

St. Peter and St. Paul United Church of Christ

November 8, 2026

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

3001 Queen City Ave + 513.661.3745 + www.spspucc.org

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 at the table in the Narthex.
If you include your name and email, we will keep you updated on upcoming events and special worship services.

In our liturgy, please be mindful of the following:

- Sections with ** indicate please stand, whether in body or in spirit
- Congregation reads text in **BOLD PRINT**

GATHERING FOR PRAYER TIME BEGINS PROMPTLY AT 9:45AM

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS FOR PRAYER – Pastor Jade Kendall

ALTAR FLOWERS THIS WEEK ARE GIVEN BY PATTI LOEW IN LOVING MEMORY OF HER GRANDSON, JAKOB MURPHY. HIS BIRTHDAY WOULD HAVE BEEN ON NOVEMBER 12TH.

LIVE STREAM BEGINS PROMPTLY AT 10:00AM

PRELUDE – Garrett Woods, Music Director

BRINGING CHRIST'S LIGHT INTO WORSHIP –
Youth Acolyte & Matthew Westermeyer, Senior Acolyte

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GOD IS GOOD (**ALL THE TIME!**) **–** AND ALL THE TIME (**GOD IS GOOD!**)

****CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVELY)** –
Matthew Westermeyer, Liturgist

The day of the Lord is coming. Who shall stand before him?
We come in humility, seeking his mercy and righteousness.

The Lord desires not empty worship,
but hearts devoted to justice and truth.
Search our hearts, O God, and lead us in your ways.

Christ calls us to turn from pride and walk in humility.
Prepare us, O Lord, to live faithfully and
stand blameless before you.

Let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream!
Amen! Let us worship the Lord!

****OPENING HYMN**: "Stand Up And Bless The Lord" (back page)

****INVOCATION (UNISON)**
Almighty and Righteous God, we come before you in reverence and humility. Search our hearts and reveal all that is displeasing in your sight. Forgive us for empty worship, pride, and unrighteous living. Turn our hearts toward justice, strengthen us in faith, and teach us to walk humbly in your ways. Prepare us to hear your Word, receive your correction, and live faithfully in anticipation of the day of your coming. May our worship be pleasing in your sight. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray. Amen.

****Prayer of Confession (responsively)**

Almighty God, you are holy and righteous,
yet we confess that we have often fallen short of your ways.
Forgive us, O Lord, for our sins and shortcomings.

We have sometimes valued outward appearances over inward faith,
and religious practice over acts of justice and mercy.
Forgive us, O Lord, and make our worship sincere.

We have allowed pride, selfishness, and indifference to
guide our actions rather than humility and love.
Forgive us, O Lord, and renew our hearts.

We have been quick to judge others, yet slow to examine our own lives.
Search us, O God, and lead us in the way of righteousness.

Merciful God, hear our confession and
prepare us to walk faithfully in your ways.
Create in us clean hearts, O God,
and renew a right spirit within us. Amen.

****Words of Grace**

Hear these Words of Assurance: The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. As far as the east is
from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.
Through Jesus Christ, God offers forgiveness to all who turn to him
in repentance and faith.
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! 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. AMEN.**

PLEASE BE SEATED.

TIME FOR SILENT PRAYER & PASTORAL PRAYER –
Pastor Jade Kendall

THE LORD'S PRAYER (UNISON)
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: "Let The Words Of My Mouth" (No. 301)
**LET THE WORDS OF MY MOUTH, AND MY HEART'S MEDITATION
BE ACCEPTABLE TO YOU, O GOD.**

CHOIR ANTHEM: "Our Lord Is In This Place" – by Mary McDonald

THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

OLD TESTAMENT: Amos 5:18-24
Alas for you who desire the day of the Lord! Why do you want the day of the Lord? It is darkness, not light; as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the

wall, and was bitten by a snake. Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?

I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt-offerings and grain-offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

GOSPEL: Matthew 23:1-13
Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, 'The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat; therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it; but do not do as they do, for they do not practise what they teach. They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of others; but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them. They do all their deeds to be seen by others; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long. They love to have the place of honour at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues, and to be greeted with respect in the market-places, and to have people call them rabbi. But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all students. And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father—the one in heaven. Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah. The greatest among you will be your servant. All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.

'But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you lock people out of the kingdom of heaven. For you do not go in yourselves, and when others are going in, you stop them.

MESSAGE:
"How to Prepare For Divine Judgment"
by Pastor Jade Kendall

****AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (UNISON)**
from "That All May Worship"

As God's creations, we are fashioned uniquely, each endowed with individuality of body, mind and spirit to worship freely the One who has given us life.

Each of us has abilities; each seeks fulfillment and wholeness. Each of us has disabilities; each knows isolation and incompleteness.

Seeking shelter from the vulnerability we all share, claiming our promised place in God's Household of Faith, we are transformed by invitation, affirmation and love.

