



Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,**  
**March 27,**  
**2022**  
**10:00 AM**

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**Fourth Sunday in**  
**Lent**



40 DAYS  
OF  
Lent



**ST. PETER'S**  
**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
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/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](mailto:revlanford@gmail.com)

In the office Wed-Sat (times vary) and Sundays

**Laura Olson (Office Manager):** [office@stpeteruccskokie.org](mailto:office@stpeteruccskokie.org)

Office hours Mon-Fri 9am to 2pm

**Ben Westphal (Music Director):** [bcwestphal@gmail.com](mailto:bcwestphal@gmail.com)

**Facebook/Instagram/YouTube:** [stpeteruccskokie](https://www.facebook.com/stpeteruccskokie)

**Website:** [www.stpeteruccskokie.org](http://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**

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# St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Skokie

Order of Worship for Sunday, March 27, at 10:00am

Fourth Sunday in Lent

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

**PRELUDE**

Selected

Ronald Weber

**THE RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Jen Schneider

*Those who are able please stand.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

P: God is waiting for us

**C: With a tender heart and a searching question.**

P: God is ready for us

**C: With truth and wisdom from a deep well.**

P: God is blessing us

**C: With springs of living water.**

P: God is sending us

**C: To sing, pray and witness every day.**

P: God is here--

**C: Let the conversation begin!**

**\*OPENING RESPONSE: "There is a Balm in Gilead"**

SSB # 23 (v.1)

*Refrain*

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;

there is a balm in Gil-c-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.

1 Some - times I feel dis - cour - aged and think my work's in vain,  
 2 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can - not pray like Paul,  
 3 Don't ev - er be dis - cour - aged, for Je - sus is your friend;

*Refrain*

but then the Ho - ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.  
 you can tell the love of Je - sus and say, "He died for all."  
 and if you lack for knowl-edge, he'll ne'er re - fuse to lend.

Text: African American spiritual  
 Music: BALM IN GILEAD, African American spiritual

**CALL TO CONFESSION** *Psalm 32*

P: "Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

**C: Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord."**

P: So let us do that; let us pray.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**A: Almighty God, we hear the Apostle Paul declare us ambassadors for Christ, but we confess that we have done a poor job. It is far too natural for us to go on our way, doing what we and our loved ones and our church need doing, without paying attention to how well our deeds and style represent the Lord -- or not. We hear Paul proclaim us to be new creations, but we admit we rarely feel like that, so please forgive our misunderstandings that we must "feel" things like this. Let us accept the works of grace! Lastly Jesus tells a story that prompts us to confess we fall into the trap of holding grudges when a bigger reason for rejoicing has come; we major in the minors when You call us to let them go in service to the greater joy in the realm and movement of God. Forgive us and transform us, Lord God, for we ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON** *Psalm 32*

P: The Psalmist went on, “I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,’ and you forgave the guilt of my sin.” This is the love of God in the Hebrew Scriptures! We know the New Testament even better: In Jesus crucified and risen, God’s self-giving love forgives our sins and welcomes us back to stay for good. Will the congregation join me in praising our God for this grace?

**A: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## HYMN

## "Amazing Grace"

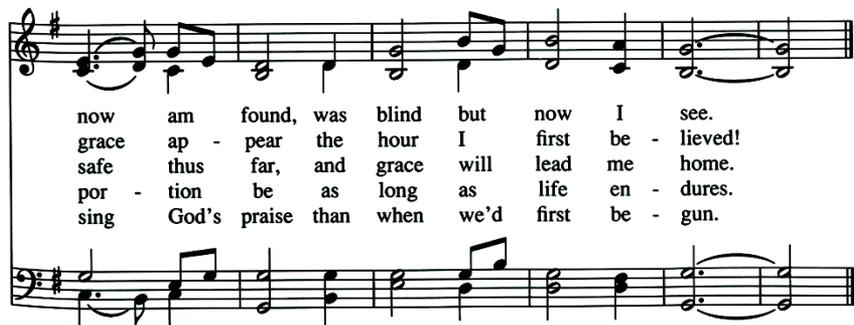
## SSB #5 (vv. 1,2,3)



