



Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,
March 12, 2023
10:00 AM**

**Third 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/paytogether/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

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 12, 2023 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

"St. Denio"

arr. Callahan

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peggy Reins

Will those who are able please stand up

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: Come to this space and time of repentance.

C: We gather as a people of God.

P: Come to this time and space of renewal.

C: We gather as a people of Christ.

P: Come to this space and time of grace.

C: We gather as a people of Spirit. We live as a people of hope; let us worship God!

RESPONSE “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

SSB # 35 (v.1)

The musical score is written for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass staves. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are arranged in four systems, each with four lines of text corresponding to the four parts. The lyrics are as follows:

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
 all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!
 thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, alt.
 Music: ST. DENIO, Welsh traditional; arr. John Roberts, 1807–1876

CALL TO CONFESSION

P: Just as our ancestors in the faith quarreled and complained and tested God, we are tempted to do the same. We have hardened our hearts at times, and turned away from the Source of Life. Yet God comes to us anyway with reconciling grace. Are we ready to return to the relationship God intends with us? If so, please join me in first reading our prayer of confession silently to ourselves, and then praying it together aloud.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

A: What will You do with us, God? We are never completely satisfied with our lot. We rebel and complain when things don't go our way. Our hearts chase after things that become gods to us and consume our time, energy, and attention. We do not spend enough time in communion with You, and then begin to doubt Your presence. You seem far away and unavailable. We create barriers among ourselves that separate us from one another and from You.

**Send Your living water to cleanse us, O God!
Empower us to worship in spirit and in truth, in word and in deed. In the majestic name of Jesus we pray. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *Isaiah 55:6,7*

P: “Seek the Lord while the Lord may be found, call upon God while God 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.”


In our prayer of confession, if not also in silent prayers, as we return to the Lord, God is glad, has mercy on us, and in the name of Jesus Christ, forgives our sins and makes beautiful change a possibility. We become new people in the light and love of God; that’s great news no one can create, earn or buy! Let’s claim this gospel of salvation and transformation together by saying . . .

A: Praise and thanks be to God!


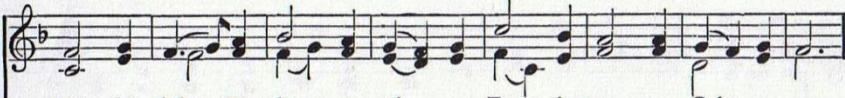
HYMN

"I Will Sing the Wondrous Story"


#465



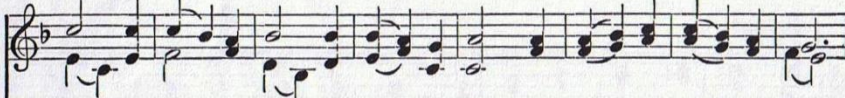
1. I will sing the won-drous sto - ry Of the Christ who died for me,
 2. I was lost, but Je - sus found me, Found the sheep that went a - stray;
 3. I was bruised, but Je - sus healed me; Faint was I from many a fall;
 4. Days of dark - ness still come o'er me, Sor-row's paths I of - ten tread,


How He left His home in glo - ry For the cross on Cal - va - ry.
 Threw His lov - ing arms a - round me, Drew me back in - to His way.
 Sight was gone, and fears pos - sessed me, But He freed me from them all.
 But the Sav - iour still is with me, By His hand I'm safe - ly led.



REFRAIN



Yes, I'll sing the won-drous sto - ry Of the Christ who died for me,




Sing it with the saints in glo - ry, Gath - ered by the crys - tal sea.



The congregation may be seated

WORDS ABOUT OFFERINGS/OGHS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Old Testament

Mark Loach
Exodus 17:1-7

The Gospel

John 4:5-42

MUSICAL MEDITATION “Tallis' Canon” arr. Callahan

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**

SERMON

“Never Underestimate the Power of a Question”

Will the congregation please rise and sing

HYMN “As Jesus Journeyed with His Friends”

Sing to the tune "All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night"

**As Jesus journeyed with his friends,
He broke great walls and barriers down.
He showed how far God's love extends
At Jacob's Well, outside of town.**

**A woman drew some water there,
And Jesus asked her for a drink.
They talked of life and truth and prayer —
His kind, warm welcome made her think.**

**Though culture pushed them far apart,
He looked past things that others saw.
He saw the searching in her heart;
His love shined greater than the law.**

**O God, when some are cast aside —
When people here are scorned, oppressed,
We see Christ reaching, arms stretched wide,
To welcome, treasure, heal and bless.**

Text: Copyright © 2017 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.

CHARGE

P: Go in peace;
Women: Keep the faith;
Men: Love one another;
A: Serve the Lord!

BENEDICTION

C: Amen!

POSTLUDE “P Hyfrydol” arr. Lehenbauer

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	Peter Svenson
LIVESTREAM RECORDING	Jenn Schneider
NURSERY ATTENDANT	Mike Ryan

News in the Pews

We gather at the well of worship, where Jesus, our Living Water, quenches our thirst for love, life, hope, peace. Welcome.

Thanks to everyone who served in the various ministries of the church this morning, in ministries of education (Sunday School), hospitality (ushers, Nursery attendant, chairlift operator), worship (Deacon, Lector, live-streamer), and administration (President, counters). We also thank all of YOU for attending!

We hope everyone remembered to set their timepieces ahead one hour before going to bed last night, as we've now entered Daylight Savings time again! Obviously, we know many timepieces do that themselves these days.

Easter Flower Orders are being taken now until March 20th! Find a form in this bulletin or in our March Announcer, out next week.

Easter Brunch this year! After Easter Sunday worship we'll be having a delicious brunch and all are welcome but reservations are needed! Please fill out the form included in this bulletin and put it in the offering plate.

The Lenten Soup-n-Study continues this Wednesday evening, 6:30 – 8:00 PM, this time looking at John 2:1-11.

NAMI holds its weekly Family-to-Family session in our Memorial Room this Saturday from 10 AM to Noon.

We still have Lenten devotionals! Find them outside the Office and in the Narthex.

The Church Council meets next Sunday, so if you are responsible for a report, please prepare it and submit it as soon as you can to the Dropbox for the March Council meeting. The earlier it is submitted, the earlier your fellow Council members can read it before the meeting! Thank you.

Next Sunday we will celebrate a double-baptism in worship: Cousins Camden A. Loach and Hayley Ann Bruhn, both of whom are grandchildren of Bonnie and Mark Loach, through Jeff and Jenn Loach and Patrick and Kim (Loach) Bruhn! There will also be a coffee hour after worship next Sunday.

Our Village Inn Fundraiser Sunday is in two weeks: March 26th.

Church Clean-up day- plan ahead if you can! The Council has asked for us to pitch in on an All-Church Clean-up from 12:30 to 2:30 PM on Saturday, March 25th.

The hymn text written by Rev. Carolyn Winfrey Gillette was commissioned by the magazine Presbyterian Outlook in 2017, and she asked that a donation to the magazine be given for using this set of music and words in worship; that has been done.

Our People

Birthdays this week belong to Judy Paige's daughter Tracy Puckett, her daughter-in-law Adrianna Paige, Roy Svenson, William Hoellerich, and Maria Altmayer. Alice and Bill Schaller celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on March 16th, and are hosting coffee hour on the 19th to include St. Peter's in their celebration!

HOSPITALIZED: But no longer; Phil Lindroth had surgery on March 2nd to replace his left hip, and by his own report all went well. We include him in our prayers for continuing recovery through physical therapy. Ron Schuhrke will be leaving his current therapy place for another one closer to his and Katy's home in Grayslake soon.

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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! So many thanks to everyone who's been keeping us going with your donations! See inside the bulletin's front cover for details on how to donate.

Donations always needed for our food pantry. There's a list of items on the shelves outside the offices if you aren't sure what to buy. Items can be left on those same shelves under the stairs by the offices.

Pastor's Podcast is now on all the Podcast platforms- iTunes, Stitcher, Overcast, Spotify, Podcast Addict, Amazon Music and more. Just look up "The Redheaded Preacher" on your podcast catcher or music streaming service then hit subscribe and you'll get the newest editions weekly! You can also get it via the church's webpage link. Give us a 5-star rating and review if you can, it helps us grow so much.

