



St Peter and St Paul United Church of Christ

March 1, 2026

The Second Sunday in Lent

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

Prelude

Garrett Woods, Director of Music

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Teri Lynn Stackhouse

***Call to Worship**

Pastor Jade Kendall, Liturgist

L: Come, my Light, shine forth in me and illumine my darkness.

A: Come, my Life, give hope and peace, revive me from death.

L: Come, my Physician, bring your balm to me and heal my wounds.

A: Come, Flame of divine love, and burn up the thorns in my life, reviving and kindling my heart with the flame of your love! - adapted from prayer by Dimitrii of Rostov

*Hymn

"Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God"

No. 354

***Invocation**

A: Dear God, I thank You for being my guide and my source of wisdom. Awaken my heart. Help me to trust in Your plan, even when I cannot see the way forward. May I always seek Your will above my own and follow the path You have set before me. Thank you for leading me with love and grace. Amen.

***Prayer of Confession**

A: Heavenly Father, I thank You for Your boundless love and forgiveness. Teach me to extend the same forgiveness to others as You have shown to me. Help me to live a life of discipleship, constantly turning to You for guidance and strength. I ask you to forgive all that I have done and all that I have left undone. May Your grace transform my heart and lead me closer to You. Amen.

***Words of Grace**

P: Jesus is with us! His life and light have arisen upon us. Jesus reveals to us the light when we are in darkness, hope when we are in despair, and joy in life, even in the midst of pain.

Jesus, we thank You for the many ways You provide for me each day. Help us to cultivate a spirit of gratitude, even in challenging times. May we each take Your blessings into our hearts, knowing that we are beloved children of God. Thank You for Your unending love and mercy. 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

Choir Anthem:

“10,000 Reasons”

by Larson

The Holy Scriptures

First Lesson: Psalm 121

Matthew Westermeyer, Reader

Please read responsively by whole verse.

1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?

2 My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.

3 He will not let your foot be moved and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.

4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep;

5 The Lord himself watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand,

6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

7 The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; it is he who shall keep you safe.

8 The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth and for evermore.

Gospel Lesson: John 3:1-17

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

Message

“Questions in the Night”

Pastor Teri Lynn Stackhouse

***Affirmation of Faith – “Nicene Creed”**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**He came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Hymn

“To God be the Glory”

No. 72

***Invitation to Generosity**

L: On the Mount of Transfiguration, the law of love and the prophecy of holy peace joined each other in Jesus as he prayed. God’s generous love bore a radiant flash, touching earth with heavenly light. So, the heart of God was revealed in Jesus, and a call was extended.

It was the call to listen to Jesus and love generously like him. May we follow Jesus and give of our time, talent, and treasure, just like we are called to do everything we do with love.

*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: Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever.

Amen.

Service of Holy Communion

***The Great Thanksgiving**

P: The Lord be with you.

A: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

A: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

A: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***Words of Institution**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who, sharing our life, lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to your own brilliant light. In the night in which he was betrayed ...

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the chch on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***Seraphic Hymn**

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;
Heaven and Earth are full,
Are full of the majesty of Thy glory,
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord,
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest!**

Communion Anthem: “Come Find Forgiveness and Love”

by Besig

Distribution of Communion

P: Come. All things are ready. The gifts of God, for the people of God.
All may come forward for the bread (Gluten Free is available) and wine (outer ring of cups) or grape juice (center of tray). If you are not able to come forward, raise your hand and we will bring Communion to you.

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

L: Let us pray together:

A: O Spirit of Life, shine on us again and again that we may become the blessing you intend. Bless us to be a blessing from this Holy Meal, and keep awakening us to Your holy mystery and Your sacred call. Awaken our hearts in the night to follow you! Bless us so that Your energy of love may be shared with others and offer the light of a new beginning as we follow you to continue to transfigure ourselves and the world. Amen.

***Sending of Communion**

P: Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother’s tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are *sick, homebound, and imprisoned*. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Hymn

“It is Well With My Soul”

No. 561

Benediction

P: May the Holy radiance of transfiguration continually light the wick of your life.
May it be a light that bears joy and hope and love.
May the voice of Jesus enter not only your ears but also your heart.
And may that voice shape your voice for the good of the world.
Blessings on you all! Amen and Amen.

***Benediction Response**

**Lord, we are able. Our spirits are thine. Remold them, make us, Like thee, divine.
Thy guiding radiance above us shall be, a beacon to God, to love and loyalty.**

Postlude

Garrett Woods, Director of Music

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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