1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that  
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I  
 4 My God has prom - ised good to me, whose  
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
 grace my fears re - lieved; How pre - cious did that  
 have al - read - y come; 'Tis grace has brought me  
 word my hope se - cures; God will my shield and  
 shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to



now am found, was blind but now I see.  
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

*John Newton's autobiographical hymn reflects his conversion from his earlier existence as a slave trader. While serving as curate in the English village of Olney, Newton met William Cowper, and together they published Olney Hymns, which included this hymn.*

Tune: AMAZING GRACE C.M.  
(NEW BRITAIN)

Columbia Harmony, Cincinnati, 1829  
 Arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1900

*Please be seated.*

## WORDS ABOUT OFFERINGS

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Barb Todd

The Psalter:

Psalm 32

The Epistle:

2nd Corinthians 5:16-21

### MUSICAL MEDITATION Voluntary on "Kingsfold"

by Earnest Smart

*Those who are able please stand.*

### GOSPEL

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

### CALL TO PRAYER

Em G/D Am/C D Em C B<sup>7</sup>

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 B<sup>7</sup> 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

**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**

**SERMON****“Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner?”**

Rev. Richard Lanford

*Those who are able please stand.***HYMN “The Love of Christ Jesus is Urging Us On”***Sing to the tune of “How Firm a Foundation”*

**The love of Christ Jesus is urging us on,  
For we find our life in what Jesus has done.  
He died and is risen; now we're dead to sin!  
No longer our own, we have new life in him.**

**The love of Christ Jesus is changing our view;  
In valleys of death, we see God's reign break through.  
Where others seek vengeance, Christ calls us to live  
Forgiven in him — able, then, to forgive.**

**The love of Christ Jesus leads Christians to care;  
When people are hungry, he calls us to share.  
He gives us a job — to get out of our pews,  
To work for God's justice and live the good news.**

**The love of Christ Jesus is urging us on  
When others grow weary or say hope is gone.  
He calls us to serve him again and again;  
No longer our own, all our life is in him.**

*Text: Copyright © 2012 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved. Used by personal permission.*

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## CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

**P:** Go now into the world. Go now, following the example of our Lord Jesus. May your lives reflect God's love and grace.

**C:** **May your lives reflect the life and teachings of Jesus. May we continue on this Lenten journey, ever growing closer to Jesus Christ and ever growing more perfect in God's love.**

**P:** Go now in God's peace. Amen.

**C:** **Amen!**

**POSTLUDE**

Selected

Ronald Weber

*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.*

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## FOR WORSHIP TODAY

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MINISTER	Rev. Richard Lanford
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Maria Altmayer
LIVESTREAM RECORDING BY	Beth Sterba
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Heidi Tarzian

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# News in the Pews

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**Welcome to worship this fourth Sunday in Lent.** Wherever we have been, whatever we have done, our all-loving heavenly Father welcomes us into his arms. Let us worship.

**Thank you to Ronald Weber** for substituting for Ben this morning!

**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!

**Our latest news on Carol Burmeister** is that she is in rapidly declining health; an update will be shared this morning, if not communicated through other channels before today. Ralph may become a hospice patient as well.

**Donations needed for 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 raising 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.

**Thanks to everyone who supported last Sunday's Village Inn Fundraiser!**

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**The Lenten study of The Third Reconstruction** continues via Zoom this Wednesday. Gather at 6:30 PM if you want, study/discussion begins at 6:45 until 8 PM.

