



St Peter and St Paul United Church of Christ

May 4, 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 able and comfortable

Congregation reads text in bold print

In our liturgy, A: is all our voices. L: is the liturgist's voice P: is the presider's voice

Bringing Christ's Light into Worship

*Youth Acolyte and
Matthew Westermeyer, Senior Acolyte*

Sharing of Joys and Concerns for Prayer

Pastor Teri Lynn Stackhouse

Live Stream Begins

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Teri Lynn Stackhouse

Prelude

Garrett Woods, Music Director

***Call to Worship**

Dorothy Coore, Liturgist

L: Let us fill our hearts and minds with hope as we hear the Words of Jesus Christ.

A: "Peace be with you."

L: When peace and justice seem uncertain, let us hear anew the Words of Jesus Christ.

A: "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds?"

L: Let us be comforted by the presence of Christ, whose love, and light dwells within us.

A: Let our lives be witnesses of these things. Help us to be instruments of Christ's peace to all in need of God's healing love.

*Hymn

"Amazing Grace"

No. 546

***Invocation**

A: Resurrected Christ, you meet us exactly where we are. As we worship, breathe your Spirit on us, that we may carry it with us. Help us to meet the needs we have and the needs of those around us. We pray this with thanksgiving for your work among us. Amen.

***Prayer of Confession**

A: Loving God, in your infinite wisdom, we are glad that you make all things new. We are imperfect and we bring ourselves before you. We pray: Where there is hate, show your love. Where there is war, bring your peace. Where there is despair, bring your hope. Where there is fear, bring your understanding. Where there is scarcity, bring your abundance. Where there is systemic oppression, bring equal justice for all. By your perfect grace and mercy, make us all new. May it be so. Amen.

***Words of Grace**

P: Loving God, thank you for the assurance of your grace. You grant us all your peace. Help us to trust in your peace, especially in times of conflict. Believing you will bring peace in our hearts, and to all the earth. Guiding us, so that all may come to know Jesus Christ, who is our Prince of Peace. In his name, we pray. Amen.

***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.

Time for Silent Prayer ~ Pastoral Prayer

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 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.**

Young People's Message!

All young people are invited to come forward for their own special time with the Pastor.

Young people may go to Sunday School

Tammi Hart

First Reading – Acts 3:12-19

¹²[Peter] addressed the people, “You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk?” ¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. ¹⁴But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

¹⁷“And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.”

Choir Anthem

“They’ll Know We Are Christians”

by Larson

The Gospel – Luke 24:36b-48

^{36b}Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ³⁷They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?” ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things.”

Message

“May the Fourth Be With You”

Pastor Teri Lynn Stackhouse

***Affirmation of Faith – “The Jesus Creed”**

**We have confidence in Jesus who healed the sick, the blind, and the paralysed.
And even raised the dead.**

He cast out evil powers and confronted corrupt leaders.

He cleansed the temple. He favoured the poor.

He turned water into wine, walked on water, calmed storms.

**He died for the sins of the world, rose from the dead, and ascended to the Father,
sent the Holy Spirit.**

**We have confidence in Jesus who taught in word and example, sign and wonder.
He preached parables of the kingdom of God on hillsides, from boats, in the
temple, in homes, at banquets and parties, along the road, on beaches, in towns,
by day and by night. He taught the way of love for God and neighbour,
for stranger and enemy, for outcast and alien.**

**We have confidence in Jesus, who called disciples, led them,
gave them new names and new purpose and sent them out to preach the good
news.**

He washed their feet as a servant.

**He walked with them, ate with them, called them friends,
rebuked them, encouraged them, promised to leave and then return,
and promised to be with them always.**

**He taught them to pray. He rose early to pray, stole away to desolate places,
fasted and faced agonising temptations, wept in a garden,
and prayed, ‘Not my will but your will be done.’**

He rejoiced, he sang, he feasted, he wept.

**We have confidence in Jesus, so we follow him, learn his ways,
seek to obey his teaching and live by his example.**

We walk with him, walk in him, abide in him, as a branch in a vine.

We have not seen him, but we love him.

**His words are to us words of life eternal, and to know him is to know the true
and living God.**

We do not see him now, but we have confidence in Jesus. Amen.

