



St Peter and St Paul United Church of Christ

May 18, 2025

Fifth Sunday of Easter

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 Pastor'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**

Deb Boland, Liturgist

L: When we are scattered, Jesus our Good Shepherd gathers us in.

A: When we are lost and lonely, we can depend on Christ's love.

L: When we are oppressed, Jesus our Good Shepherd cares for us.

A: When we are threatened because of who we are, we can depend on Christ's protection.

L: We know Christ, because Christ's tenderness has guided us for generations.

A: Christ knows us by name. Christ will lay down his very life for our sake.

L: Let us worship our Good Shepherd, who cares for all of us with fierce love.

A: Let us give thanks for Christ's presence with us.

*Hymn

"Let All Things Now Living"

No. 717

***Invocation**

A: Holy God, you sent us Jesus as our comforter and guide. We give you thanks for the ways he cares for us. Help us be empowered to join him in protecting the oppressed and marginalized. We pray this in gratitude for your provision. Amen.

***Prayer of Confession**

L: Shepherding Christ,

A: Even as you lay down your life for us, we confess our unwillingness to support the those in need. Too often, we may be more like the one who runs away in times of trouble. We aren't always bold enough to protect the powerless; following your example is rarely easy or comfortable. Forgive us. Help us lay down our apathy and follow your example. Remind us that we belong to one another, and to you. Amen.

***Words of Grace**

P: Beloved of God, receive this comfort. It is impossible to respond to every need in this complicated world. A full life of faith gives us the grace to lay down our work, take the rest we need, then refocus our energy toward the cause of the oppressed. Rest in the shelter of your Good Shepherd, knowing you can take up the cause again with restored souls.

A: We are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

*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

The Holy Scriptures

First Reading – 1 John 3:16-24

¹⁶We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Choir Anthem

"Walk by Faith"

by Joel Raney

The Gospel – John 10:11-18

[Jesus said:] ¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

Message

“Faith Active in Love”

Pastor Teri Lynn Stackhouse

***Affirmation of Faith ~ Psalm 23**

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

³ He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

⁵ **Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.**

⁶ **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

*Hymn

“Spirit of the Living God”

No. 259

***Invitation to Generosity**

L: Jesus offers us fullness of life, protecting us and advocating for our needs. We are shepherds too. Stewards of the world and its resources, both locally and globally. What will we give to join Jesus in the work of building beloved community in the world?

*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**

**Gracious God, thank you for your gift of Jesus Christ, who cares for us and protects us.
With these gifts we return to you, help us care for others in our communities and around the world. Help us to be shepherds of others, for you, as you have been the Good Shepherd for us. Amen.**

*Hymn

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

No. 517

***Benediction**

P: Today you have received the gift of Christ’s protective, unceasing love for you. Because you are beloved, may all that you do and all that you are be a reflection of that love.

A: We will reach out, fight for the powerless, help the weak, and provide for the needy, because Jesus provides for us. 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

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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.

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!



www.spspucc.org/calendar

3001 QUEEN CITY AVE.

Encourage one another to walk in the faith, actively in love

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