



St Peter and St Paul United Church of Christ

Epiphany Sunday
Baptism of Christ

January 7, 2024

*Please stand if you are able and comfortable

Congregation reads text in bold print

Bringing Christ's light into Worship

Matthew Westermeyer, Acolyte

Welcome

Rev Paul Burden, Senior Pastor

Prelude

Garrett Woods, Music Director

*Call to Worship

Wendy Bauer, Liturgist

Ascribe to Creator glory and honor!

The Voice of the Holy One hovers over the waters and speaks creation into being.

Ascribe to the Holy One strength and peace!

The Voice of the Sovereign One calls for justice, love, and righteousness.

Ascribe to the Omnipresent One power and gentleness!

The Voice of the Gracious One gives life and reigns forever and ever.

*Hymn *"As with Gladness" No 173*

*Invocation

Triune God, you come among us in the fullness of your being and affirm the fullness of our humanity—mind, body, and spirit. In you, we find joy and pleasure. In you, we claim peace and hope. In you, we arise to greet a new day and a new way of being. Shape us in this time together that we might reflect your goodness and your way. Amen.

* Call to Confession

God calls us to life. When we offer to God our confession, and receive from God mercy and grace, we are reminded of the new life God has promised to us through Christ.

*Prayer of Confession

Righteous God, we confess our need of you in every aspect of our lives. Lift us from the valleys of despair and hopelessness. Free us from the societal norms, pressures, and conventions that conflict with or diminish your kingdom. Remind us of our baptismal promises and commitment. Release us from shame and fortify us with grace for transformation and new life. Amen.

*Words of Assurance

Beloved, the Holy One has declared you good in your being as you have been uniquely created. The Holy One has faith in you to be the best version of yourself. The Holy One companions with you in the process of growth, renewal, and sanctification. And, the Holy One empowers and emboldens us to spread the good news, pursue justice and liberation, and be agents of transformation in the world. Receive the grace God gives us to fail, to learn, and to be more like Jesus Christ. **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.**

Installation of 2024 Church Officers

We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.

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

"World Peace Canon" by Moore

Choir

The Old Testament – Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth
and thick darkness the peoples,
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together; they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you;
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

The Gospel – Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ”

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Message **"Old World, New World"** *Rev Paul Burden*

*Hymn *"Sing of God Made Manifest" No 176*

*Invitation to the Offering

Let us return a portion of our abundance to the creative and liberating energy and work of God in the world. May our resources be used for the glory of the Holy One and in the name of the One who modeled abiding generosity.

*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

Holy One, receive our offerings as gifts of ourselves. Increase the gifts and uplift our generosity to new heights. May our giving bear fruit that sustains, nurtures, and feeds a new world into being. Amen.

*The Sacrament of Communion

*The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the one holy universal Christian

Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Invitation

*Communion Prayer

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Eternal God, who has created the heavens and the earth, giving breath to every living thing, we thank you for all the gifts of creation and for the gift of life itself...

With all the prophets, martyrs, and saints, and all the company of heaven, we glorify you:

*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!

Consecration of the Elements

Sharing the Elements

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Eternal God, you have called your people from east and west and north and south to feast at the table of Jesus Christ. We thank you for Christ's presence and for the spiritual food of Christ's body and blood. By the power of your Holy Spirit, keep us faithful to your will. Go with us to the streets, to our homes, and to our places of labor and leisure that whether we are gathered or scattered, we may be the servant church of the servant Christ, in whose name we rejoice to pray. Amen.

*Hymn *"We Three Kings" No 172*

*Benediction

God has laid claim to your life.
By your baptism you have been marked
as God's own forever.
In grace may God watch over you.
In strength may you go forth in service.

*Benediction Response

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

*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

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Christmas Poinsettias

Donor	In Memory Of
Tony and Julie Ress	Ralph Vanderman, Bob Dominique, Don Fitch, Lance Bowman, Reeta & Vic Tomazic, Our Parents, Our Grandparents
Barbara Babcock	Warren Babcock & The Elslager Family
Patrick & Cindy Seery	Bill & Marilyn Rayburn (Cindy's Parents) & Our Grandparents
Trish Powell	John Powell, Al Myers, Kay Myers, & Stan Myers
Wendy Bauer	Guy Bauer
Kathy Grant	Elsie & Jim Grant, Cathy McDonald, Rody Barthelmeh, & Brian Barthelmeh
Deb Boland	Loved Ones
Jan Williams	Arnie Williams
Karen, Lee, & Angela Williams	Lee Andrew Williams
Michael Murphy	Shirley & Bill Murphy, Edward & Neil Rosen
Lynn Sparks	Ken & Marlene Tarvin (Parents) & Tom & Phyllis Sparks (Parents)
Bob Cheeseman	Bob & Marion Cheeseman, George & Mil Kelly
Donor	In Honor Of
Julie Ress	My amazing husband Tony
Patrick & Cindy Seery	Bob & Mary Ellen Seery (Patrick's Parents)
Lyn Klug	Pastor Paul
Deb Boland	Loved Ones
Lynn Sparks	Our Pastor, Paul Burden
Michael Murphy	Washington UCC