- The Jesus Creed was first used at the Emergent Convention, Nashville, May 2004. © Brian McLaren

***Hymn**

“He Lives”

No. 226

***Invitation to Generosity**

L: All are invited to give joyously to the church that bears witness to Christ's love.

A: Let us give with a joyful heart.

L: God's loving generous love has given us every good and gracious gift.

A: We offer our gratitude for God's abundant blessings in our lives.

L: Now, let us be a blessing to others in the ways that God has faithfully and generously blessed us.

*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 Thanksgiving and Dedication**

A: Let us remember that weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes early in the morning. May these gifts of blessing be a sign of the love, light, and glory of our redeeming God who has created a world of abundance with all that we need. May we remain thankful witnesses to your generosity, O God, as we dedicate these offerings to you and your beloved creation.

*Hymn

"More Love to Thee, O Christ"

No. 527

***Benediction**

P: Beloved, go in peace, and go be peace! Receive the Holy Spirit deep in your being, and go out to share your new life in Christ with the world! Amen!

*Benediction Response

**Up from the grave he arose, (he arose)
with a mighty triumph o'er his foes; (o'er his foes)
he arose a victor from the dark domain,
and he lives forever with his saints to reign.
He arose! (he arose) He arose! (he arose) Hallelujah! Christ arose!**

Postlude

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 9-11am + 513-661-3745

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

or Pastor Teri Lynn at 513-250-6460

spspuccoffice@gmail.com + www.spspucc.org All Hymns copied from Chalice Hymnal - Red Pew Edition © 1995 / Chalice Press Eleventh Printing, 2001. Used by Permission. / CCLI # 11439836 / CSPLI # CSPL1650 / One License M-401820



Announcements



On June 8th we will be honoring those who have recently graduated or will graduate from high school, college, graduate or professional schools. If you have a loved one you would like to be included in our Graduation Sunday please provide their name to the Church Office by June 1st.

We will once again host a Mother's Day breakfast before service on May 11th. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the Communication Board this Sunday. You may also call the office to make a reservation and your choice of offering.

Paddle Party Fundraiser

at Jim and Jack's Restaurant

3456 River Rd, Cincinnati OH 45204

on Thursday, May 22 ~ Paddle sales start 6:00, Bidding starts at 7:00

We invite you to join us in making this fundraising event a success by donating a complete basket or contributing items to help create baskets. If you prefer, a monetary donation is also fantastic, and we can do the shopping and complete a basket. Types of baskets that shine at this event include gardening items, gift cards to stores and restaurants, lottery tickets, tech gadgets, concert and movie tickets, chocolates, wine, board games, and sports paraphernalia or tickets—to name a few!

We pray that you will support this effort with both items to auction and your attendance, so save the date. Let's make this a fun and rewarding experience for us and the church!

Please share with your friends, it's a fun time for all!

MAY 2025



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5 Church & Ministry - 11am F.H.	6 Food Pick-up - 12-2 pm.	7 Ladies Bible Study - 3-5 pm F.H. Bells - 5:30 - 6:30 - Fellowship Hall Choir 7 - 8:30 pm - Sanctuary	8	9 Bits n Pieces 2.0 - 10 am - 12 pm - Library	10
11 <i>Mother's Day</i> Mother's Day Breakfast - 8:30 am F.H. Communion	12	13 Property - 7pm - Par.	14 Ladies Bible Study - 3-5 pm F.H. Bells - 5:30 - 6:30 - Fellowship Hall Choir 7 - 8:30 pm - Sanctuary	15	16 Bits n Pieces 2.0 - 10 am - 12 pm - Library	17 Community Meal 10:30 - 12 - F.H.
18	19	20	21 Ladies Bible Study - 3-5 pm F.H. Bells - 5:30 - 6:30 - Fellowship Hall Choir 7 - 8:30 pm - Sanctuary	22 Paddle Party Fundraiser - 6 pm - Jim and Jack's Restaurant	23 Bits n Pieces 2.0 - 10 am - 12 pm - Library	24
25	26 HAPPY ★ ★ ★ MEMORIAL DAY ★ ★ ★	27 Council - 7 pm - Rm. 107	28 Ladies Bible Study - 3-5 pm F.H. Book Club 5:30 - 7PM F.H. Choir 7 - 8:30 pm - Sanctuary	29	30	31