In grateful response, we…

Worship and serve God, the source of hope and joy;
Celebrate and serve one another, rejoicing in our diversity;
Transform and serve the world, until we become a Community which reflects God's Oneness and Peace.

Let the House of God be open to all who would enter and worship. Amen.

****HYMN OF REFLECTION**:
"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" (No. 66)

****Invitation to Generosity**

The Lord calls us not merely to offer words of praise, but to live lives marked by justice, mercy, and righteousness. Let us give generously and faithfully, not for recognition or obligation, but in gratitude for God's abundant grace and in service to God's work in the world. May our gifts reflect the sincerity of our faith and the love we bear for our neighbors. Let us now present our tithes and offerings unto the Lord.

****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 (unison)**

Gracious and Righteous God, we give you thanks for your abundant blessings and unfailing mercy. All that we have comes from your generous hand. Receive these gifts, O Lord, as an expression of our gratitude and faith. Dedicate them to the work of your Church, the care of those in need, and the pursuit of justice and righteousness in our world. May our offerings, and indeed our very lives, be pleasing in Your sight. Teach us to give freely, serve humbly, and walk faithfully in your ways as we prepare for the day of your coming. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, we dedicate these offerings and ourselves. Amen.

****Closing Hymn**: "Blessed Assurance" (No. 543)

****Benediction**

****BENEDICTION RESPONSE**:
"The Lord Bless You And Keep You" (No. 446)
THE LORD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU.
THE LORD LIFT HIS COUNTENANCE UPON YOU,
AND GIVE YOU PEACE, AND GIVE YOU PEACE.
THE LORD MAKE HIS FACE TO SHINE UPON YOU
AND BE GRACIOUS, AND BE GRACIOUS;
THE LORD BE GRACIOUS, GRACIOUS UNTO YOU.
AMEN, AMEN, AMEN, AMEN, AMEN, AMEN, AMEN.

POSTLUDE

THANK YOU FOR WORSHIPING WITH US TODAY AT
ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST!

In case of pastoral care emergency, please text/call
PASTOR JADE KENDALL
pastorjadespsp@gmail.com + 513.478.0867

If you are in need of pastoral care or would like to submit a prayer request, please email:
PastoralCareSPSP@gmail.com
We would love to connect with you and include your joy or concern in our church family prayer chain.

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THE WEEKLY BUZZ

Sun 11/8 @ 10am – Worship (Sanctuary)
Tue 11/10 @ 7pm – Property (Annex)
Wed 11/11 @ 3pm – Ladies Bible Study (Annex)
Wed 11/11 @ 5:30pm – Bell Choir Practice (Fell. Hall)
Wed 11/11 @ 7pm – Choir Practice (Sanctuary)
Thu 11/12 @ 6:30pm – Men's Bible Study (Annex)
Fri 11/13 @ 9am – Bits & Pieces 2.0 (Annex)
Sun 11/15 @ 10am – Worship (Sanctuary)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- It's time to sign up for Advent Prayer Partners! If you would like to participate, please put your name on the list on the bulletin board next to the Pastor's office. Everyone will receive their secret prayer partner along with an Advent devotional booklet on Advent 1 (11/29), and they will be revealed once Christmas arrives!
- As the holidays approach, we will once again be participating in Gifts Of The Manger through Camp Washington UCC! We will be adopting children and buying gifts for them. Cards to take and shop for will be in the Narthex as soon as they are available. Please return all gifts to SPSP by Advent 1 (11/29). If you have any questions, contact Bobbie Morgan. Thank you for helping us give children a nice Christmas! (see flyer on next page)
- Mark your calendars: Andy Hitz's Funeral and 75th Birthday Party Dinner will be next week (11/15). Gathering time is 2:30pm, service is at 3:00pm, and the dinner follows that.
- We are looking for people to run for church council! If anyone is interested in serving the church in this very special way, please let anyone currently on council know that you would like to add your name to the list ASAP. Thank you for considering!



Washington UCC
Cincinnati's urban core

GIFTS TO THE MANGER

PLEASE BRING DONATIONS TO ST. PETER & ST. PAUL BY **<u>SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29</u>**

The Christ Child was born into poverty and gifted by the Magi. What better way to celebrate Jesus' birth than to do the same for children in our neighborhood.

The Gifts to the Manger program provides new toys, clothing, socks, underwear, hats and gloves for about 100 low-income families representing 300 children.

Ways your church can bless these children:

- Pray for our families and this ministry of Washington UCC
- Collect gifts for the children
- Donate money. Washington will do the shopping for you.
- Volunteer on Dec. 12 and/or 13 to distribute the gifts. It's a beautiful display of God's abundant love poured out for God's beloved children. Housing provided for overnight guests.

www.washingtonucc.org/gifts-manger
Contact Pastor Melissa - melissa@washingtonucc.org

PLEASE SEE BOBBIE MORGAN FOR DETAILS!!!

Stand Up and Bless the Lord 100

Stand up and bless the Lord your God, for ever and ever. Neh. 9:5

JAMES MONTGOMERY AARON WILLIAMS

