



St Peter and St Paul United Church of Christ

November 30, 2025

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

Please make sure to sign-in in 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

*Youth Acolyte and
Matthew Westermeyer, Senior Acolyte*

Sharing of Joys and Concerns for Prayer

Deb Boland, Lay Leader

Live Stream Begins

Prelude

Garrett Woods, Music Director

Welcome and Announcements

Deb Boland, Lay Leader
God is good (all the time!) – And all the time (God is good!)

***Call to Worship**

Pastor James R. Hill, Liturgist

L: In the midst of darkness and longing, we wait for the Lord. We gather together in hope because the Lord has promised to come to us.

A: I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His word I do hope.

L: Hope draws near, for God's promises never fail. We wait, not in uncertainty, but in the sure expectation that the God who spoke through the prophets will fulfill every promise of His mercy.

A: We watch and we wait for the Light to come. Our hope rests in the faithfulness of God.

L: Though the night may be long and the world may feel weary, the Light is near. The dawn of salvation draws closer.

A: We watch for the morning as we wait for Christ our Light.

L: In this holy season of Advent, God invites us to lift our eyes, steady our hearts, and remember the Word that cannot fail.

A: I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His word I do hope.

L: Come, let us worship the God of Hope – the God who enters our darkness with everlasting light.

A: With expectant hearts, we welcome the coming Christ.

***Invocation**

A: Holy God, in this season of watching and waiting, we come before You with hopeful hearts. You have spoken Your promises through the ages, and in Your Word we place our trust. As we gather in Your presence, shine Your everlasting light into our darkness, steady our longing spirits, and fill us with the quiet confidence that You are drawing near. By the power of Your Holy Spirit, open our eyes to Your coming, open our ears to Your voice, and open our hearts to the hope You give through Jesus Christ, our Light and our Redeemer. Come and dwell with us now, for we wait for You, O Lord, and in Your Word we do hope. Amen.

***Call to Confession**

L: In this season of waiting, we remember that God meets us with mercy and grace and not with darkness, silence, and despair. Let us come before the Lord, confessing our sins and trusting in His always promised hope.

***Prayer of Confession**

A: Merciful God, in this holy season of Advent. we confess that we do not wait for You as we should. We grow weary in hope, impatient in the darkness, and forgetful of Your faithful promises. We turn to our own ways instead of watching for Your light. Forgive us, Lord. Renew our hearts in Your grace and teach us to wait with trust and expectation. Make us ready for the coming of Christ, our Hope and our Redeemer. Amen.

***Words of Assurance**

LL: Hear the good news: the God we wait for is the God who comes with mercy. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. Our hope is in the Lord, whose steadfast love endures forever. In Jesus Christ, the promised Savior, our sins are forgiven, and our lives are made new.

A: Thanks be to God! We walk in the light and wait with hope for His coming.

*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.

LL: 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

"Into My Heart"

No. 304

**Into my heart, into my heart, come into my heart, Lord Jesus;
Come in today, come in to stay, come into my heart, Lord Jesus.**

Children dismissed for Sunday School with Miss Tammi

Message: "Hope That Sings Ahead Of Time"

Written by Mary Beth Westermeyer

Introduction

Advent Begins With Waiting – But Not Passive Waiting

Hymn: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (No. 119)

God's Promises Give Us a Song Even Before We See the Answer

Hymn: "Come, O Long-Expected Jesus" (No. 125)

Waiting In Hope

Anthem

"Canticle Of Hope" (by Gary Hallquist)

Chancel Choir

Hope Shines Brightest in the Dark

Hymn: "O Little Town Of Bethlehem" (No. 144)

Hope Sends Us Out to Live Awake and Ready

Hymn: "Joy To The World" (No. 143)

Closing Prayer

***Invitation to the Offering**

L: As we wait for the coming of Christ, we remember that God has richly blessed us. Our hope is not in wealth or possessions, but in the faithful love of God, who gave His only Son that we might have life and light. In gratitude for God's promises and provision, let us bring our offerings – our gifts, our time, and our hearts – that they may be used to shine His light in the world, to bring hope to the weary, and to proclaim the good news of Christ's coming. Let us give with joyful hearts, trusting that God multiplies even the smallest gift to accomplish His purposes.

