



Welcome

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR

**Sunday,  
March 13,  
2022**

**10:00 AM**

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**Second 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/paypalme/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 13<sup>th</sup> 2022 at 10:00am**  
**Second 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**                      Lenten Meditation                      by: Raney

**THE RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**THE SHARING OF ANNOUNCEMENTS**                      Jen Schneider

**CALL TO WORSHIP**    Rev. Lanford

*Those who are able please stand.*

**OPENING RESPONSE “He’s My Source”**

SSB #17

He's my source of light that

shines in my dark - ness. He's my source of liv - ing

wa - ter that I need ev - 'ry day. He's my

sword and my shield, the fair - est of ten

thou - sand. He's the bright morn - ing Star, the

soon com - ing King, the ris - en Lord.

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

P: Christ surely is the light that shines in our darkness, but there is also darkness or a missing-the-mark within, which God exhorts us to confess and turn away from. Let us turn towards and approach the throne of grace with humility, a confidence that God will hear our confession, and we will find the wideness in God's mercy.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

P: Great God, we will hear this morning a story of your servant Abram sharing with You his increasing wonder if You will fulfill the promises made to him years before. There was no evidence and so he protested.

**C: *We understand he lacked patience with Your plan. His faith weakened over the wait, because his expectation of how long it would take until fulfillment was different from Yours.***

P: We know that when expectations are not met, we can become unreasonable and find ourselves acting gracelessly. Especially when our expectations were not communicated ahead of time, but were implicit, the disappointment which follows the seeming letdown can trigger some of the worst in us.

**C: *Please forgive us, Jesus, our lack of patience and trust in You when we wait so long for grace to come, or at least some evidence of a promise You made. Forgive us, too, our sins which arise when our implicit expectations of others' behaviors trigger us to angry, self-righteous and hurtful words or actions. Transform us more, O Spirit, into the image of Christ; as we pray in Christ's name. Amen.***

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

God “is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, ‘Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord’” (I Corinthians 1:30-31).

Friends, believe the good news: Not through our own efforts or innate goodness, but through God we are given wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption, none of which happens to those who are not forgiven. But we are forgiven in the name and by the work of Jesus Christ. Please join me in claiming the gospel by saying . . .

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

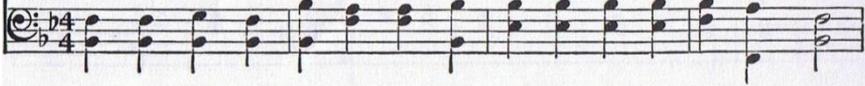
## HYMN

## "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

#272

*In moderate time*

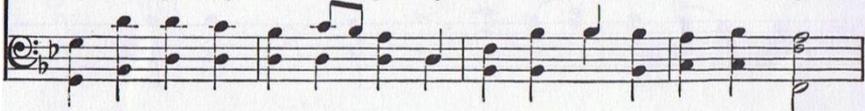
1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
2. Breathe, O breathe Thy lov - ing Spir - it In - to ev - ery trou - bled breast;
3. Come, Al - might - y to de - liv - er, Let us all Thy life re - ceive;
4. Fin - ish, then, Thy new cre - a - tion; Pure and spot - less let us be;



Fix in us Thy hum - ble dwell - ing, All Thy faith - ful mer - cies crown:  
 Let us all in Thee in - her - it, Let us find the prom - ised rest;  
 Gra - cious - ly re - turn, and nev - er, Nev - er - more Thy tem - ples leave.  
 Let us see Thy great sal - va - tion Per - fect - ly re - stored in Thee;



Je - sus, Thou art all com - pas - sion, Pure, un - bound - ed love Thou art;  
 Take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be;  
 Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, Serve Thee as Thy hosts a - bove,  
 Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, Till in heaven we take our place,



Vis - it us with Thy sal - va - tion, En - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.  
 End of faith, as thy be - gin - ning, Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
 Pray, and praise Thee with - out ceas - ing, Glo - ry in Thy per - fect love.  
 Till we cast our crowns be - fore Thee, Lost in won - der, love, and praise. A - MEN.



*Please be seated.*

**WORDS ABOUT OFFERINGS**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Jennifer Schneider

Old Testament:

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

The Psalter:

Psalms 27

**MUSICAL MEDITATION**

“St. Anne”

by Lehenbauer

for the Victims of Ukraine

*Those who are able please stand.*

**GOSPEL**

Luke 13: 31-35

**CALL TO PRAYER**

Em G/D Am/C D Em C B7

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 B7 Em Last Time

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

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a guitar chord progression of Em, G/D, Am/C, D, Em, C, and B7. The lyrics are: "O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me. O". The second system starts at measure 5 with the same chord progression: Em, G/D, Am/C, D, Em, B7, and Em. The lyrics are: "Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me. O". Both systems end with a "Last Time" instruction and a fermata over the final chord.

