



# Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Thursday,  
April 4, 2026  
7:00 PM**

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**Maundy Thursday**



AN OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION IN SKOKIE, IL

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** *Our worship service is livestreamed and posted to YouTube. If you prefer not to appear on camera, choose a seat in the back half of the right side of the sanctuary. Ushers can quietly assist you, if you wish.*

**New to St. Peter's?  
We are so glad you are here! Please see a**

# Welcome Card

**in the pew rack for information about:  
Worship Times and Options  
Open & Affirming | Childcare | Accessibility  
WiFi | Holy Communion | Contact Info  
And much more!**

**We are always grateful for any and all offerings to the church. Your gift can be put in an offering plate or you can give electronically:**

**PayPal.me/stpeteruccskokie**

- OR -

Use your banking app to send via

**Zelle to finance@stpeteruccskokie.org**

*Printed copies of today's scriptures are available if you like to read along.*

**St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Skokie**  
**Order of Worship**  
**for Maundy Thursday,**  
**April 2, 2026 at 7:00 PM**

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***THOUGHT FOR MEDITATION***

*Guide us as we worship you this night: into your glory, into your story, and into your living memory-of all that is wonderful and good, all that is difficult and true, all that is horrible and sad. As we share the meal you shared with your disciples, may we remember the grief that followed. Even as we mourn, we remember your promise to feast with us again in heavenly glory.*

**PRELUDE**

Selected

**THE RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

*You may stand in body or spirit.*

## **CALL TO WORSHIP AND INVOCATION**

One: This night, we sit with each other at table

**All: wondering what all this means for our own lives.**

One: We remember the example of washed feet  
that laid before us as a new commandment.

**All: We break the bread and drink the cup,  
and become part of God's new covenant on  
earth.**

One: Let us pray:

**All: In this place, in this moment,  
let there be love here:  
love that knows how to reach  
all the way to the end,  
love that kneels and serves,  
love that wraps its arms  
around betrayer and protector alike,  
love that sets an example and a path to follow.**

## GATHERING HYMN "O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go"

1 O Love that wilt not let me go, I rest my  
 2 O Light that fol-lowest all my way, I yield my  
 3 O Joy that seek - est me through pain, I can - not  
 4 O Cross that lift - est up my head, I dare not

wea - ry soul in thee; I give thee back the life I owe, that  
 flick-ering torch to thee; my heart re-stores its bor-rowed ray, that  
 close my heart to thee; I trace the rain-bow through the rain, and  
 ask to fly from thee; I lay in dust life's glo - ry dead, and

in thine o - cean depths its flow may rich - er, full - er be.  
 in thy sun - shine's blaze its day may bright - er, fair - er be.  
 feel the prom - ise is not vain that morn shall tear - less be,  
 from the ground there blos-soms red life that shall end - less be.

*You may be seated.*

## **Reading from John 13**

One: It was the day before the Passover festival. Jesus and his disciples were sharing the evening meal. Jesus got up from the table, took off his robes, and tied a towel around his waist. Then Jesus poured water into a washbasin and began to wash the disciples' feet and dry them with the towel he was wearing.

Jesus came to Simon Peter, who said to him:

**All: Are you going to wash my feet, Lord?**

One: Jesus answered Peter: "You do not understand now what I am doing, but you will understand later."

**All: Never at any time will you wash my feet!**

One: If I do not wash your feet, you will no longer be my disciple.

**All: Lord, not only my feet, then, but my hands and head, too!**

One: Jesus said: "Those who have bathed are completely clean and do not need to wash other than their feet."

**CALL TO CONFESSION****PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

One: When we are so sure we are right  
that it keeps us from loving,

**All: wash our feet, God.**

One: When we insist on being the savior  
instead of showing up in solidarity,

**All: wash our feet, God.**

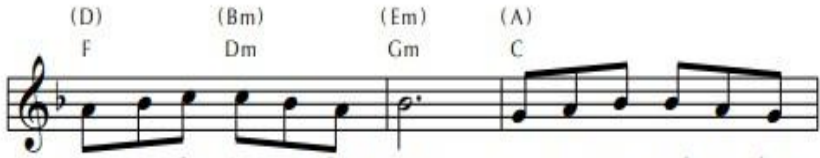
One: When the hierarchies in our bones  
thwart our practices of mutuality,

**All: wash our feet, God. Amen.**

*Silence for Personal Reflection*

HYMN

“Jesu, Jesu”



1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their  
 2 Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor, var - ied in col - or and  
 3 These are the ones we should serve; these are the ones we should  
 4 Lov - ing puts us on our knees, will - ing to wash oth - ers'



feet, Mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.  
 race; neigh-bors are near us and far a - way.  
 love; all these are neigh-bors to us and you.  
 feet; this is the way we should live like you.

