



# Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Wednesday,  
March 2,  
2022**

**7:00 PM**

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**Ash Wednesday**



AN OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

8013 LARAMIE AVE - SKOKIE, IL - 60077

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**St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Skokie**  
**Order of Worship for Wednesday, March 2, 2022 at 7:00 PM**  
**Ash Wednesday**

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

**PRELUDE**                      In Memoriam                      by J. Cottier

**THE RINGING OF THE BELLS**

*Those who are able please stand.*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

P: Welcome to a season of self-examination; this is a time for reconciliation with God and neighbor.

**C: *Welcome together, elders and children, to meet God, longing for the abundant mercy of our Creator.***

P: Seek to know God's presence here and everywhere; let the wisdom of God guide you in truth.

**C: *Through hardship, affliction and calamity, we reach for the power of God to steady us.***

P: Prepare yourselves for a period of testing. Be open to the grace that enables your growth.

**C: *With fasting, with weeping, and with mourning, we seek the steadfast love of God.***

**CALL TO CONFESSION (Joel 2:12, 13)**

P: “Yet even now, says the Lord, return to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping and mourning; rend your hearts and not your garments.

***C: Return to the Lord your God, for God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.”***

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Forgive us, O God, if we have preferred the old to the new, half-life to full life, and our own achievements to your gift of life. Forgive us if we have ignored Jesus' teachings, slighted his gracious love and tried to discover the meaning of our life apart from our Teacher. Forgive us if we have run away from the difficult decisions of life, evading the cross and missing the mark.

Forgive us if we have used the church to support and strengthen privilege and to safeguard a willful way of life, if we have lived on memory and nostalgia rather than on experience and hope.

Forgive us if we have failed to see the signs of your presence in our common life. Forgive us if we have refused to work in cooperation with your Spirit.

Have mercy on us, O God, and enable us to lay hold of the life that is life indeed. Restore to us the joy of our salvation and uphold us with your gracious Spirit.

Accept us, O God, and deliver us from all our sin, through Jesus, our Christ. Amen.

## **THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES (Optional)**

In continuing the Confession of Sin, those who wish to receive ashes, please come forward single file down the center aisle. The rest of the congregation may sit down and remain in the spirit of prayer. After all who desire to receive ashes have done so and returned to their pews, our prayer concludes with these words:

P: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of Your salvation,

**C: *That we may show forth Your glory.***

P: By the Cross and Passion of our Savior,

**C: *Forgive us our sins and bring us with all Your saints to the joy of Christ's resurrection. In His name we pray. Amen.***

## **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

P: "For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God" (1 Peter 3:18s). In the name and by the grace of Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

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**HYMN** “Lift Up Your Voice” (based on Isaiah 58:1-12)

*(Please sing to the tune of “Breathe on me, Breath of God”).*

**Lift up your trumpet voice; another Lent begins.**

**Point out the empty righteousness, that marks our hidden sins.**

**Why do we fast today? Why show a humble front?  
While we enjoy advantages, and others live in want?**

**People are called to share / clothing and bread and home,  
Living in close community, no more from God to roam.**

**Where’er injustice reigns, God bids us break the yoke.  
May the oppressed find quick relief, as we God’s will invoke.**

**Then shall our light break forth, and God will be our guide.  
Healing shall come and make us strong, as we in God abide.**

*Please be seated.*

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Isaiah 58:1-12  
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

**HOMILY**

“A Church Repentant”

Rev. Richard Lanford

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**THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER****Exhortation and Invitation**

Rev. Lanford

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Consecration****The Words of Institution****Participation****CLOSING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER***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*

*Those who are able please stand.*

**BENEDICTION**

Chimes

Silent Prayer

**POSTLUDE**    There is a Balm in Gilead                      arr. F. Russel

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**FOR WORSHIP TODAY**

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MINISTER	Rev. Richard Lanford
MUSIC DIRECTOR	Ben Westphal

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# News in the Pews

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**Welcome to St. Peter's U.C.C.** and thank you for joining us for worship on this Ash Wednesday morning. There is also a service tonight at 7:00 PM with Holy Communion.

**Our Lenten Soup-n-Study begins a week from tonight**, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM. It's not too late to sign up! We will read the first chapters of both the devotional guide and of The Third Reconstruction for March 9th. This study skips the Wednesday of Holy Week, but as a whole goes through April 27th. See Rev. Lanford for a copy of the study guide soon; likewise let Peggy McCoy if you want a hard copy of the book for not much money. We'll need email addresses if the church does not have them in order to send the Zoom link for the meeting, as well as the study guides themselves (although Pastor can hand out hard copy ones starting today).

**An offering plate** is in the Narthex. Thank you.

**This coming Friday the 4th** is the World Day of Prayer.

**We celebrate the Lord's Supper** next Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup>.

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# Our People

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**HOSPITALIZED:** Carol Burmeister is in hospice care at Elevate St. Andrews, 7000 N. Newark, Niles, 60714. Ralph is in the assisted-living area, the floor below (Room 432). Kelly Panzke is having her spine surgeries (2, over two days) any day now.

**Women's Guild Meeting:** Wednesday, March 9th, the Women's Guild meets at the church at 9:30 AM for a meeting; the Kitchen will be cleaned and reorganized as needed, followed by the usual business and fellowship meeting.

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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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**Tomorrow morning** Pastor will be at a meeting of pastors and students-in-discernment (studying for the ministry) in our CMA Cluster 1 from 10 to 11:30 AM at Glenview Community Church.

**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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