*Please be seated.*

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND SILENT PRAYERS**

**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*

**SERMON**

“Abraham’s Faith, Our Faith”

Rev. Richard Lanford

*Those who are able please stand.*

**HYMN** Lord, We Confess We Turn Away”

*Please sing to hymn tune # 59 ("All Praise to Thee, My God, This  
Night")*

**Lord, we confess we turn away**

**The very ones we need today.**

**God's prophets speak out loud and clear,**

**Yet prophets still aren't welcomed here.**

**You grieved for old Jerusalem**

**For you were like a mother hen**

**Who brought her brood beneath her wings —**

**While they were drawn to other things.**

**Lord, call us out and draw us in**

**when we would rather side with sin —**

**Let the prophetic things you say**

**still challenge how we live this day.**

**May we who listen to your voice,  
Be still, be wise, then make a choice.  
You call us to a life that's new;  
Lord, may we now return to you.**

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### **CHARGE**

P: Go in peace;

**C: *Keep the faith;***

P: Love one another;

**C: *Serve the Lord!***

### **BENEDICTION** (Ephesians 3:16-19)

P: "I pray that, according to the riches of God's glory, God may grant that you be strengthened in your inner being with power through God's Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."

### **POSTLUDE**

Tallis Canon

arr. Callahan

*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

Beth Sterba

NURSERY ATTENDANT

Mike Ryan

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# News in the Pews

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**Welcome to worship this second Sunday in Lent.** “The Lord is [our] light and [our] salvation. ... The Lord is the stronghold of [our] life” (Psalm 27:1, NRSV).

**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!

**The Lenten Bible Study started last Wednesday, March 9th.** You can still join in; Pastor has some extra books obtained by Peggy. We are studying a book with a Biblical discussion guide. The book is *The Third Reconstruction* by the Rev. William Barber II and Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove. See Pastor if you need a study guide, schedule of lessons, a book, and to tell him you’re participating, since the Zoom link will come from the Lanfords! As of now we are starting over Zoom.

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**The Church Council meets after worship next Sunday.**

If you are responsible for a report, please submit it to the Council in the March drop-box as soon as you are able this week.

**Announcer Articles:** the deadline for the April newsletter is March 21st, a week from tomorrow.

**Village Inn Food Fundraiser is March 20<sup>th</sup>!** Eat in, carryout or have delivered this delicious food and mention St. Peter's UCC to your server and we'll get 20% of whatever you spend! Thanks so much, mark your calendars!

**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!

**Vendors for the Spring Craft Show wanted!** Due to some cancellations we are looking for Vendors. Contact Wendy or Beth L. for an application and please share our post on Facebook to your page to spread the word!

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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).

**Thanks go to our Women's Guild** for cleaning up and re-organizing the Kitchen last Wednesday! Your hard work and time are very much appreciated!

According to the schedule next Sunday's lector is Judy Paige, and the Nursery will be attended by Annie Noorts (barring a switch).

**Celebrating birthdays** this week are Roy Svenson, William Hoellerich, and Angela (Washek) Kuras. **Happy Anniversary** to Alice and Bill Schaller on the 16th! Our best wishes to you all!

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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 13, 2022**

**Second Sunday in Lent**

**Luke 13:31-35**

**Strong and Tender**

In today's passage, Jesus refers to himself as a mother hen, tenderly gathering the city he loved under his maternal wings. By making this strong statement of maternal love and care, the Holy One sees and describes Themself as beyond gender.

In other ages, this was not so strange. The fourteenth century mystic Julian of Norwich often referred to Jesus with maternal images in her writings. \**"So, Jesus Christ who sets good against evil is our real Mother,"* she wrote. *"We owe our being to him-- and this is the essence of motherhood! --and all the delightful, loving protection which ever follows. God is as really our Mother as he is our Father."* Julian even compared the breast milk of a mother to the elements received in the sacrament of baptism: *"A mother can give her child milk to suck, but our dear mother Jesus can feed us with himself, and he does so most courteously and most tenderly with the holy sacrament, which is the precious food of life itself... The mother can lay the child tenderly to her breast, but our tender mother Jesus, he can familiarly lead us to his blessed breast through his sweet open side...."*

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Julian did not invent this idea in the 1300s. She drew from a rich history of naming God in many, varied, gender-fluid ways. According to the UCC-produced 2007 pamphlet “Expansive Language with Reference to God, Inclusive Language with Reference to God’s People,”\*\* in the scriptures we can find God named as midwife, mother, mother bear, shepherd, woman, baker, eagle, hen, fire, wind, rock, water, light, bread, and vine among many others.”

This question in the UCC brochure rings as relevant now as it did fifteen years ago: “What is the right way to speak about God?” And the answer is equally compelling. “This is a question of unsurpassed importance, for speech to and about the mystery that surrounds human lives and the universe itself is a key activity of a community of faith. In that speech the symbol of God functions as the primary symbol of the whole religious system, the ultimate point of reference for understanding experience, life, and the world. Hence the way in which a faith community shapes language about God implicitly represents what it takes to be the highest good, the profoundest truth, the most appealing beauty. Such speaking, in turn, powerfully molds the corporate identity of the community and directs its praxis.”

May the many names of the God reveal “the highest good, the profoundest truth, and the most appealing beauty” to each and all of us.

\*Revelations of Divine Love, Julian of Norwich

\*\*<https://www.ucc.org/expansive-language-with-reference-to-god/>

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

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