WORDS OF GRACE

One: Love.

Love is the path and the direction.

**All: Love is the water and the feet.**

One: Love is the forgiveness and the chance to try again.

**All: Love is the example and the pattern.**

One: Love.

**All: Praise God who loves us to the end.**

### **Reading from John 13** *(continued)*

One: After washing their feet, Jesus put his robes back on, returned to his place at the table, and said, "Do you understand what I have done for you? You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you speak correctly, because I am. If I, your Lord and teacher, have washed your feet, you too must wash each other's feet. I have set an example for you, so that you will do just what I have done for you."

**SPECIAL MUSIC** "You The Christ"

## **SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION**

### **Gathering at the table**

One: Tonight, we remember the last night Jesus spent with his disciples celebrating the Passover meal. As described in the gospel of John, we will share the bread, tell the story and share the cup.

### **Invitation**

One: This table is for all who are hungry. If you are hungry, come.

**All: Where compassion and love are, there is God.**

One: The love of Christ has gathered us as one. Let us love one another.

**All:** Where compassion and love are, there is God.

**One:** When we are gathered in spirit, even distance cannot separate us. Christ is present in our midst.

**All:** Where compassion and love are, there is God.

**One:** In this meal and worship, may we feel the joy that is community, the peace that is Christ and the presence that is Spirit.

## HYMN “Let Us Break Bread Together”



1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;  
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;



let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.  
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.


*Refrain*



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing



sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.



3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;

*Refrain*



let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

**Great Prayer of Thanksgiving****Breaking the Bread of Life****Sharing the Story****Sharing the Cup of Grace****Prayer of Gratitude**

**A: Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, may we become people of tender fierceness, of vulnerable intimacy, of table-turning love, of power upending service in a world that craves domination and privilege. May we become servants of those Through who most need to know that they are loved beyond measure. Amen.**

**COMMUNITY PRAYER AND 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.**

# HYMN "O Lord, Hear My Prayer"

*Sung Twice*

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

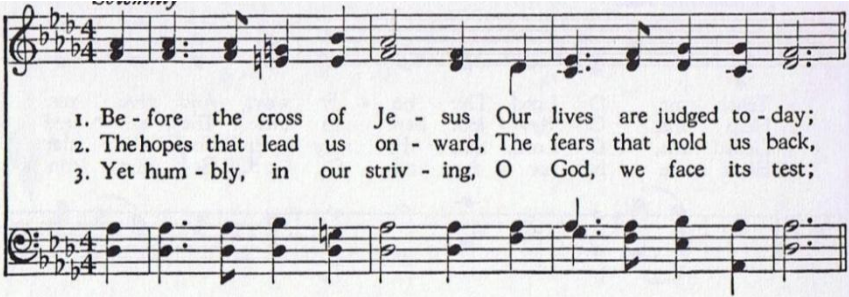
5 Em G/D Am/C D Em B<sup>7</sup> Em *Last Time*

Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis-ten to me. O

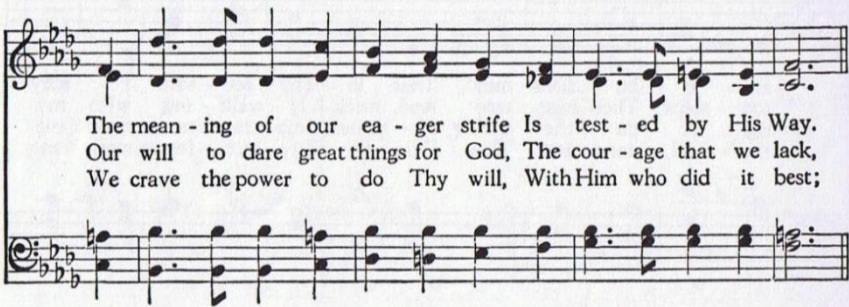
*Last Time*

## Reading from John 13

## HYMN OF RESPONSE "Before Your Cross, O Jesus"



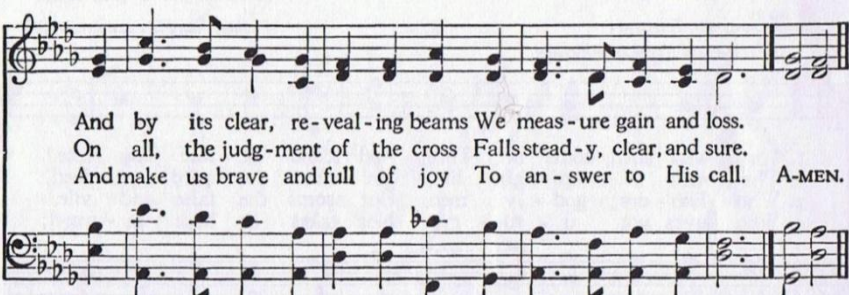
1. Be - fore the cross of Je - sus Our lives are judged to - day;  
 2. The hopes that lead us on - ward, The fears that hold us back,  
 3. Yet hum - bly, in our striv - ing, O God, we face its test;



The mean - ing of our ea - ger strife Is test - ed by His Way.  
 Our will to dare great things for God, The cour - age that we lack,  
 We crave the power to do Thy will, With Him who did it best;



A - cross our rest - less liv - ing The light streams from His cross,  
 The faith we keep in good - ness, Our love, as low or pure—  
 On us let now the heal - ing Of His great Spi - rit fall,



And by its clear, re - veal - ing beams We meas - ure gain and loss.  
 On all, the judg - ment of the cross Falls stead - y, clear, and sure.  
 And make us brave and full of joy To an - swer to His call. A - MEN.

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## CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE Selected

*We pause to reflect during the Postlude as we prepare to follow God out into the world.*

*This evening's service was adapted from:  
 "An Example": Service Prayers for Maundy Thursday by Dr. Sharon R.  
 Fennema, [UCC.org/worship](http://UCC.org/worship) ways  
 and Thandiwe Dale-Ferguson*

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## FOR WORSHIP TONIGHT

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MINISTER	Rev. Brenda Barnes Jamieson
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal
DEACON	Beth Sterba
LIVESTREAM	Jenn Schneider

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# News in the Pews

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Welcome to our Maundy Thursday service. Today we remember how Christ showed his role of servant in the washing of his disciples' feet. In taking Holy Communion, let us vow to be worthy servants of our Lord.

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

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

**Holy Humor Sunday jokes needed! Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup> will be a special service in which humor will be on the forefront!** If you have any good jokes you are invited and asked to share them on Holy Humor Sunday- so get them ready. We are also encouraging funny hats, socks, and kazoos! Talk to Pastor Brenda if you have any questions.

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**Holy Week continues this week at St. Peter's!** Join us **Good Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>** at 7:00PM, we remember Jesus's last moments and we mourn his death. **Easter Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>**, 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.community/revolutionists?fbclid=IwY2xjawQmZOVleHRuA2FlbQIxMABicmlkETFUM2V6TVJhS3B1d0U3bzk3c3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODlwMDg5MgABHj6b6EQdrM3k9bBKEsb0cw9YgoyDoUbR7-INRetftcGuYHSbp2X-x0\\_cmLFH\\_aem\\_sb72r3rNuzKc8q4IUbfGNQ](https://www.downtownskokie.community/revolutionists?fbclid=IwY2xjawQmZOVleHRuA2FlbQIxMABicmlkETFUM2V6TVJhS3B1d0U3bzk3c3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODlwMDg5MgABHj6b6EQdrM3k9bBKEsb0cw9YgoyDoUbR7-INRetftcGuYHSbp2X-x0_cmLFH_aem_sb72r3rNuzKc8q4IUbfGNQ)

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# Our People

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**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.
- Annie's friend Renee is fighting a long term, rare illness.
- Nicole McGinnis, childhood friend of Laura's who is fighting stage 4 cancer.
- 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!***

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**Happy birthday this week to Maura Dubinkas and Kristine Mau.** God's blessings to you on your special day!

**According to the schedule** and barring any switches, next Sunday's Lector is Jen Schneider, our Nursery attendant is Laura Olson. Thank you so much for your service!

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### **CHURCH LEADERSHIP**

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

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*Regular Reminders!*

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**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.

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