



St Peter and St Paul United Church of Christ

The First Sunday in Lent

February 18, 2024

*Please stand if you are able and comfortable

Congregation reads text in bold print

Bringing Christ's light into Worship

Chloe Seery, Acolyte

Welcome

Rev Paul Burden, Senior Pastor

Prelude

Garrett Woods, Music Director

*Call to Worship

Jim Miller, Liturgist

The voice of God proclaims of Jesus, "You are my beloved, and I love you."

We, too, are God's beloved children, loved and embraced.

With all the voices reminding us that we are not enough or don't belong, it is tempting to forget our place in God's Kingdom.

With the waters of baptism and the voice of God's promises, we can face the temptations of any wilderness or desert that would draw us away from the Source of our hope.

Embrace your belovedness.

We rejoice in God's unending love for us!

*Hymn

"O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go"

No 540

*Invocation

God of waters and deserts, God of hope and horizons, we celebrate your presence among us and among all your people. You have proclaimed that Jesus was beloved and, tenderly, you have claimed us as your own. Open the skies. Break through the clouds. Fall softly upon our shoulders and say our names with joy. For this day and each day, no matter what the other voices may say, we are your beloved and we rejoice in your inbreaking Kingdom. Amen and Amen!

* Call to Confession

The psalmist writes in Psalm 25, "Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths."

Following the path of life begins when we acknowledge our need for God, and for the grace revealed to us in Jesus Christ. Let us acknowledge our need for forgiveness and we pray together our prayer of confession.

*Prayer of Confession

O God of love, as Jesus was driven out to be tempted in the wilderness, we too, face wildernesses of our own. We are tempted to forget your promises, to rely upon our own strength, and to listen to the destructive voices of power and oppression. Free us from our own hubris. Help us to reclaim our spiritual center as rooted in your love. Open our being to hearing your voice proclaim us as your child who is welcomed, held, and whole. Amen.

*Words of Assurance

Friends, through wilderness and desert, through sacraments born of water, you are a child of God held tenderly in the embrace of our Creator. Remember your baptism. Remember a path has been made for you. Remember you are not alone. Remember, that in Christ Jesus you are forgiven and made whole. **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.**

Pastoral Prayer

Silent 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 Thy peace. Amen.

Anthem

"Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed" by Gilbert Martin

Choir

The Old Testament – Genesis 9:8-17

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, “As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.”

God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh, and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

The Gospel – Mark 1:9-15

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tested by Satan, and he was with the wild beasts, and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the good news of God and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

Message

“The Stuff of Life”

Rev Paul Burden

*Affirmation of Faith – “The Jesus Creed”

**We have confidence in Jesus
who healed the sick, the blind, and the paralysed.
And even raised the dead.
He cast out evil powers
and confronted corrupt leaders.**

**He cleansed the temple.
He favoured the poor.
He turned water into wine,
walked on water, calmed storms.
He died for the sins of the world,
rose from the dead, and ascended to the Father,
sent the Holy Spirit.**

**We have confidence in Jesus
who taught in word and example,
sign and wonder.
He preached parables of the kingdom of God
on hillsides, from boats, in the temple, in homes,
at banquets and parties, along the road, on beaches, in towns,
by day and by night.
He taught the way of love for God and neighbour,
for stranger and enemy, for outcast and alien.**

**We have confidence in Jesus,
who called disciples, led them,
gave them new names and new purpose
and sent them out to preach good news.
He washed their feet as a servant.
He walked with them, ate with them,
called them friends,
rebuked them, encouraged them,
promised to leave and then return,
and promised to be with them always.
He taught them to pray.
He rose early to pray, stole away to desolate places,
fasted and faced agonising temptations,
wept in a garden,
and prayed, 'Not my will but your will be done.'
He rejoiced, he sang, he feasted, he wept.**

**We have confidence in Jesus,
so we follow him, learn his ways,
seek to obey his teaching and live by his example.**

**We walk with him, walk in him, abide in him,
as a branch in a vine.
We have not seen him, but we love him.
His words are to us words of life eternal,
and to know him is to know the true and living God.
We do not see him now, but we have confidence in Jesus. Amen.**

- The Jesus Creed was first used at the Emergent Convention, Nashville, May 2004. © Brian McLaren

*Hymn *“Touch the Earth Lightly”* No 693

*Invitation to the Offering
Our generosity is born out of our identity in a God whose love is unending and offered to all. In gratitude and joy, we are invited to share a portion of our treasure to ensure that all may come to know of this love of God that never ends.

*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
Abundant God, receive these gifts of love from your servants and use them for the breaking in of your Kingdom of love and light. In the name of Jesus, whose way calls us forth in service, we pray. Amen.

*Hymn *“Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley”* No 211

*Benediction

Go forth to claim your belovedness, trusting that the God who provided Jesus with strength to overcome the temptations of the desert is the very God who will guide you and lead you this day and always. Amen.

*Benediction Response
God be with you till we meet again,

By His counsels guide, uphold you,
With His sheep securely fold you,
God be with you till we meet again.
Till we meet, till we meet,
Till we meet at Jesus' feet;
Till we meet, till we meet,
God be with you till we meet again. Amen.

*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: T, W, Th, & Fri. 10:00am – 2:00pm + 513-661-3745

spspuccoffice@gmail.com + www.spspucc.org All Hymns copied from Chalice Hymnal - Red Pew Edition © 1995 / Chalice Press Eleventh Printing, 2001. Used by Permission. / CCLI # 11439836 / CSPLI # CSPL1650 / One License M-401820

Announcements



Congregation and Steering Committees Discussions



Who Are We? Who is God Calling Us To Become?

Please sign up for ONE of the dates on the sign-up sheet outside the Pastor's Office.

