”

“...NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Thirty-Third General Synod of the United Church of Christ declares racism a public health crisis
”

You can find more of the implications and calls for action that are the result of this bold resolution here:

<https://www.generalsynod.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Racism-Public-Health.pdf>

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

Isaiah 55:1 - 9

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.
See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.
See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to
you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.
Seek the LORD while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ.

Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall.

No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

Luke 13:1 - 9

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam (pron. Sy-LOW-am) fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

2022 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 27, 2022

Quantity	Type	Price	Total
	Easter Lily 6" pot	10.50	
	Azalea 6" pot	19.00	
	Hyacinth 4 bloom	9.00	
	Tulip 5-6 blooms	7.00	
	Rieger Begonia 6'	10.00	
Total			

Name & Phone

In Honor/In Memory of:
