



Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR
Sunday,
March 30, 2025
10:00 AM

Fourth Sunday
in Lent



40 DAYS
OF
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!

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

St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Skokie
Order of Worship for
Sunday, March 30, 2025 at 10:00am
Fourth Sunday in Lent

Our sacred music gathers us to worship. Listen. Be attentive. Feel God's Spirit connecting all of us gathered here, those with us online and in spirit, and those who cannot be present today.

PRELUDE

Selected

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peggy Reins

You may stand in body or spirit.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: With the eagerness of a child,

All: God waits for our coming.

One: With the urgency of a mother,

All: God longs for our return.

One: With the anxious heart of a father,

All: God's arms ache to hold us.

One: The disappointment, the judgment, the turning away: that's us, not God.

All: Let us come as God's children, precious and loved.

HYMN "Out of the Depths"

Unison Dm Dm/C BbM7 Asus4 A

1 Out of the depths, O God, we call to you.
 2 Out of the depths of fear, O God, we speak.
 3 God of the lov - ing heart, we praise your name.

Dm Dm/C BbM7 Asus4 A

*Wounds of the past re - main, af - fect - ing all we do.
 Break - ing the si - lenc - es, the sear - ing truth we seek.
 Dance through our lives and loves; a - noint with Spir - it flame.

D Gm C F

Fac - ing our lives, we need your love so much.
 Safe a - mong friends, our grief and rage we share.
 Your light il - lu - mines each fa - mil - iar face.

Bb/D Am/C BbM7 Am7 1, 2 Gm7 Am7 Dm 3 Gm7 Am7 D

Here in this com - mu - ni - ty, heal us by your touch.
 Here in this com - mu - ni - ty, hold us in your care.
 Here in this com - mu - ni - ty, meet us with your grace.

You may be seated

CALL TO CONFESSION

One: God calls us on our journey, leads us to the promised land and feeds us along the way. Yet still we long to know we are safe, forgiven and valued. Let us pray to the One who knows and loves us completely.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**All: Loving God, help us find a place called home:
a place where faith holds us and grace renews us;
where forgiveness longs for us to be who you will
us to be;
where we are accepted as we are.
Where we belong, and our souls fit, and our
questions are allowed, and our anger is heard,
and our needs are recognised, and our pain is
held, and our names are known.
May this be that home, O God: this community of
travellers and doubters and companions on the
way; a way of being together in relationship, held
together by love.
Loving God, be our home.
And help us create a home for others. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: The God has been waiting for us now runs toward us with open arms.

All: There is nothing we can do, and nothing that can be done to us, that will ever separate us from the love of God.

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

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

You may be seated

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION AND SCRIPTURE READING

Olivia Altmayer

Hebrew Scripture:

Joshua 5:9-12

Christian Scripture:

II Corinthian 5:16-21

SPECIAL MUSIC

Selected

You may wish to stand, in body or in spirit

GOSPEL

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

You may be seated

HYMN "O God, How We Have Wandered"

1 O God, how we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;
2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,
3 O God of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,

In fool - ish - ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.
By faith we are re - turn - ing with hope and trust in you.
Com - pas - sion - ate, for - giv - ing, our peace and hope as - sured.

But how, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we turn with fear and shame,
In haste you come to meet us, and home re - joic - ing bring,
Grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.

As dis - tant but com - pell - ing, you call us each by name.
In glad - ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring,
Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

You may be seated

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

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

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

O = One

C = Congregation

A = All

You may stand in body or in spirit

OFFERTORY RESPONSE "We Are An Offering" SSB #11

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in 4/4 time. It consists of ten staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words spanning across multiple staves. The music features various note values including quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, as well as rests and ties. There are also some dynamic markings like 'f' (forte) and 'p' (piano) and a 'cresc.' (crescendo) marking. The lyrics are: 'We lift our voi - ces, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to You, we are an of - fer - ing; Lord, use our voi - ces, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our lives, they are Yours, we are an of - fer - ing. All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be we give to You, we give to You. We lift our voi - ces, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to You, we are an of - fer - ing, we are an of - fer - ing.'

We lift our voi - ces, we lift our hands, we lift our
lives up to You, we are an of - fer - ing; Lord, use our
voi - ces, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our
lives, they are Yours, we are an of - fer - ing.
All that we have, all that we are,
all that we hope to be we give to You, we
give to You. We lift our
voi - ces, we lift our hands, we lift our
lives up to You, we are an of - fer - ing, we are an of - fer - ing.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

A: Dear God, use our offerings of our resources and of our lives. Bless them, multiply them for your purposes in the world.

You may be seated

SERMON

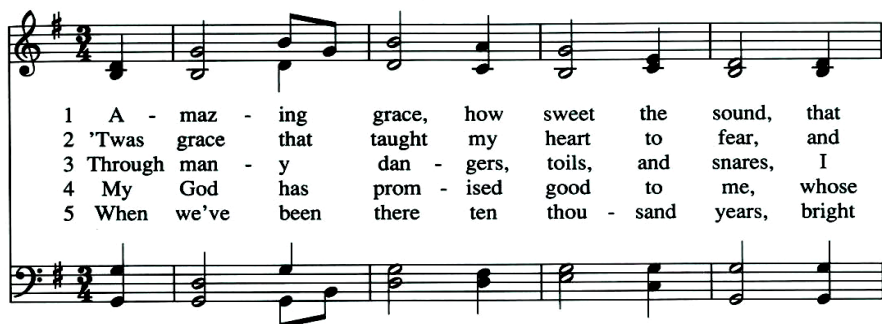
“The Prodigal Church”

You may stand in body or in spirit

HYMN

"Amazing Grace"

SSB #5



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

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Selected

Let us pause to reflect together during the Postlude. Pastor will be pleased to greet you at the Sanctuary doors as soon as the postlude has concluded, and our livestream has stopped.

Today's liturgy is adapted from:

Prayers of Confession and Dedication were adapted from:

<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/> and

Monthly Prayers page (now Weekly Worship) of the Christian Aid website.

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/churches/weekly-worship>

FOR WORSHIP TODAY

INTERIM PASTOR

Rev. Brenda Barnes Jamieson

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Ben Westphal

DEACON

Jenn Schneider

LIVESTREAM RECORDING

Silas Wasim

NURSERY ATTENDANT

Rita McMahon

2025 EASTER FLOWER ORDERS

Please find below the order form for the Easter plants



that we will have to beautify our chancel on Easter Sunday. 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 30, 2025.

Quantity	Type	Price	Total
	Easter Lily 6" pot	11.50	
	Azalea 6"pot	19.00	
	Hyacinth 6" pot	8.50	
	Tulip 6" pot	8.50	
	Rieger Begonia 6" pot	11.00	
Total			

Name

Phone

In Honor/In Memory:

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS PALM SUNDAY APRIL 13, 2025

☐

ADULTS

☐

CHILDREN 3-6

☐

UNDER 3

I WILL DONATE COFFEE CAKES/BREADS

☐

HELP SAT. 10:00AM

☐

HELP EASTER

NAME

PHONE #

EASTER BRUNCH

SUNDAY April 20, 2025

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 30th and Easter morning. Please check the appropriate boxes to let us know how you want to volunteer. If you have any questions, please contact Barb Todd or Rich Schneider. Hope to see you there!



BE THE LIGHT

SHINING THE LIGHT ON FOOD SECURITY.

Ortelina works with families in the northern regions of Honduras to help them understand how to transform their families and communities through agriculture. The list of things she does is mindboggling: Checking on local farmers' harvest. Monitoring water projects. Teaching the women in the community how to prepare more nutritious meals for their families. Challenging community leaders for support. Running workshops for things like creating organic fertilizers and sprays.

But Ortelina doesn't just work with farmers and their families, she supports and encourages them. Visiting them in their homes. Bringing God's light to everyone she meets. And all of this is made possible through your giving to One Great Hour of Sharing. Because of your giving, projects like these and thousands more around the world are changing lives. Transforming communities. And spreading God's light. Be the Light. Give to One Great Hour of Sharing.



You're here to be light, shining out the God-color in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a basket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine!
— Matthew 5:14-15

When you give to **One Great Hour of Sharing**, you are light for people in need. You offer light when disasters strike, and when chronic conditions threaten families and communities. You are light not just in the immediate future, but also for the long haul. When you give, you restore not only structures, but also transform lives. Your gift ensures that no matter how difficult the situation, light shines.

Be the light. Give to One Great Hour of Sharing.

News in the Pews

Like a loving father welcoming a prodigal child home and inviting the other to join the feast, God welcomes us all. Let us celebrate such amazing grace.

Lenten Soup-n-Study – Every Wednesday in Lent, with soup at 6:30PM and Bible Study at 7PM. Our study is in person but also on Zoom for those unable to attend in person. Zoom link here:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81342126504?pwd=DHkLRPpC9M5tnISf1D4HMLkwJ2HyHg.1>

Meeting ID: 813 4212 6504; Passcode: 8166

All are welcome to join, let Pastor Brenda know if you are interested.

Our church has transitioned to the Insurance Board, a nonprofit provider for UCC churches, ensuring protection against property loss and liability. This partnership offers affordable coverage while requiring us to strengthen risk management practices and adopt new safe conduct and financial oversight policies. We are now securely insured and will be implementing recommended changes to enhance church safety and stability. Watch for more information in the next few months.

Help support Ricky Riley as he raises funds for Misericordia's Candy Days! Please use only the link below to donate and help Ricky Riley raise funds. Thank you so much to everyone for donating:

<https://secure.e2rm.com/p2p/fundraising/390732/participant/5513003/en-CA>

Easter Brunch RSVP forms are included in this bulletin and in the upcoming April Announcer. Classic egg bakes, bacon, coffee cakes and goodies galore. Fill out the form and return to the office by April 13th. All are welcome!

Collecting Egg Hunt candy and toys now! We are so happy to invite families to our Annual Egg Hunt for kids on Easter Sunday right after worship. **We need wrapped candies only!** No bags of jellybeans or M&M's we can't use those. We also give out goodie bags, so tiny toys, stickers, etc. are appreciated. Please leave donations in the Lanford Fellowship Hall or give them to Jen Schneider.

This is the last day to get those flower orders in! The order form is included in this bulletin. Flowers will be used to decorate the sanctuary for Easter Sunday and may be taken home after the service.

Celebration of Life for Ursula Dworak. On Saturday, **April 5th at 12PM** we will celebrate and say goodbye to our friend and fellow congregant Ursula Dworak. Lunch to be served after.

Help Refresh St. Peter's! Church Maintenance Days - Join us on ***Saturdays in March from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM*** as we work together to repair and refresh our beloved church building! Anyone who is willing and able can join Rich Schneider (richschneider@comcast.net) for any part of the scheduled time. Please let him know if you have a particular skill that you can share.

Easter Prep Saturday April 19th from 10AM-1PM, join the fun getting the church building ready for the Easter celebration! We will "primp and polish" and set up for our Easter Brunch and Egg Hunt too. Many hands make light work! We'll set tables, stuff candy into eggs and enjoy fellowship at the same time!

Sign up for ☕ Coffee Hour! Every 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month we need folks to sign-up to host. Bring some coffee cake, etc. to share, make coffee and light clean-up. Contact the office in the meantime if you'd be willing to host or cohost and we'll find you someone to assist if needed.

Our People

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

- Prayers for healing for Ginger Kalensky and Dorothy Panzke.
 - Joe Mrstik friend of the church now living in Florida and having health challenges.
 - Robert Elliot, brother-in-law of Anna Riley, diagnosed with cancer stage 2. He is scheduled for surgery and immunotherapy.
 - Phil, friend of Carolyn Kuechler, struggling with multiple health challenges.
 - JoAnn McCoy, mother of Chad, healing after a recent hospitalization.
 - Prayers for Julius and all immigrants, refugees and displaced people.
 - Ricky Riley had heart surgery and is home now and on the mend.
 - Ann Herren's daughter Jennifer is undergoing radiation treatments for breast cancer.
 - Anna Riley's mom for her continued improvement and healing after emergency surgery.
 - The family of Ursula Dworak.
 - Annmarie Gloeckner.
 - Those in California affected by the wildfires.
 - Judy Paige is having knee therapy for the third time.
 - Sharon Johnson's daughter Donna continues her battle with Lymphoma, which can be controlled but not cured.
 - Denise's young friend is doing better but still fragile.
 - Cancer has returned for Susan Garcia's Aunt Janice.
 - Jane Abramchik continues to recover at home aided by a team of home caregivers and her husband Paul.
-

-
- Paul Brzozowski who is continuing chemotherapy and a trial drug for brain cancer.

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

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

This week we wish a Happy Birthday to Kristine Mau.

According to the schedule and barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector will be Peter Svenson, and our Nursery Attendant will be Heidi Tarzian.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

PRESIDENT	Peggy Reins
VICE-PRESIDENT	Barb Todd
TREASURER	Chad McCoy
SECRETARY	Annie Noorts
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Maria Altmayer

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.

We are always grateful for all offerings to the church. So many thanks to everyone who's been keeping us going with your donations! See inside the front cover for details on how to donate.

Our mini-food pantry is a daily mission this church does for the community of Skokie. If you are able, please donate!



Mission Moments

Embracing Love (3/30/2025)

Fourth Sunday in Lent

VIOLET

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

For centuries, renowned artists have captured the varied emotions among the characters in Jesus' parable of the prodigal son, depicting on canvas and in stone the forgiving father, the bitter brother and the repentant prodigal.

If you were to pick up a brush on this the fourth Sunday in Lent, which of the characters would you paint first? Who would it be that you — answer honestly now — relate to the most? The one extending forgiveness or the one bitter because that forgiveness has been extended. Or maybe you are putting on those ancient sandals, trekking back home to make amends?

Don't worry too much about your answer, because over the course of our lives we will find ourselves identifying with each of these characters. There will be times where we are grace-filled, times where we begrudge forgiveness, and times where we are truly sorry for the things we have done.

Famed Dutch artist, Rembrandt, has two versions of the prodigal son in which he painted in his lifetime. The first was done while he was a young man at the height of his fame and domestic bliss. With a loving wife, children and an audience who clamored for his work, Rembrandt had it all. It's not surprising that at this time in

his career he depicted himself as the prodigal without a care in the world, a woman seated on his lap, and a drink lifted high in his hand.

Life though changed for the artist. His children and wife died. His wealth was gone, as were his patrons who once commissioned works created by his hands. Rembrandt returned to the prodigal son for one of his last paintings before his death. Only this time, each brushstroke revealed a man who knew all too well what it meant to be broke and broken.

Great artists create from what they know in life. Rembrandt was no exception, capturing in his prodigal son paintings a joy that was fleeting and sorrow that was soul crushing. It would be the latter that would become the artist's most well-known painting.

And in the end, Rembrandt found himself running home into the loving arms of God. He died on Oct. 4, 1669, and was buried with no family and no fanfare in a grave set aside for paupers that was owned by the church.

We will all someday find ourselves running into the arms of a loving and forgiving God, who will welcome his prodigal children — always. But for now, how do we get better at extending this holy and healing forgiveness to others? How do we not become bitter? How do we find the strength to make the amends we must make? How would a great artist paint us right now in such a story of grace?

Praises to You, O God, who never turns Your back on us — no matter how far from home we have ventured. Embrace us now with Your love and may that love soften our hearts to the point where we our arms begin to open wider to all Your children who are lost and lonely. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.