Discussions will be held on...

TODAY - February 18th

March 3rd – Sign up deadline February 25th

March 10th – Sign up deadline March 3rd

Pastor Paul

**Farewell
Gathering**

Breakfast

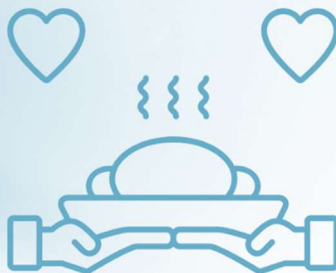
February 25th

8:30 am - 9:30 am

Sweets and Treats

February 25th

immediately following service



Lenten Suppers & Bible Study

The Last Days of Jesus

by Matthew Williams

Every Wednesday through Lent

February 21st

February 28th

March 6th

March 13th

March 20th

March 27th

Potluck - 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Bible Study - 6:00 pm - 7:00pm

Please sign up outside the Pastor's Office



23RD MARCH, 2024

EASTER *Hunt* EGG

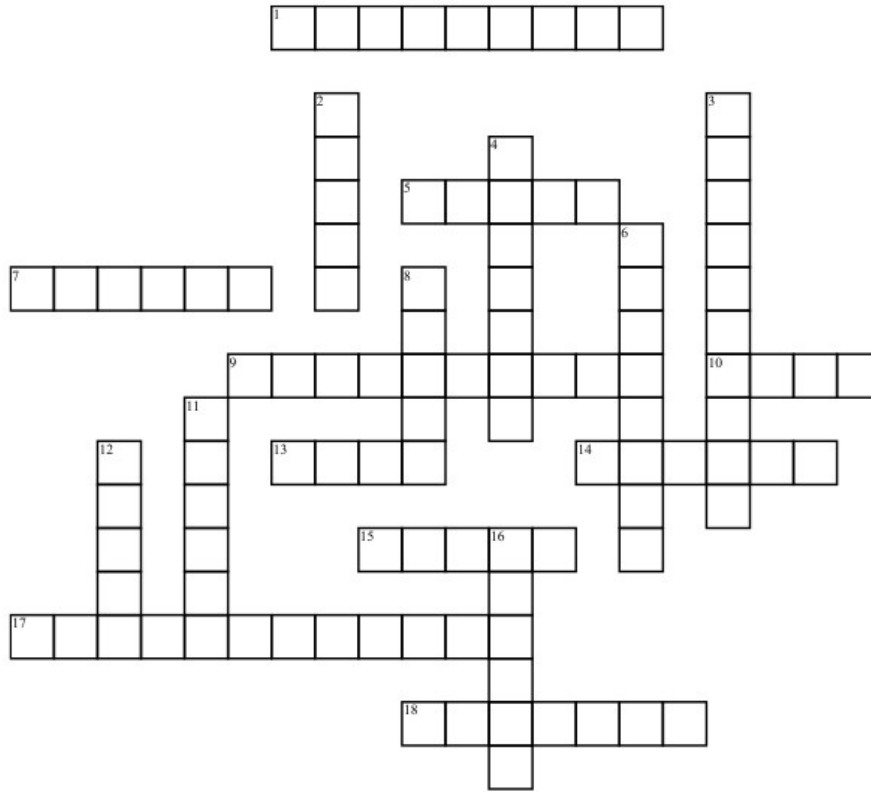


GRAB YOUR BASKET AND A FRIEND! JOIN THE FUN! CHILDREN WILL ENJOY A LIGHT LUNCH, PICTURES W/ THE BUNNY, A CRAFT, AND A FUN EGG HUNT. AGES 10 AND UNDER EVERYONE'S WELCOME!

**2:00 pm - 3:30 pm
Egg Hunt at 2:45**

Small individually wrapped candy
and monetary donations would
be greatly appreciated

LENTEN CROSSWORD



Across

- 1. ASH _____
- 5. The Christian holy book
- 7. Jesus entered Jerusalem on this animal
- 9. Day in Lent recalling Jesus' death (2 words)
- 10. Branches waved at Jesus upon his entry into Jerusalem
- 13. Was with Jesus at the cross

- 14. Jesus prayed for 40 days here
- 15. What Jesus died upon
- 17. We spend Lent preparing for Jesus death and _____

18. Giving to _____ is a good Lenten practice

Down

- 2. What Jesus shed for our sins

- 3. Holy Communion started after this
- 4. To go without
- 6. The final week of Lent (2 words)
- 8. Number of days in LENT
- 11. Season after Lent
- 12. Disciple who betrayed Jesus
- 16. PALM _____

FEBRUARY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6 Church & Ministry - 10 am F.H. Food Pick-up - 12-2 pm.	7 Choir 7 - 8:30 pm - Sanctuary Ladies Bible Study - 4-6 pm F.H.	8	9	10
11 Annual Meeting - 11:00 am F.H. Fellowship Tailgate - 5:00 pm F.H.	12	13 Property - 7pm - Par.	14 Choir 7 - 8:30 pm - Sanctuary Ladies Bible Study - 4-6 pm F.H. Ash Wednesday Service - 7:00 pm	15	16	17 Community Meal 10:30 - 12 - F.H.
18 Steering Committee/ Congregation Discussion - 11:00 am F.H.	19	20	21 Choir 7 - 8:30 pm - Sanctuary Ladies Bible Study - 4-6 pm F.H. Lenten Suppers / Study-5:00-7:00 F.H.	22	23	24
25	26	27 Council - 7 pm - Rm. 107	28 Choir 7 - 8:30 pm - Sanctuary Ladies Bible Study - 4-6 pm F.H. Lenten Suppers / Study-5:00-7:00 F.H. Book Club 5:30 - 7PM F.H.	29		