***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: Gracious and faithful God, we bring these gifts with hearts lifted in hope and hands open in trust. Bless them, O Lord, that they may be used to shine Your light into places of darkness, to bring comfort to the weary, and to proclaim the good news of Christ's coming. Use our offerings, we pray, to strengthen Your Church, to nurture those in need, and to bear witness to Your steadfast love. May they be a tangible sign of our longing for Your kingdom, and a reflection of our faith in the One who is faithful to every promise. As we give, bless also our lives, our words, and our service, that all we are and all we do may point others toward the hope we have in Christ. Receive these gifts, O Lord, and multiply them for Your glory,
through Jesus Christ, our Light and our Redeemer. Amen.**

***The Apostles Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: and in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord: who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the one holy universal Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Celebration of Holy Communion

***The Invitation**

P: Luke the Evangelist records that on the evening of the first day of the week, the same day on which our Lord rose from the dead, when he was at table with two of the disciples, he took bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them, and their eyes were opened and they knew him. Beloved, this is the joyful feast of the people of God. Come from the east and the west and from the north and from the south and gather about the table of the Lord.

A: Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers and sisters dwell in unity.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

***The Great Thanksgiving**

P: The Lord be with you.

A: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

A: We lift them up to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

A: It is meet and right so to do.

***Communion Prayer**

P: We give thanks to you, O Holy Lord, Father Almighty...we magnify and praise you, we worship and adore you, O Lord Most Holy.

***Seraphic Hymn**

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth,
Heaven and earth are full, are full of the majesty of thy glory.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord,
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest!**

(Please be seated)

P: We thank you that the Lord Jesus, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, broke it and said...that we may remain, faithful members of his body until we feast with him in your heavenly kingdom.

A: Here we offer ourselves in obedience to you, through the perfect offering of your son Jesus Christ, giving you thanks that you have called us to be a royal priesthood, a holy nation, your own people; and to you, O Father, as to the Son and the Holy Spirit, be ascribed blessing and honor and glory and power forever and ever. Amen

Breaking of the Bread and Pouring of the Wine

The bread which we break is the communion of the body of Christ. The cup of blessing which we bless is the communion of the blood of Christ. My friends, these are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are now ready.

Distribution of Communion

(All may come forward for the bread [Gluten Free is available] and wine or grape juice. If you are not able to come forward, raise your hand, and we will bring Communion to you.)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

A: Almighty and eternal God, you have fed us with the Holy Communion of the body and blood of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ; we thank you for this gift, by which you assure us that we are members of the mystical body of your Son and heirs through hope of your everlasting kingdom. So assist us by your Holy Spirit that we may grow daily in knowledge of your truth, and faithfulness to your will, abiding in that fellowship in which all your saints have part; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all honor.

*Hymn

“People, Look East”

No. 142

***Benediction**

LL: May the God of hope fill you all with joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that your hearts may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. May the Light of Christ shine in your lives, guiding your steps as you wait with expectation, and may His promised salvation sustain you now and always. Go forth in hope, watchful and ready, and share the love and light of our coming Savior with everyone that you meet.

A: Amen.

***A: Benediction Response**

“Go, Tell It On The Mountain” (No. 167)

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;

Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

Postlude

Garrett Woods, Music Director

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

3001 Queen City Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45238

Current Office Hours: W, Th, & Fri. 10am – 2pm (W & Th remotely) ~ Sat 9-12pm + 513-661-3745

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

spspuccoffice@gmail.com + www.spspucc.org

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December Events

Advent Luncheon Series-11:00--Nov 30, Dec 7, 14, and 21

No Ladies' Bible study in Dec

No Men's Bible Study on Dec 25

No choir practice on Dec 24 or 31

Nov 30--Advent 1--Communion

Dec 2--Council meeting

Dec 3--Book Club

Dec 7--cookies for Shut-ins and first responders are due

Dec 13-9-11 Breakfast with Santa

Dec 14--Sunday School Christmas Program

Dec 21--Choir Cantata

Dec 24--Christmas Eve services with Communion--2 and 10 pm

We need your help!

The breakfast with Santa event is coming on December 13, 9-11 am

There will be a basket in the narthex for monetary donations
and those are greatly appreciated.

But your time is just, if not more, valuable.

We need elves!

Craft elves, game elves, kitchen elves, and cleaning elves.

Please see Tammi Hart if you are able to help.