

Covenant-First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, December 22, 2024 • 10:30 AM



Covenant-First's mission is to praise the Father, proclaim the Son and submit to the perfecting power of the Holy Spirit.

Covenant-First Presbyterian Church • 717 Elm Street • Cincinnati, OH 45202
covfirstchurch.org • office@covfirstchurch.org • 513-621-4144

Welcome to Covenant-First Presbyterian Church

Whether you attend Covenant-First Presbyterian Church on a regular basis or are here for the first time, we are glad you are here. Covenant-First Presbyterian Church was founded in 1790, and has been a part of downtown Cincinnati ever since. Our almost 2,000 pound tower bell is from the Paul Revere Foundry in Boston, and first rang from the steeple of one of our earliest buildings. This building was completed in 1875, and the Austin Pipe Organ dates to 1915, with its approximately 3,500 pipes. We have traditional worship with Bible-based preaching each week. Our music program is enhanced by our Music Scholar program and we are excited to have them lead in worship most Sundays.

If you need help with directions to restrooms, the fellowship hall, or to the lower level nursery, the person who greeted you this morning will be glad to help you.

Children and worship

We delight in children, and your children are always welcome to stay with you in worship. However, if you would prefer nursery care for your infants and toddlers, we do have a professionally staffed nursery in the lower level. We invite children ages 2 years to 5 years to participate in Junior Church. If your child wants to participate in Junior Church, you may escort them to the lower level during the singing of the Doxology. You may then pick your child up following the service from the downstairs classrooms.

Parking

Validated parking is available in the adjacent garage for all worship services. Please pick up a validation sticker and apply the sticker to your parking ticket to use for validation. Then simply scan your ticket with the sticker at the parking gate on your way out of the garage. If you are unsure how to obtain your parking sticker, any greeter or our security personnel will be happy to assist you.

Fellowship Time

After worship, we invite you to gather with us in Metzger Hall for a reception featuring coffee, treats, and encouraging conversation. Many of us travel from a distance to join together in worship on Sunday mornings, and we find this weekly fellowship time to be a valuable and enriching time for us to catch up and meet new people. Please join us!

About us

If you are interested in learning more about Covenant-First Presbyterian Church, see your morning greeter, help yourself to any of the literature located on the back tables, contact the church office at 513-621-4144, or visit our website at covfirstchurch.org.

Service for the Lord's Day

Pre-Service

Christy Lee, Organ Scholar

IRBY

Frederick H. Candyln

Concerns of the Congregation

Advent Candle Lighting

Angel's Candle

Millhaem Family

Today, we light the Angel candle, which represents love. The world around us does not define the love we are seeking. God defines the love we seek. We know God loves us because he become one of us. Like the Roebling Bridge that unites Ohio to Kentucky, the union of man to God is found in the body of Jesus Christ. Jesus is the one whom the angels gather around to proclaim the love of God.

Hear the word from 1 John 4:9–10

“This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.”

Let us pray: Lord, as we seek your love, we are reminded of the angels that delight in proclaiming your love for us. We are unworthy of such a message and the gift that is offered. Regardless of our worthiness, you came to us. You keep coming to us in the Spirit. May we draw close to you and gather around you to proclaim your love for the world. Amen.

As we light the Angels' Candle, we remember that God's love was made manifest in Jesus Christ, our Emmanuel—God with us. By joining with part of his creation in Jesus, God has shown how much he loves us.

Prelude

Carl Colvin, Oboe

Go Tell It On The Mountain

Arr. Lanier

Ring of the Revere Tower Bell

Let the ringing of the bell call our attention away from ourselves and
onto the living Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

*Hymn #110

Angels from the Realms of Glory

***Invocation**

Rev. Turis

One: O Sovereign Lord, whose judgment is just and whose patience is vast, we humble ourselves before you. Teach us to walk in your ways, that we may escape destruction and find refuge in your steadfast love. Guide us in repentance. Amen.

***Prayer of Confession**

All: O righteous and Holy God, we confess that, like Judah, our hearts have wandered far from you. In pride and rebellion, we have ignored your warnings and hardened ourselves against your will. We deserve the judgment you righteously bring, yet your mercy endures forever. Forgive us, Lord, for our sins that invite destruction upon us. Lead us to true repentance, that we may turn from our wickedness and seek your face. Restore us, O God, for your name's sake. Amen.

***Moments of Silent Confession**

***Assurance of Pardon**

One: Beloved, though the judgment of God is righteous and his warnings just, he does not delight in the destruction of his people. In Christ, the fullness of God's mercy is revealed, for he has borne our sins and endured our punishment. Though we, like Judah, deserve his wrath, God calls us to repentance and promises restoration. Hear the assurance of his Word: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Rejoice in his redeeming grace. Amen.

