



St Peter and St Paul United Church of Christ

April 19, 2026

The Third 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 Jade Kendall

Live Stream Begins

Prelude

Garrett Woods, Music Director

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Jade Kendall

***Call to Worship**

Paul Middendorf, Liturgist

L: On the road of life, we often walk with heavy hearts and unanswered questions.

A: The Risen Christ comes near and walks beside us, even when we fail to see him.

L: Our eyes are often kept from recognizing the Hope that stands before us.

A: Open our eyes, O Lord, that we might see your face in the stranger and the friend.

L: As the Scriptures are opened, do our hearts not burn within us?

A: Kindle the fire of your Word in our souls and stay with us as the day fades.

L: At the table, in the breaking of the bread, the truth is revealed:

A: The Lord is risen indeed! We have seen him, and our hearts are full.

L: Let us worship the Living God who meets us on the road and makes himself known in the bread of life!

*Hymn

“Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee”

No. 102

***Invocation**

A: Holy and Living God,

We come before you today with hearts full of reverent awe. We acknowledge you as the impartial Judge and the loving Father who called us out of darkness.

We thank you that we have been ransomed from the empty ways of our past—not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, the lamb without blemish or spot.

Through Him, we place our faith and hope in you, the one who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory. As we gather in this space, purify our souls by the power of your Spirit. Grant us a sincere, mutual love for one another, that we might love deeply from a pure heart.

May your living and enduring Word take root in us today, for while the grass withers and the flowers fall, your Word stands forever. Amen.

***Prayer of Confession**

L: I love the Lord because he actually listens; he hears my cry for help.

A: Because he bent down to listen, I will keep calling on him as long as I have breath.

L: We confess that the traps of death were closing in; the terrors of the grave took hold of us.

A: We were overwhelmed by grief and anxiety, yet we tried to fix it all on our own.

L: We looked for exits instead of looking to you; we trusted our own fading strength.

A: Forgive us, Lord, for our pride and for the times we stayed silent in our pain.

L: Then I finally called out to the Lord: "Please, Lord, save my life!"

A: Hear our cry today, you who rescue the weary. Wash us clean and give us hope again. Amen.

***Words of Grace**

P: The same Jesus we have often ignored is the one God has made both Lord and Savior.

A: When we are "cut to the heart" by our mistakes, we ask: "What should we do?"

P: Hear the good news: Repent and be forgiven in the name of Jesus Christ.

A: This grace is for us, our children, and everyone the Lord calls to himself.

P: Today, your sins are washed away, and you receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

A: In Christ, we are forgiven and made new. 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.**

Choir Anthem

"There Is Joy in the House of the Lord"

by Besig

The Holy Scriptures

First Lesson: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

14 But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Fellow Jews and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.

36 "Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."

37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" 38 Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." 40 And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt

generation.” 41 So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

The Gospel – Luke 24:13-35

13 Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles[a] from Jerusalem, 14 and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. 15 While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, 16 but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. 17 And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad.[b] 18 Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” 19 He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth,[c] who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, 20 and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. 21 But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel.[d] Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. 22 Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, 23 and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. 24 Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him.” 25 Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! 26 Was it not necessary that the Messiah[e] should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” 27 Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

28 As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. 29 But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. 30 When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. 32 They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us[f] while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” 33 That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. 34 They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” 35 Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Bell Choir

“Christ is Risen! Shout Hosannah!”

No. 222

Message

“A Burning and Cut Heart”

Pastor Jade Kendall

***Affirmation of Faith**

A: We believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of God that rushes like a violent wind, filling our hearts and our homes. We believe in the fire of God that rests upon us, burning away our fear and lighting a path for a world in need.

We believe in the power of the Word, spoken in every tongue, so that all people might hear the wonders of God. We believe that the promise of God is for us, for our children, and for those who are still far off.

We stand together as one body, fueled by the Spirit, to be witnesses of the Gospel in boldness and in truth.

*Hymn

“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”

No. 560

***Invitation to Generosity**

L: As we gather in this sanctuary, we remember the travelers on the road to Emmaus whose hearts burned within them as the Scriptures were opened. When they welcomed the stranger and broke bread together, their eyes were opened to the presence of the risen Christ. In that same spirit of hospitality and recognition, let us now offer our gifts. May our generosity extend the welcome of Christ to a world hungry for hope and hungry for bread.

*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: Living God, we thank you for meeting us on the road. When we are confused or discouraged, you draw near and walk beside us. We thank you for the way your Word sets our hearts on fire, burning away our doubt and lighting our path.

We praise you for the moments of recognition—when our eyes are opened in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of our lives. Thank you for staying with us as the day fades and for the joy that sends us running to share the good news. For your presence on the journey and your life at the table, we give you all our thanks. Amen.

*Hymn

“Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”

No. 589

***Benediction**

P: As you leave this place, go out with hearts full of reverent awe for the Father who calls you His own. Remember that you have been ransomed from empty ways—not by things that perish, but by the precious blood of Christ.

May the living and enduring Word of God take root in your soul, staying with you even as the grass withers and the flowers fall. And as you walk the road ahead, love one another deeply from a pure heart, for you have been born again into a hope that will never fade.

Go in peace, grounded in the truth that lives and remains forever. Amen.

***Benediction Response (sung)**

A: He Lives, He Lives, Christ Jesus lives today!

He walks with me, and he talks with me along life's narrow way.

He lives, he lives, salvation to impart!

You ask me how I know he lives? He lives within my heart.

Postlude

Garrett Woods, Music Director

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

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

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✿ Exciting News! ✿

A great fundraising event is happening May. 28! ✿
A Paddle Party to benefit St Peter and St Paul UCC.

The event will be held at Jim & Jack's (3456 River Road). Paddle sales begin at 6:30PM and the fun begins at 7:00PM. All proceeds generated from paddle sales, split the pot, select auction items, and basket raffle will go to St Peter and St Paul UCC.

This event is a great fundraiser for the church. Please join us for this fun night out!

Thanks to your incredible support, last year's event raised funds that made a real difference—helping support fun activities and a meal for community children at our Easter egg hunt, 5 Night Vacation Bible School, Trunk or Treat and Breakfast with Santa.

We can't wait to do even more together this year!