**CHANGE to COVID SAFTEY PROTOCOLS** –As of Monday, March 21, St. Peter’s is following Skokie and Cook County and we are lifting the mask requirement in our building. We will still recommend wearing masks and social distancing in our sanctuary, encourage hand washing and sanitizing, and open windows and/or doors when appropriate to aid in air flow. We will also continue to use single-serve communion cups and refrain from passing the offering plate. Those who are comfortable not wearing masks while in the building may do so. We will continue to closely monitor any changes in the COVID recommendations and discuss at each Council meeting. We will continue to offer our Livestream service every Sunday as well.

**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!

**BUNCO is May 21<sup>st</sup> 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!!

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# Our People

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**EASTER FLOWER ORDERS DUE TODAY!** Forms are in your bulletin, ebulletin and March Announcer.

**Choir Rehearsal will resume on Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:15 AM** in the Memorial Room. If you are interested in joining Choir (we'd love to have you) please let Ben know!!!

**The Spring event planning meeting will meet in the Memorial room after worship** today!

**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!

**According to the schedule** next Sunday's lector is David Iannotti, and the Nursery will be attended by Carolyn V.

**Celebrating a birthday this week** is Sue Bailey! We wish her the best.

**REMINDER!** Office Manager Laura Olson will be out of the office on a few days' vacation this Monday through Wednesday, March 28th through the 30th. Until he comes in Wednesday, Pastor will continue to check voicemail messages.

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## CHURCH LEADERSHIP

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

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## Regular Reminders!

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**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!

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## **MISSION MOMENTS**

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**March 27, 2022**

**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

**Isaiah 55:1-9**

**Embracing Love**

**One Great Hour of Sharing**

Even if you don't know much else from the Bible, it's likely that you have heard the story of the prodigal son. A young man leaves his comfortable family home with his ill-gotten inheritance, only to squander what he has been given on fast living. When he returns to beg forgiveness, he is received with jealous skepticism by his brother and with abundant love by his father.

We usually are invited to hear this story from the point of view of either the careless and morally bankrupt youngest son or the hardworking and resentful eldest. In either reading, we are in need of forgiveness and transformation. Yet, it can sometimes be helpful to place ourselves in this story from another perspective - that of the forgiving father. In so doing, we can see ourselves not merely as those in need of redemption like the two sons, but also as those who are able to offer what is needed for another.

If we are able to shift our point of view in this way, recognizing that sometimes we are the prodigal, sometimes the eldest and sometimes the parent, we begin to see giving and receiving not

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merely as a one-way street, but as a circle of care, respect and love, in which sometimes we all have need, and sometimes we all can give.

This circle is nowhere more strongly demonstrated than in our yearly One Great Hour of Sharing offering. When you give, One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is able to help families around the world become stronger, healthier and better equipped to address hardships and catastrophes that would otherwise leave them destitute and hopeless. And, you do not know when you will be in need of help yourself. Please consider your gift to OGHS this morning as part of the circle of giving and receiving and giving again and then receiving again - the circle into which we have all been invited as people of faith.

Whether you want to give others a “new normal” in their lives after disaster strikes or provide care to new mothers and children with high mortality rates, or give refugees a place to call home, the OGHS offering can help you to help. From the Philippines to Fiji, from western Africa to Haiti, from Japan to more than thirty states that have been struck with hurricanes, fires, flood and illness, OGHS has stepped in as part of the circle of care.

You can give today through your church or online:

<https://www.ucc.org/giving/ways-to-give/our-churches-wider-mission/one-great-hour-of-sharing/>

*Learn more about the United Church of Christ at [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org).*

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# 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	
<b>Total</b>			

**Name & Phone**

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**In Honor/In Memory of:**

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**Psalm 32**

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,  
whose sin is covered.

Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity,  
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

While I kept silence,  
my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.

For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;  
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity;  
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"  
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you;  
at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.

You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble;  
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;  
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,  
whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle,  
else it will not stay near you.

Many are the torments of the wicked,  
but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD.

Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous,  
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

**Second Corinthians 5:16-21**

Paul wrote, “From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

**Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32**

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

So he told them this parable: “There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the

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pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’

So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

“Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all

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that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.””