***Gloria Patri #575**

Glory Be to the Father

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, Amen.

Anthem

Silent Night

Arr. Joseph Mohr

Covenant Choir and Bell Ringers

Ringers: Josie Balz, Pat Beckman, Becky Bell, Ginsel Bell, Claire Crousey, Linda Meier

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

All: 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Call for the Offering

(If you would like to give online see the back of the bulletin.)

Offertory

Carl Colvin, Oboe

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam, Arr. Gary Lanier

*Doxology #572

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

At this time all children are invited to go to Children's Church

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn #109

Once in Royal David's City

Scripture Lesson

Jeremiah 52:31-34

In the thirty-seventh year of the exile of Jehoiachin king of Judah, in the year Awel-Marduk became king of Babylon, on the twenty-fifth day of the twelfth month, he released Jehoiachin king of Judah and freed him from prison. ³² He spoke kindly to him and gave him a seat of honor higher than those of the other kings who were with him in Babylon. ³³ So Jehoiachin put aside his prison clothes and for the rest of his life ate regularly at the king's table. ³⁴ Day by day the king of Babylon gave Jehoiachin a regular allowance as long as he lived, till the day of his death.

One: This is God's Word for God's people.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

For God So Loved the World

Rev. Dan Turis

*Hymn #108

The First Noel

*Benediction

Postlude

Improvisation on *The First Noel*

Andrew Hackett, Organist

*Those who are able, please stand.

* * * * *

Thank you to everyone who contributed poinsettias. A list of those who contributed is found on page 11. These plants will remain in the sanctuary until Christmas Eve and then can be taken home after the service.

