



St Peter and St Paul United Church of Christ

Easter Sunday

March 31, 2024

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

Angela Williams, Acolyte

Sharing of Joys and Concerns for Prayer

Pastor Teri Lynn Stackhouse

Live Stream Begins

Find Jesus!

Tammi Hart, Christian Education

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Teri Lynn Stackhouse

Prelude

Garrett Woods, Music Director

***EASTER PROCLAMATION!**

P: Christ is Risen!

A: He is Risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Christ is Risen!

A: He is Risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Christ is Risen!

A: He is Risen indeed. Alleluia!

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Jan Williams, Liturgist

L: We gather in the presence of God's love to celebrate the best love story ever told.

A: The Holy Story of the Risen Christ!

L: A story of the Risen Christ who came as a blessing, given to heal a hurting world.

A: The Divine sign of God's love and grace.

L: As the women arrived, and saw an empty tomb, they were shocked and afraid.

A: They remembered the symbol of human shame and the sorrow of their loss.

L: But the story did not end with the crucified Jesus. As they stood, wondering and confused, an Angel of God appeared in the empty tomb, and told them that Jesus was risen, and their fear transformed into amazement.

A: God's love had once again been revealed.

L: The journey of the three women continued and with all the disciples, they went to spread the Good News of God's love, peace, and justice found in the Risen Christ!

A: Today, we receive this Good News; Christ is Risen. He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

***Hymn**

"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"

No. 216

***INVOCATION**

A: God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ. Help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

***PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE**

L: Loving God,

A: You have walked patiently with us throughout our Lenten journey. You have celebrated our growing understanding of your love; and you have seen our failures to share your love and bring healing mercies. This day, as we have gathered to celebrate the joy of Easter, let us remember that we are to become "Easter People", people of the Resurrection; people who know that what was impossible is conquered forever. Forgive our stubbornness and fears. Fill us with your healing love and help us to become disciples that you need, ready to serve in this world. For we ask this in the name of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ. AMEN.

***WORDS OF GRACE**

P: God of Grace and Glory,

We are humbled by your faithfulness and love. There is no other love greater than yours. You call upon all of creation to spread the Good News of your love and glorious light. You remind us that your love is sweeter than the honey in the honeycomb. You comfort

us even in the tough times of life. We embrace the loving assurance of forgiveness found in Jesus Christ, our Risen Savior, whose grace and mercy bless us always.

*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.

First Reading: Acts 10:34-43

Peter crosses the immense religious and social boundary that separates Jews from Gentiles in order to proclaim the good news of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, so that God's forgiveness in Jesus' name would reach out to all people.

³⁴Peter began to speak to [the people]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the

Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Choir Anthem

"Crown Him, the Risen King"

by Lloyd Larson

GOSPEL READING: John 20:1-18

This morning begins with confusion: the stone has been moved and the tomb is empty. Disciples arrive, then angels, and finally Jesus himself. Out of the confusion, hope emerges, and a weeping woman becomes the first to confess her faith in the risen Lord.

¹Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ²So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” ³Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰Then the disciples returned to their homes.

¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹²and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” ¹⁴When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him

away.”¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher).¹⁷ Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Message

“Jesus Is Here!”

Pastor Teri Lynn Stackhouse

*Affirmation of Faith – “The Apostles’ Creed”

**A: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy universal Christian Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Hymn

“He Lives”

No. 226

*Invitation to the Offering

L: Loving God, your abundance of generosity is exemplified in the dawning of the sun.

A: Thank you for the joy and hope of new mercies found in the morning sun.

L: Even in moments when we are showered by the rain, remind us that your love never fails.

A: Rain down your abundant love and redeeming grace upon us.

L: Let us give our offerings with generosity and joy to the One who has faithfully and generously given to us love, grace, and mercy.

*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: Let us remember that weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes early in the morning. May these gifts of blessing be a sign of the love, light, and glory of our redeeming God who has created a world of abundance with all that we need. May we remain grateful for your generosity, as we dedicate these offerings to you and your beloved creation. Amen.

Please be seated

COMMUNION LITURGY

Invitation

P: God loves you!

A: And God also loves you.

P: Lift up your hearts!

A: We lift all we are to God!

P: May we embrace the gifts of God in these simple things.

A: In Christ's words we celebrate our love for one another.

Communion Prayer

P: Divine Gatherer of Your Children,

There is beauty in this celebration of YOU. We gather with Christian friends of all time and space here at this Table. We remember your giving of yourself in the First Supper of Love.

It was on that night of love and betrayal that Jesus took a loaf of bread. After he blessed the bread, he broke the bread, and gave it to his friends. "This is my body," he said to them. "Remember me each time you break and eat the bread."

And after supper, Jesus took the cup filled with the fruit of the vine. He spoke to his followers, "This is the cup of the new covenant. As often as you drink from this cup, do this in remembrance of me."

Holy Spirit, Breath of Healing, encircle these elements tonight. Surround us with your care, pour your peace that passes all understanding on us. This is the sacramental meal of Christ for all God's children. No matter where you are on the path of life, each of you are welcome at this table.

Distribution of Communion

P: Come. Find your place at this table, you who need answers, you who are seeking for peace. Christ is Risen! Join in the meal of love with all Christians. Our God has given Christ Jesus, for us!

Communion Anthem

"Bread of the World"

by Eliot

Prayer of Gratitude

A: Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and you have nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. Amen.

*Hymn

"Christ Arose"

No. 224

*Benediction

Dance, celebrate, sing, open your hearts, and shout for joy! Christ is Risen and He goes before us, into this world of fear and pain. He has called us to bring the Good News of healing and hope, of redemption. Go in peace, and feel the presence of the Risen Lord with you, now and forever.

AMEN

*Benediction Response

**He Lives! He Lives! Christ Jesus Lives today!
He walks with me and 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

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 at 513-252-8744,
or Pastor Teri Lynn at 513-250-6460

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Thank you to the following who
contributed to our
Easter Garden of Love

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Wendy Bauer
Kathy Grant
James & Teresa Miller
Mike & Laurie Murphy
Barbara Babcock
Lynn Sparks
Jan Williams
Deb & Jim Boland
Trish Powell
Patti Loew

IN MEMORY OF

Guy Bauer
Pat Coleman, MaryAnn Davis, Elsie
& Jim Grant, Rody Barthelmeh
The Boggs Family and The Millers
Shirley & Bill Murphy, Ed Rosen &
Neil Rosen
Warren Babcock
My loved ones
Arnie Williams
Loved Ones
John Powell
Jakob Murphy

DONOR

Lyn Klug
Deb & Jim Boland
Lynn Sparks

IN HONOR OF

Klug & Bering Families
Loved Ones
My loved ones

Free Food Distribution

APRIL 2ND



If you or someone you know is in need stop by our free food distribution between 12:00 - 2:00 PM.

**Our free food pick-up is open to all.
No documentation needed, no questions asked.**



APRIL 2024

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