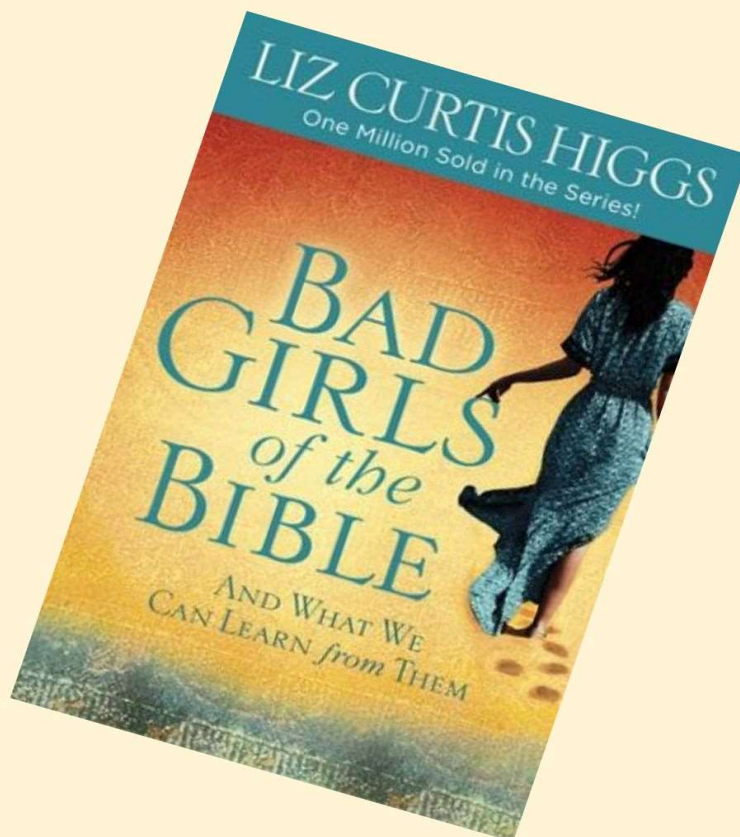


Ladies Bible Study

Bad Girls of the Bible

Join Us...

Every Wednesday
Jan 10th - Mar 13th
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM



MONTHLY COMMUNITY MEAL

January 20th 2024
10:30am - 12:00pm

Join us for a free meal, food bag to take home as well the opportunity to go through all clothes and housewares donations that you may need. All are welcome.





PRODUCE POP UP WITH FREESTORE FOODBANK

2nd Thursdays || 2-4pm
Back of Rear Parking Lot

According to the USDA, half of every meal should be made up of fruits and vegetables. Freestore Foodbank & Anthem are working together to deliver Produce Pop Ups to your neighborhood with our community partners, food pantries, and organizations.

The Covedale Branch has partnered in this collaborative effort to distribute FREE food to families in need on a first-come, first-served basis.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.




**cincinnati
public
library**
Covedale Branch

Cincinnati & Hamilton County
Public Library: Covedale Branch
4980 Glenway Ave
513-369-4460
COV@chpl.org
CHPL.org

JANUARY 2024



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 	2 Food Pick-up - 12-2 pm.	3 Choir 7 - 8:30 pm - Sanctuary Ladies Bible Study - 4-6 pm F.H.	4	5	6
7	8 Church & Ministry - 10 am F.H.	9 Property - 7pm - Par.	10 Choir 7 - 8:30 pm - Sanctuary Ladies Bible Study - 4-6 pm F.H.	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 Choir 7 - 8:30 pm - Sanctuary Ladies Bible Study - 4-6 pm F.H.	18	19	20 Community Meal 10:30 - 12 - F.H.
21	22	23 Council - 7 pm - Rm. 107	24 Choir 7 - 8:30 pm - Sanctuary Book Club 5:30 - 7PM F.H. Ladies Bible Study - 4-6 pm F.H.	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 Choir 7 - 8:30 pm - Sanctuary Ladies Bible Study - 4-6 pm F.H.			
NOTES:						