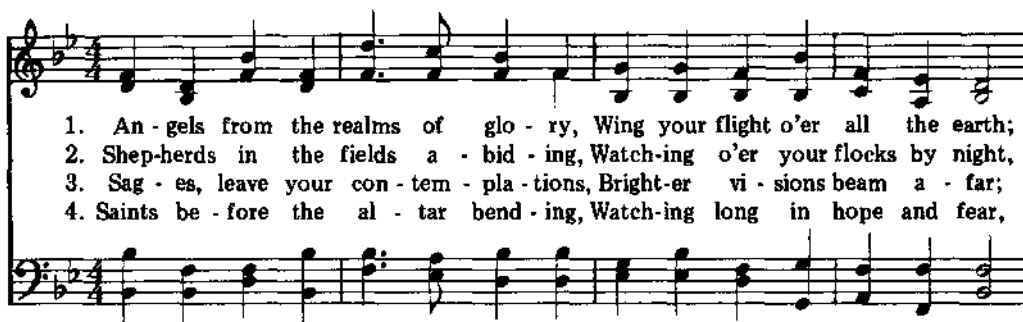
110 Angels from the Realms of Glory

We . . . are come to worship Him. Matt. 2:2

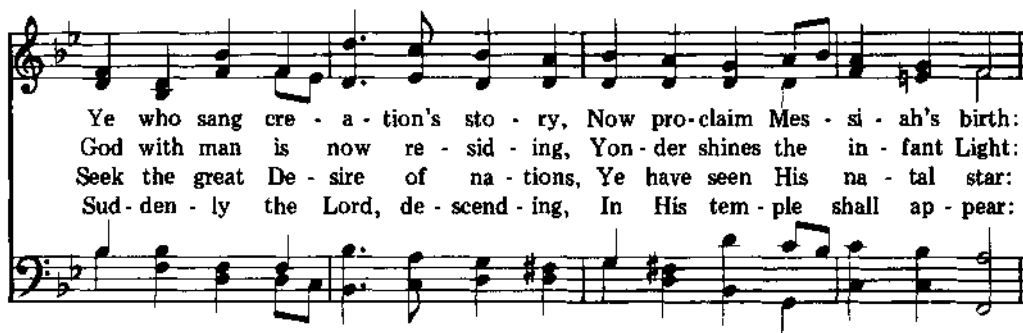
REGENT SQUARE 8 7 8 7 8 7

James Montgomery, 1816

Henry T. Smart, 1867

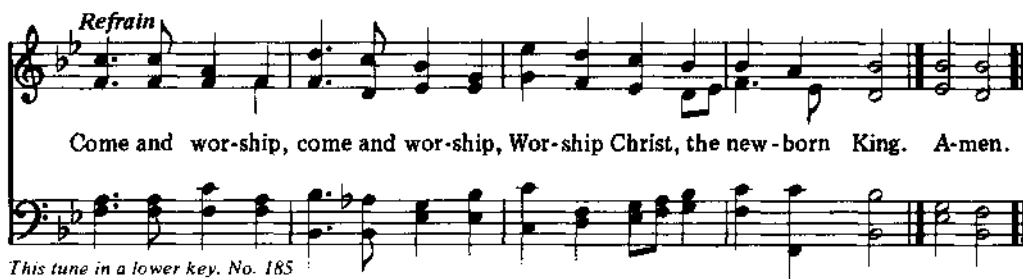


1. An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2. Shep - herds in the fields a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
3. Sag - es, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
4. Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in hope and fear,



Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with man is now re - sid - ing, Yon - der shines the in - fant Light:
Seek the great De - sire of na - tions, Ye have seen His na - tal star:
Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing, In His tem - ple shall ap - pear:

Refrain



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King. A - men.

This tune in a lower key. No. 185

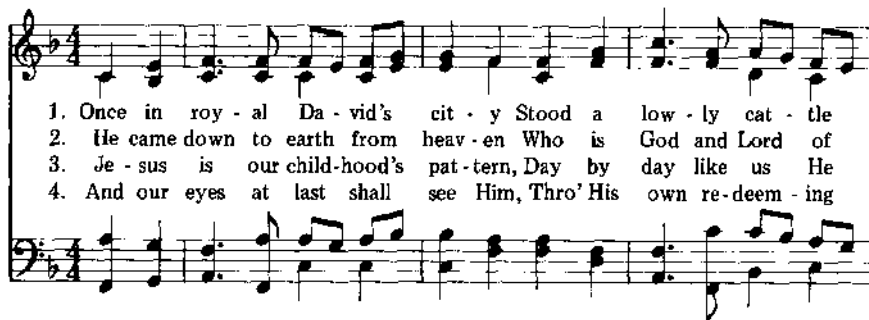
Once in Royal David's City 109

Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior . . . Luke 2:11

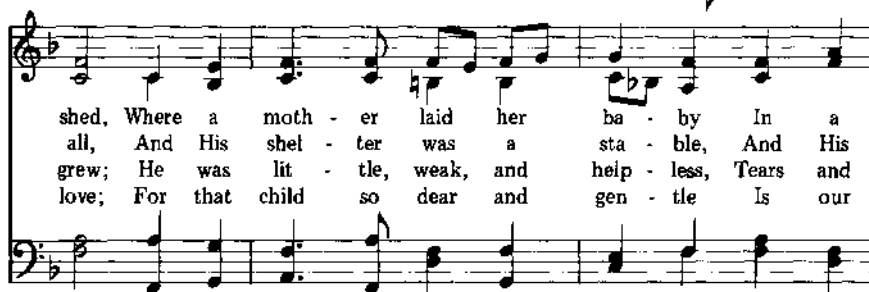
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Cecil F. Alexander, 1848

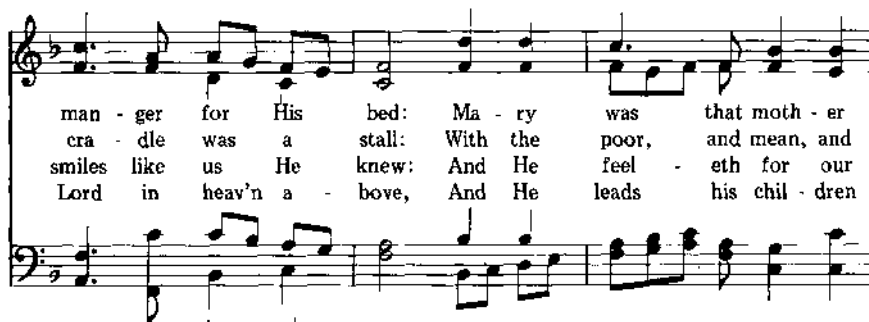
Henry J. Gauntlett, 1849



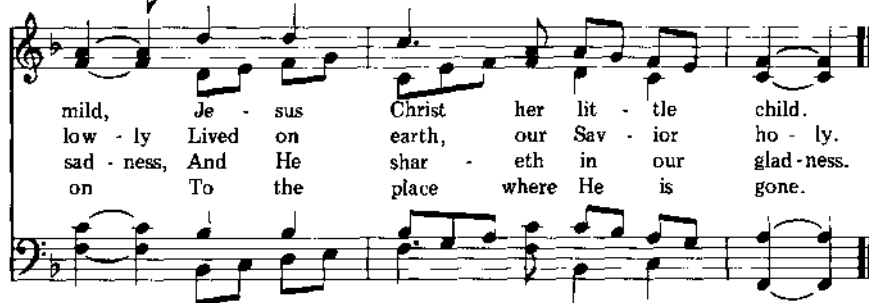
1. Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a low - ly cat - tle
 2. He came down to earth from heav - en Who is God and Lord of
 3. Je - sus is our child - hood's pat - tern, Day by day like us He
 4. And our eyes at last shall see Him, Thro' His own re - deem - ing



