



Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,
March 22,
2026
10:00 AM**

**Fifth Sunday in
Lent**





Welcome to Worship!

SUNDAYS @ 10:00AM

In-person Worship. All are welcome to join us

Livestream on YouTube. Live at 10am then available on our channel after



Ways to Give

Send a Check. Mail to the address below ... this way still works fine!

Send with Zelle. Use your banking app to send to finance@stpeteruccskokie.org

Use PayPal. <https://www.paypal.me/stpeteruccskokie>

Set up Vanco. <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZCME/home>

Set up your account or log in to give



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. Brenda Barnes Jamieson (Interim Pastor): pastor@stpeteruccskokie.org

Ben Westphal (Music Director): bcwestphal@gmail.com

Laura Olson (Office Manager): office@stpeteruccskokie.org

Office hours Mon-Fri 9am to 2pm

Facebook/Instagram/YouTube: @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

GATHERING HYMN "Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

1 Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life a - new
 2 Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,
 3 Breathe on me, Breath of God, stir in me one de - sire:
 4 Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev - er die,

That I may love the way you love and do what you would do.
 Un - til with you I will one will, to do and to en - dure.
 That ev - ery earth - ly part of me may glow with ho - ly fire.
 But live with you the per - fect life of your e - ter - ni - ty.

TRENTHAM S.M.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

All: Out of the depths of despair, we cry to you, O God.

We are lost in a world of pain and suffering.

When we put our trust in weapons of war, we find no peace. When we put our faith in our own resources, we feel the ache of our true needs.

When we put our hope in the health of our bodies, we suffer pain and find no healing. Come to us, O God. Forgive our doubts and fears. Heal our brokenness, that we may rejoice in your steadfast love. Amen.

Pause for quiet reflection

WORDS OF GRACE

One: Hear the good news of the gospel. There is nothing we can do and nothing that can be done to us that will ever stop God from loving us.

All: In Jesus our Christ, we are forgiven. We are loved. We are being made whole.

One: Thanks be to God!

All: Amen!

PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

A: And also with you!

Share a sign of God's peace: a smile, a wave, an elbow bump, a handshake, a hug. Let us fill this space with love.

SUNG RESPONSE

**And God will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of God's hand.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rita McMahon

Hebrew Scripture

Ezekiel 37:1-14

You may wish to stand for the reading of the Gospel.

GOSPEL LESSON

John 12:1-45

Please be seated.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Beach Spring"

arr. Davis

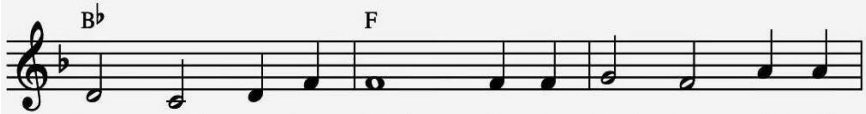
SERMON

"Unbind and Let Go"

HYMN "Lord, If Only You Had Been Here"



1. "Lord, if on - ly you had been here, one I
 2. "Lord, if on - ly you had been here!" Je - sus
 3. "Lord, if on - ly you had been here," we cry
 4. When we share your res - ur - rec - tion, when we



love would not have died." Mar - tha shared her grief with
 heard these words a - gain. Mar - y, sit - ting here, home and
 out when all goes wrong— when our grief is ov - er -
 know that you are life, we find cour - age for our



Je - sus in these words she sad - ly cried.
 wait - ing, spoke to Je - sus of her pain.
 whelm - ing, when life's trou - bles seem so strong.
 liv - ing in this world of pain and strife.



Je - sus said, "I'm res - ur - rec - tion. Mar - tha, do you
 So our Lord was deep - ly trou - bled in this world of
 Then, O Lord, we hear your an - swer: "I am res - ur -
 We your church will work for jus - tice, wel - come strang - ers,



know it's true? I'm the life for which you're long - ing."
 death and sin. Some - times all we see is strug - gle;
 rec - tion— See! Not just in some dis - tant fu - ture—
 help the poor. Faced with death, we'll be a wit - ness:



She said, "I be - lieve in you!"
 death and life! - vil - seem to win.
 I am life! Now live in me!"
 you are with us, Ris - en Lord.

Biblical Reference: John 11:1-45

Tune: The Sacred Harp, 1844; attributed to Benjamin Franklin White; harmony © 2017 Christopher Gage ("God Whose Giving Knows No Ending") (MIDI)

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PASTORAL AND SILENT PRAYER

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

If you donate electronically, you may place an "Electronic Giving" card into the plate as it comes around so you can enjoy participating in the physical act of giving.

You may stand in body or in spirit.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Sung

**We are called to act with justice;
we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another,
to walk humbly with God.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

A: Generous God, take these gifts and use them for the healing and tender care of your hurting world. May your cup of love overflow and abide with the hurting and heartbroken, forgotten and despised, so that we may all be made whole. Amen.

