



St Peter and St Paul United Church of Christ

The Second Sunday of Advent
December 7, 2025

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. GS: is the Guest Speaker's voice.

Bringing Christ's Light into Worship

*Youth Acolyte and
Matthew Westermeyer, Senior Acolyte*

Sharing of Joys and Concerns for Prayer

Jade Kendall, Guest Speaker

Live Stream Begins

Prelude

Garrett Woods, Music Director

Welcome and Announcements

Deb Boland, Liturgist

***Call to Worship**

Deb Boland, Liturgist

L: A voice cries out, declaring God's presence. Comfort, O Comfort my people, says God.

A: We come preparing the way of the Lord. Together, we actively wait for God's peace.

L: A voice cries out, declaring God's equity. Valleys shall be lifted, and Hills be made low.

A: We come to make straight in the desert a highway. Together, we're pressing toward God's peace.

L: A voice cries out, declaring steadfastness. Grass withers, flowers fade, but God's word stands forever.

A: We lift our voices with strength and good tidings. Together, we carry out God's peace.

***Hymn**

"Christians All, Your Lord is Coming"

No. 136

***Invocation**

A: Spirit of God, who dwells within our hearts, wean it from that which aims to separate us from you. In this moment of collective worship, take the dimness of our souls away. Let us seek you. Let us find you. Teach us to feel that you are always near as we lift our voices with strength to worship you. Amen.

***Call to Confession**

L: As we continue our Advent journey, may our hearts be gladdened with the good news of God's love. Let us confess our sins to God and once again receive the assurance of God's gracious love.

***Prayer of Confession**

A: God of love and kindness, you have promised to renew our lives, to be with us in a new heaven and new earth—a realm where steadfast love and faithfulness embrace forever. We are afraid of your promised coming. We cling to rules we understand. We are fearful of the unknown. As we wait for you to live among us, we confess our unwillingness to see that you have always been here.

***Words of Assurance**

GS: In God's love and mercy, each new day offers a fresh opportunity for healing and renewal. We are given each new day for the healing of the world. The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning. In the name of Christ, you 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.**

Advent Wreath and Reflection – presented by The Book Club

Advent Hymn

“One Candle Is Lit”

No. 128 (verse 2)

Come quickly, shalom, teach us how to prepare for a gift that compels us with justice to care. Our spirits are restless till sin and war cease. One candle is lit for the reign of God's peace.

A: Silent Prayer – LL: 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.**

Children may be dismissed for Sunday School.

Anthem

"Bethlehem Boy"

Cynthia Gray

The Holy Scriptures

Old Testament – Isaiah 1-10

1 There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots.
2 The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. 3 His delight *is* in the fear of the Lord, and He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, nor decide by the hearing of His ears.

4 But with righteousness He shall judge the poor and decide with equity for the meek of the earth. He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. 5 Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, and faithfulness the belt of His waist.

6 "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. 7 The cow and the bear shall graze; Their young ones shall lie down together, and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. 8 The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. 9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. 10 "And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, who shall stand as a banner to the people; for the Gentiles shall seek Him, and His resting place shall be glorious."

New Testament -- Matthew 3:1-12

1 In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, 2 proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." 3 For this is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.' 4 Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. 5 Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, 6 and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. 7 But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bear fruit worthy of repentance. 9 Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. 10 Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 11 "I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Message

"Now and Later"

Jade Kendall, Guest Speaker

***Hymn**

"All Earth is Waiting"

No. 139

***Affirmation of Faith today is the – Advent Credo – by Daniel Berrigan, S.J. “**

**It is not true that creation and the human family
are doomed to destruction and loss—**

This is true:

**For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son,
that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life;
It is not true that we must accept inhumanity and discrimination,
hunger and poverty, death and destruction—**

This is true:

**I have come that they may have life, and that abundantly.
It is not true that violence and hatred should have the last word,
and that war and destruction rule forever—**

This is true:

Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given,

and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
his name shall be called wonderful councilor, mighty God,
the Everlasting, the Prince of peace.
It is not true that we are simply victims of the powers of evil
who seek to rule the world—

This is true:

To me is given authority in heaven and on earth,
and lo I am with you, even until the end of the world.
It is not true that we have to wait for those who are specially gifted,
who are the prophets of the Church before we can be peacemakers—

This is true:

I will pour out my spirit on all flesh
and your sons and daughters shall prophesy,
your young men shall see visions
and your old men shall have dreams.
It is not true that our hopes for liberation of humankind,
of justice, of human dignity, of peace
are not meant for this earth and for this history—

**This is true: The hour comes, and it is now,
that the true worshipers shall worship God in spirit and in truth.
So let us enter Advent in hope,
even hope against hope.**

Let us see visions of love and peace and justice.

**Let us affirm with humility, with joy, with faith, with courage:
Jesus Christ—the life of the world.**

***Invitation to the Offering**

L: In gratitude for all that God has given us, we receive this morning's offering, pledging these gifts and our lives in God's service.

***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: Lord, we bring these gifts to you, thankful for all the ways you have healed and enriched our lives. May these gifts be used in service to others in Jesus' Name. Amen.

***Hymn**

“People Look East”

No. 142

***Benediction**

God is bringing light to our darkness. We are called to go into the world, confident in God’s loving presence, to serve others in need. Go, bringing hope and peace to this darkened world. Go in God’s love. Amen.

***A: Benediction Response --**

“Emmanuel”

No. 134

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

Postlude

Director

Garrett Woods, Music

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

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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.

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DECEMBER

Birthdays

12/08	Robert Cheeseman	12/20	Kevin Wesley
12/09	Joanne Claudy	12/22	Gene Bozich
12/13	David Papin	12/25	Barbara Babcock
12/16	Bob Hedspeth	12/25	Carol Heuerman
12/17	Jessica Duvall	12/26	Colin Evan Ryan
12/17	JosiePatterson	12/28	Terry Hart

Anniversaries

12/03 Glenn & Katie Schnell

12/21 Paul & Barbara Staley