2023 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 20, 2023.

Quantity	Type	Price	Total
	Easter Lily 6" pot	10.50	
	Azalea 6"pot	19.00	
	Hyacinth 6" pot	8.00	
	Tulip 6" pot	7.00	
	Rieger Begonia 6" pot	10.00	
Total			

Name

Phone

In Honor/In Memory:

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS PALM SUNDAY APRIL 2, 2023

☐

ADULTS

☐

CHILDREN 3-6

☐

UNDER 3

I WILL DONATE COFFEE CAKES/BREADS

☐

HELP SAT. 10:00AM

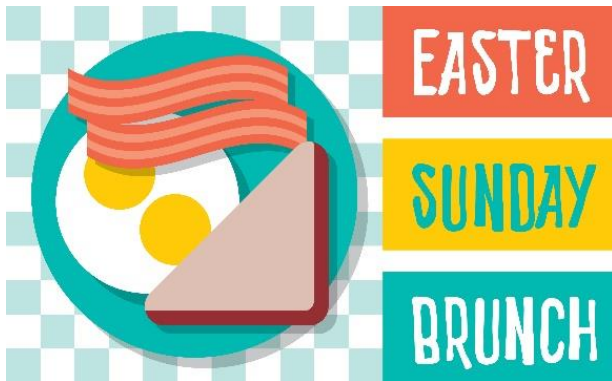
☐

HELP EASTER

NAME

PHONE #

EASTER BRUNCH
SUNDAY APRIL 9,
2023
11:30 AM



Celebrate Easter with your church family and join us something NEW, an Easter Brunch AFTER worship! It will be served in the Fellowship Hall and the menu will include something for everyone. We are asking for donations of breads and coffee cakes. The cost this year is \$5.00 with children 3-6 \$2.00 (under 3 free). **PLEASE PAY AT THE DOOR ONLY.** We will still need reservations so please turn in THIS FORM ONLY (no payment) in your offerings/or to the church office. We will also need donations of coffee cakes, breads etc. and help, so please check those boxes too. If you have any questions contact Barb Todd and/or Rich Schneider. Hope to see you there!



MISSION MOMENTS

March 12, 2023

Third Sunday in Lent

John 4:5-42

Thirsty Voices

Amistad Sunday

In today's story, Jesus meets a woman at a well and the two have a long and wide-ranging conversation, although by their society's standards they should never have spoken at all. They are Samaritan and Jew. Man and woman. Traveler and townswoman. So much seems to separate them. But by the end of the story, the unnamed woman and her entire community have been transformed.

This story is often understood as a story of individual piety, about one woman's change of heart. But what if the woman's actions could help to strengthen and inspire entire communities? Could your whole congregation become "women-at-the-well"?

Think of it like this. In the story today, the woman is open hearted in three ways that allow her to receive from and be transformed by the living Christ.

1. She is curious. The first question is from Jesus, who asks for a cup of water, but then the woman counters with another

question, trying to find out more information. She continued to reach out to Jesus, her questions building a bridge across the gap that separates them.

2. She is authentic. She could have easily told a lie, but when Jesus asks her the reality of her life, she tells Jesus the truth about herself. She does not try to cover up the messiness of reality with some more beautiful lie.

3. She is ready. She is confident in her faith, so when it comes time to articulate it she can do so. The woman declares she is waiting for the Messiah. She has a specific hope for the future, and she expresses it with confidence.

Is your congregation open-hearted like the woman at the well?
Are you ready to see and receive Jesus however he may appear?

1. Are you, as a congregation, curious? Are you ready to ask questions and get to know even those who you have been told that you have no business talking to?

2. Are you, as a congregation, authentic? Are you willing to tell the truth about yourself, even when the truth is painful?

3. Are you, as a congregation, ready and able to articulate your faith? Do you have a specific hope for the future that you have language for?

The woman at the well did not know when the Living Christ would appear, but by maintaining her curiosity, authenticity, and hopefulness, she was ready to receive him when he arrived. May it be so for your congregation, too.

Exodus 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?"

So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel.

He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

John 4:5-42

So Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus

answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."

The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?"

Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."

The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!"

The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?"

Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we

have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."