shed, Where a moth - er laid her ba - by In a
 all, And His shel - ter was a sta - ble, And His
 grew; He was lit - tle, weak, and help - less, Tears and
 love; For that child so dear and gen - tle Is our



man - ger for His bed: Ma - ry was that moth - er
 cra - dle was a stall: With the poor, and mean, and
 smiles like us He knew: And He feel - eth for our
 Lord in heav'n a - bove, And He leads his chil - dren



mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
 low - ly Lived on earth, our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 sad - ness, And He shar - eth in our glad - ness.
 on To the place where He is gone.

HIS BIRTH

108 The First Noel, the Angel Did Say

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field . . . Luke 2:8

THE FIRST NOEL. Irreg. Ref.

W. Sandys' *Christmas Carols*, 1833

Arr. by John Stainer, 1871

Traditional English carol

1. The first No - el, the an - gel did say, Was to cer - tain poor shepherds in
 2. They look - ed up and saw a star Shin - ing in the east, be -
 3. And by the light of that same star Three wise men came from
 4. This star drew nigh to the north - west, O'er Beth - le - hem it
 5. Then en - tered in those wise men three, Full rev - 'rent - ly up -
 6. Then let us all with one ac - cord Sing prais - es to our

fields as they lay; In fields where they lay keep - ing their sheep, On a
 yond them far, And to the earth it gave great light, And
 coun - try far; To seek for a king was their in - tent, And to
 took its rest, And there it did both stop and stay, Right
 on their knee, And of - fered there in His pres - ence Their
 heav'n - ly Lord, That hath made heav'n and earth of naught, And

Refrain

cold win - ter's night that was so deep.
 so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
 fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
 o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.
 gold, and myrrh, and frank - in - cense.
 with His blood man - kind hath bought.

el, No - el, Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

JESUS CHRIST

This Week at CFPC

Sunday, December 22

8:45 AM — Choir Rehearsal
9:15 AM — Adult Sunday School
10:30 AM — Worship
11:45 AM — Fellowship Time

Tuesday, December 24

6:30 PM — Christmas Eve Music Begins
7 PM — Christmas Eve Worship

Wednesday, December 25

Merry Christmas!

Saturday, December 28

7:30 AM — Men's Bible Study

Planning Ahead at CFPC

Sunday, December 29

8:45 AM — Choir Rehearsal
9:15 AM — Adult Sunday School
10:30 AM — Worship
11:45 AM — Fellowship Time

Wednesday, January 1

Happy New Year!
No Wednesday Noon Bible study

Friday, January 3

Courier Deadline

Saturday, January 4

7:30 AM — Men's Bible Study

Our Guest Musician

Today we welcome oboist Carl Colvin. Carl is an oboist, poet, and literary editor residing in Harrison, Ohio. He works as a reed maker for Jennet Ingle Reeds. He received his Masters degree and performance certificate in Oboe Performance from DePaul University.

Christmas Mission Offering

This year, our annual Christmas Mission Offering will support the local ministries of Athletes in Action. We've worked with our long-time mission partner, Mark Householder/president of Athletes in Action, to coordinate this offering. Our goal is to raise at least \$5,000, which would fully cover the round trip cost of a bus so that student athletes from both the University of Cincinnati and Xavier University are able to attend a Christian students conference in January in Chicago. More information about the local Athletes in Action staff—with the Bengals, FC Cincinnati, and the two universities—is available in the rear of the sanctuary. We'll collect this offering today and on Christmas Eve; mark a pew envelope "Christmas" or use the "Christmas" envelope in your boxed set. Go Bearcats! Go Musketeers! Thanks for being generous!

Year-End Giving Notes

Thank you to all who have returned pledge cards for 2025 giving. If you have not yet turned in a pledge card, it is not too late. There are cards available on the back table in the sanctuary and you may place it in the offering plate or contact Genita and she will make sure to record your pledge. Thank you for your support of our congregation's ministry and mission partners. If you have questions about ways to give, please contact Genita Heidenreich or email genta@covfirstchurch.org.