HYMN OF COMMITMENT "Come, Live in the Light"

G C D G



1 Come! Live in the light! Shine with the
 2 Come! O - pen your heart! Show your
 3 Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that

C D Em



joy and the love love the Lord! We are called
 mer - cy to all those in ford We are called
 great day when all will be one! God will reign,

Em7 C G Am7



to be light for the king - dom, to live in the
 to be hope for the hope - less so ha - tred and
 and we'll walk with each oth - er as sis - ters and

G C Dsus D



free - dom of the cit - y of God.
 vio - lence will be no more.
 broth - ers u - nit - ed in love.

G C D C D G C



We are called to act with jus - tice; we are called to

D Em Em7 G D



love ten - der - ly; we are called to serve one an -

C D G C D C G



oth - er, to walk hum - bly with God.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Come! Live in the Light”

During the Postlude, we pause to reflect as we prepare to follow God out into the world.

This morning’s liturgy was adapted from:

Unbind: Service Prayers for the Fifth Sunday in Lent, written by Dr. Sharon R. Fennema

Adapted from The Abingdon Worship Annual 2009, © 2008 Abingdon Press.

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

INTERIM MINISTER	Rev. Brenda Barnes Jamieson
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Barb Bailey
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Rich Schneider
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Laurie Mitchell

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS PALM SUNDAY March 29, 2026

ADULTS CHILDREN 3-6 UNDER 3

I WILL DONATE COFFEE CAKES/BREADS _____

HELP SAT. 10:00 AM HELP EASTER

NAME _____ PHONE # _____

EASTER BRUNCH

SUNDAY April 5, 2026

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 \$6.00 for adults, \$3.00 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 4th, and Easter morning. Please check the appropriate boxes to let us know how you want to volunteer. If you have any questions, please contact Rich Schneider.

Hope to see you there!

News in the Pews

Dear Visitor: We are neither good enough nor do we know enough to be members of the church, the Body of our Lord. Rather, "we are justified by faith" (Romans 5:1, NIV). If you are like us and long for peace with God, you will feel comfortable among us. In any case, we would like to help you find out. Please stay for a while after worship—we'd love the chance to meet you!

We extend heartfelt gratitude to all our volunteers; without their help, this and every service would not be possible – thank you.

Our last New Members class is today! Please join us for Coffee Hour in the gym as we explore St. Peter's United Church of Christ. New and old members, friends, and others invited!

Easter Egg Hunt candy and small toys needed for our Egg Hunt! Non-melty candy preferred. Drop off at Lanford Hall or the office, and call with questions! Thank you!

Easter Breakfast RSVP's are due a week from today and are included in this bulletin. Join us for a very special Easter Brunch after Easter Worship. Lots of savory and sweet options and great fellowship await you! All are welcome, form must be in by Palm Sunday, March 29th.

Our Soup-n-Study continues every Wednesday in Lent. Join Pastor and others as we gather for a light meal and discussion. You can join by Zoom by clicking here:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/9704320774?pwd=wIPNF0iFJI0PlxAfbiOAb9Ui1c6out.1> Order the study guide here:

<https://thepilgrimpress.com/products/listen-up-bible->

[studies?_pos=1&_psq=Philippians&_ss=e&_v=1.0&variant=42446076444739.](https://www.downtownskokie.com/community/revolutionists?fbclid=IwY2xjawQmZOVleHRuA2FlbQlxMABicmlkETFUM2V6TVJhS3B1d0U3bzk3c3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODIwMDg5MgABHj6b6EQdrM3k9bBKEsb0cw9YgoyDoUbr7-INRetftcGuYHSbp2X-x0_cmLFH_aem_sb72r3rNuzKc8q4IUbfGNQ)

Holy Week at St. Peter's! Holy Week begins on **March 29th with Palm Sunday**. Join us at 10AM as we celebrate Jesus's arrival in Jerusalem. Then, on **Maundy Thursday, April 2nd**, join us at 7:00PM as we remember the last supper with Jesus and his disciples. Holy Communion will be served. On **Good Friday, April 3rd** at 7:00PM, we remember Jesus's last moments and we mourn his death. **Easter Sunday, April 5th**, is a day of celebration like no other. Worship begins at 10AM, followed by our Easter Egg Hunt, and then stay at 11:30AM for our delicious Easter Brunch. We hope to see you for all of it!

“The Revolutionists,” by Lauren Gunderson, presented by Skokie Heritage Museum and St Peter's UCC on Saturday April 18th at 5pm, followed by a Q&A with the cast and light refreshments from Kneads & Wants Bakery. Dramatized by Violet Surprise Theatre, *The Revolutionists* is a hysterical and historical (or, more accurately, *herstorical*) play that invites audiences to experience the French Revolution from a female perspective. So don't pardon our French. Pardon our Frenchwomen and their très merciless treatment during the Reign of Terror. Buy tickets here:

https://www.downtownskokie.com/community/revolutionists?fbclid=IwY2xjawQmZOVleHRuA2FlbQlxMABicmlkETFUM2V6TVJhS3B1d0U3bzk3c3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODIwMDg5MgABHj6b6EQdrM3k9bBKEsb0cw9YgoyDoUbr7-INRetftcGuYHSbp2X-x0_cmLFH_aem_sb72r3rNuzKc8q4IUbfGNQ

Prayer list updates - please remember to update the office on your prayer request so we keep it timely and accurate. Thank you!

