



St Peter and St Paul United Church of Christ

January 18, 2025

The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

If you are visiting us for the first time, welcome!
Thank you for joining us. We're happy you are here.

Please be sure to sign in at the Narthex and include your name and email so we can keep you updated on upcoming events and special worship services.

***Please stand if you are comfortable and able. The Congregation reads text in bold print.**

In our liturgy, A: is All our voices. L: is the Liturgist's voice. LL: is the Lay Leader's voice.

Bringing Christ's Light into Worship
and

Youth Acolyte

Matthew Westermeyer, Senior

Acolyte

Sharing of Joys and Concerns for Prayer

Michelle Daniels, Lay Leader

Live Stream Begins

Prelude

Jeanne Phillips, Guest Accompanist

Welcome and Announcements

Michelle Daniels, Lay Leader

***Call to Worship**

Matthew Westermeyer, Liturgist

L: Come, all who feel alone, forgotten, or unsure.

A: God is here—faithful in every moment.

L: Come, all who rejoice and give thanks.

A: God rejoices with us and receives our praise.

L: In all seasons, through all things—

A: We worship the One who never leaves us.

*Hymn

“I Love to Tell the Story”

No. 480

***Invocation**

A: Almighty God, we gather in awe of your magnificent power and the beauty of your creation. As we come together in worship, may your Holy Spirit be present among us, guiding us in truth and love. Open our hearts to receive your word, and may we leave this place renewed by your grace. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray, Amen.

***Call to Confession**

L: We are the people of God, but Scripture reminds us that we still sin. We need to confess our failures, knowing that the Lord Jesus intercedes for us with our God, who freely forgives us, through his infinite goodness and mercy. Let us draw near to God with sincerity and confidence. Let us pray together.

***Prayer of Confession**

**A: Unclutter our lives, Lord, for we expect too much.
Grant us perspective, to see this world through others' eyes, rather than just our own.
Grant us compassion; there is a need to play our part, that we do not turn aside.
Grant us gratitude for what we have, our daily bread, the gift of life.
Unclutter our lives, Lord, giving us space and the simplicity of a thankful heart.
Amen**

***Words of Assurance**

LL: Even in our moments of doubt, our lack of faith, and the blindness that means we fail to see God amongst us, God is still at work. God is still healing. God is still forgiving. Even when you fail to see God, God still sees you and still loves you. Sisters and brothers, your sins are forgiven.

***Gloria Patri (Glory be to the Father)**

No. 35

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

Please be seated.

Children are dismissed for Sunday School with Miss Tammi

Silent Prayer -- Pastoral Prayer

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Prayer Through Song *“Hear Our Prayer, O Lord”* No. 306

**Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord;
incline thine ear to us, and grant us Your peace. Amen.**

Anthem “10,000 Reasons” Matt Redman

The Holy Scriptures

Old Testament – Isaiah 62:1-3

The Gentiles shall see your righteousness, and all kings your glory. You shall be called by a new name, which the mouth of the Lord will name. You shall also be a crown of glory, in the hand of the Lord, And a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

New Testament – 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant: You know that you were Gentiles, carried away to these dumb idols, however you were led.

Therefore, I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit. There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.

But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through

the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

Message

“Unity in Diversity”

Michelle Daniels, Lay Leader

Statement of Faith –

***Affirmation of Faith**

The Apostles' Creed Interpreted

LL: What do you believe when you confess your faith in “God the Father Almighty”?

A: That God is a God of love, and that God's love is powerful beyond measure.

LL: What do you affirm when you confess your faith in Jesus Christ as “our Lord”?

A: That having been raised from the dead, he reigns with compassion and justice over all things in heaven and on earth, especially over those who confess him by faith; and that by loving and serving him above all else, we give glory and honor to God.

LL: What do you believe when you confess your faith in the Holy Spirit?

A: That apart from the Holy Spirit, our Lord can neither be loved, nor known, nor served.

The Holy Spirit is the personal bond by which Jesus Christ unites us to Himself, the Teacher who opens our hearts to Christ, and the Comforter who leads us to repentance, empowering us to live in Christ's service.

LL: What do you affirm when you speak of “the life everlasting”?

That communion with Jesus Christ is eternal life itself. In him we were chosen before the foundation of the world. By him, the eternal covenant with Israel was taken up, embodied, and fulfilled. To him we are joined by the Holy Spirit through faith, and adopted as children,

the sons and daughters of God. Through Him, we are raised from death to new life.

For him we shall live to all eternity.

Hymn

“Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah”

No. 622

***Invitation to the Offering**

L: The God of heaven and earth, of all of creation, holds each one of us in tender love and care. God is gracious and good, and no one is insignificant in God's eyes. So, we respond to everything God is doing in the life of the world by offering a portion of what we have generously received from a loving God. In the ministry of this United Church of Christ, we reach out to all of God's children in tender love and care. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.

***Doxology (Praise)**

No. 46

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.**

*** Prayer of Dedication**

A: Almighty Father, as we present these offerings before You, we surrender our hearts in gratitude. May our gifts reflect our thankfulness for Your abundant blessings. Teach us to give with joy, knowing that everything comes from You.

***Hymn**

“Open My Eyes, That I May See ”

No. 586

***Benediction**

LL: Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage, held fast to that which is good. Render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak, help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit

***Benediction Response**
Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
His name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us,
His name is called Emmanuel.

Postlude

Jeanne Phillips, Guest Accompanist

Thank you for worshipping with us at St. Peter and St. Paul United Church of Christ!

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In case of pastoral care emergency, please call the office or Deb Boland.
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