Our People

Please keep St. Peter's extended family in your thoughts and prayers. Other folks that need your prayers include:

- Matt Anthony, nephew of Marlene Russell, who has incurable cancer.
- Mark Taylor.
- Wendy, friend and colleague of Beth Sterba, who is fighting liver cancer.
- Richard Hook who had a stroke.
- Annie's friend Renee is fighting a long term, rare illness. She and her family are fighting to find a remedy that will slow and maybe even reverse the progress of this illness.
- Nicole McGinnis, childhood friend of Laura's who is fighting stage 4 cancer.
- Robert Elliot, brother-in-law of Anna Riley, diagnosed with cancer stage 2.
- Prayers for Julius and all immigrants, refugees and displaced people.
- Sharon Johnson's daughter Donna continues her battle with Lymphoma, which can be controlled but not cured.
- Susan Garcia's Aunt Janice battling cancer.
- Paul Brzozowski has now completed all treatment and will have MRIs every 2 months.

Others in our church family to keep close in our hearts include Larry Baumhardt and Lois Jarmuth.

If you are aware of others to include in our shared prayers, please let a church officer, an Elder, or the office know!

Happy birthday this week to Haley Kahn, Jason Iannotti and Sue Bailey. God's blessings to you on your special day!

According to the schedule and barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector is Ann Herren, our Nursery attendant is Rita McMahan. Thank you so much for your service!

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

PRESIDENT	Peggy Reins
VICE-PRESIDENT	Karen Christianson
TREASURER	Carolyn Kuechler (interim)
SECRETARY	Jenn Schneider
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Maria Altmayer (interim)

Regular Reminders!

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.

Private Signs: You will notice certain rooms around the church have been designated as "private." If ICE should ever come to our building, they will not be allowed to enter any room marked "private."

Please remember to update the office on your current prayer request, we appreciate the help keeping the prayer requests timely and accurate.



MISSION MOMENTS

Breath of Hope

March 22, 2026

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Purple

John 11:1-45

The first sermon that ever made tears roll down my cheeks was heard in a New York City church in my early 30s. I was a single Manhattan editor facing the proverbial fork in the road of life, not knowing which way to go. Even worse was that I had no desire to take any step in any direction. I was stuck in what felt like a dank cave of gloom.

The preacher began talking about poor, dead Lazarus. Lazarus' sisters had sent word to Jesus about his friend being ill, urging him to come quickly. Jesus took his time, though. When he arrived, Lazarus had been wrapped in burial cloth and placed in a tomb for a couple of days. Jesus cried but then wiped his tears and called to his dead friend to come out.

This is when the preacher got dramatic, standing in the middle of the chancel and looking into an invisible tomb, shouting, "Come out! Live!"

The words reverberated from every corner of the sanctuary. The preacher then turned away from the imagined tomb and looked at us,

the worshippers, and with an urgent, quieter plea, he begged for us to, “Come out! And finally live!”

The first tear ran down my cheek. Then the second. Then came the deluge, for I had realized I had been wrapped in my own burial clothes of fear. I had allowed the stone of depression to seal me from the hope that was still around.

That day I didn’t hear a dramatic preacher preach. I heard Jesus himself cry to me, “Come out! There is still so much life to be lived. Remove the cloths of fear wrapped around you. Step out of the dark tomb of death and into the light of life — new life filled with God’s promises of an amazing future.”

Truthfully, I didn’t hear the rest of the preacher’s sermon. I was too excited to start living again.

On this Sunday in Lent when we are so close to the cross, when soon we will be hearing another resurrection story — THE resurrection of all resurrections, that of Jesus — we are reminded that God can and will revive us as well. Jesus is standing this day outside of whatever door you have slammed shut and he is breathing hope back into your lifeless world. It’s time to come out of your tomb of grief, hopelessness, despair or indecision, and do something radical: Live!

Loving God, You know all too well how we often give up when things don’t go our way or when we seem to have hit a dead end. But You see that this is not the end for us — or of us. There is still more to experience and to learn. May this day we heed Jesus’ words to “Come out and finally live.” In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

(Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson is a communications specialist for the United Church of Christ and author of today’s Sunday Bulletin.)

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath^[a] to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath^[b] in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord."

⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath:^[c] Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath,^[d] and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' ¹²Therefore prophecy and say to them: Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord."

John 11:1-45

¹Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ⁷Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." ¹¹After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." ¹²The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." ¹³Jesus,

however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

¹⁷When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." ²⁸When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³²When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" ³⁸Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

⁴⁵Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.