

Covenant-First Presbyterian Church

Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24, 2023 • 7 PM

Music begins at 6:30 PM



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

Please note: Before the worship service begins, please turn off all cell phones or set them to silent mode. Thank you.

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 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.

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.

About us

Covenant-First Presbyterian Church was founded in 1790, and has been a part of downtown Cincinnati ever since. Our building was completed in 1875, and the Austin Pipe Organ, with its approximately 3,500 pipes, dates to 1915. We invite you to join us for worship any Sunday at 10:30 AM.

If you are interested in learning more about Covenant-First Presbyterian Church, please pick up any of the literature located on the back tables, see an usher, contact the church office at 513-621-4144, or visit our website at www.covfirstchurch.org.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Pre-Service Music

God Rest You Merry Gentlemen
Brian Calfano, Tenor

Arr. James Neal Koudelka

Mary Did You Know?
Hugh Ralston, Tenor

Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene

The First Noel
Brian Calfano, Tenor

Arr. John Stainer

Kommst du nun, Jesu, vom Himmel herunter, BWV 650
Christie Lee, Organ Scholar

J.S. Bach

Oh Holy Night
Natalie Sheppard, Soprano

Adophe Adam

Good King Wenceslas
Andrew Hackett, Organist

Arr. Virgil Fox

Away in a Manger
Andrew Hackett, Organist

Arr. Andrew Hackett

* * * * *

Welcome

Rev. Dan Turis

***Call to Worship and Lighting of the Christ Candle**

Randy and Darlene Page

He has been born. Our king from of old. Our messiah is a prophet of the Lord, a high priest of an old line. He is born this night and resides in an animal feeding trough. Let us hear from the letter to Titus about our Lord, from Titus 2:11-14:

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

Ringling 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.

***Carol #103**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

See bulletin page 8

***Invocation**

Rev. Dan Turis

All: God has become man and dwelt among us. He will never leave us nor forsake us. Let us open our hearts to his mercy.

***Prayer of Confession**

All: Lord, we have gone astray. We each have turned our own way. We know that our iniquity has been laid upon you. For that sake, Lord, we are grateful. Yet, it grieves our hearts to confess that we have not loved you with our whole life, nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves. We have sinned through things we have done and through things we left undone. We constantly make the wrong move. Lord, please forgive us and restore our lives to your side. We repent of our sin.

***Moments of Silent Confession**

***Assurance of Pardon**

One: The Lord has taken it all from you. Any weight of shame, guilt, or embarrassment is gone. The weight you carried into this building will not be on you when you leave. You are free. Live as though you are free of the sin that so easily entangles. Live a life of freedom knowing that your sin has been removed from you as far as the East is from the West.

***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

Far Away in a Manger

Kevin Keil

Covenant-Choir

Far away, in a stall, Jesus was born of all.
Sheep and cattle gather 'round. Angels sing this song:
"Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo. Glory be to God on high; peace on earth."

(Continued on page 5)

Away in a manger no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky, and stay by my cradle till morning is night.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Far away, in a stall, Jesus was born of all.
Sheep and cattle gather 'round. Angels sing this song:
"Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo. Glory be to God on high; peace on earth."

Prayers of the People

The 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.

Christmas Offering

This year our annual Christmas Mission Offering will be shared between Rev. Dr. Dustin & Sherri Ellington/Antioch Partners in Beirut, Lebanon, and Justin & Krista Clermont/ AIM in Chad. In Beirut, Dustin teaches future pastors (mostly Presbyterians!) at the Arab Baptist Seminary; the Clermonts work in evangelistic and church planting ministries in Chad, a poor, dusty, mostly Muslim nation. Simply mark a pew envelope or your check memo line, "Christmas". Thank you for being generous!

Offertory

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent

Stephen Cleo Bury

Covenant Choir

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

(Continued on page 6)

says the Lord Almighty. “I the Lord do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you,” says the Lord Almighty.

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

All: Thanks be to God

Sermon

Jesus the Messiah

Rev. Dan Turis

We Welcome the Light of Christ

The ushers will come forward and light the candles for the people seated at the ends of the pews. As your candle is lit, please pass the light to the person seated next to you. Remember the person with the unlit candle should tilt theirs toward the lit candle to prevent the hot wax from dripping. Keep passing the light until all candles are lit.

***Carol #117**

Silent Night, Holy Night

See bulletin page 10

During the singing of Silent Night, please raise your candle when the pastor indicates.

***Christmas Blessing**

Rev. Dan Turis

Please extinguish your candle

***Carol #120**

Joy to the World

See bulletin page 11

Postlude

In Dulci Jubilo, BWV 729

J. S. Bach

Andrew Hackett, Organist

*Those who are able, please stand.

**Please deposit your candles in the metal receptacles at the back
of the sanctuary when leaving.**

O Come, All Ye Faithful 103

Let us now go even unto Bethlehem . . . Luke 2:15

Latin hymn
Attr. to John F. Wade, 1751
Trans. by Frederick Oakeley, 1841, and others

ADESTE FIDELES Irreg. Ref.
John F. Wade's *Cantus Diversi*, 1751

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant,
2. God of God, and Light of Light be - got - ten,
3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion!
4. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this hap - py morn - ing,

O come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem!
Lo, He ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;
O sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove;
Je - sus, to Thee be all glo - ry giv'n;

Come and be - hold Him, born the King of an - gels;
Ver - y God, be - got - ten, not cre - a - ted;
Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

Refrain
O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,

O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord. A - men.

HIS BIRTH

106 Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

And suddenly there was . . . a multitude of the heavenly host praising God . . . Luke 2:13

MEDELSSOHN 7777 D. Ref.

Felix Mendelssohn, 1840

Arr. by William H. Cummings, 1856

Charles Wesley, 1739

1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King:
2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Right-eous-ness!

Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb:
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; Hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty,
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,

With th'an - gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King." A-men.

JESUS CHRIST

117 Silent Night! Holy Night!

And they . . . found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. Luke 2:16

Joseph Mohr, 1818
Trans. by John F. Young, 1863

STILLE NACHT Irreg.
Franz Grüber, 1818



1. Si - lent night! ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright
2. Si - lent night! ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight,
3. Si - lent night! ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light,



'Round you vir - gin moth - er and Child, Ho - ly In - fant so ten - der and mild,
Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, Heav'n - ly hosts sing Al - le - lu - ia;
Ra - diant beams from Thy ho - ly face, With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,



Sleep in heav - en - ly peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born.
Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth. A - men.



120 Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth . . . Psa. 98:4

Isaac Watts, 1719
Based on Psalm 98

ANTIOCH C.M.
George Frederick Handel, 1742
Arr. by Lowell Mason, 1839

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come; Let earth re -
 2. Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns; Let men their
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, Nor thorns in -
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the

ceive her King; Let ev - ery heart pre - pare Him room,
 songs am - ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 fest the ground; He comes to make His bless - ings flow
 na - tions prove The glo - ries of His right - eous - ness,

And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
 Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
 Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
 And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His
 1. And heav'n and na - ture sing,

1. And
 sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

JESUS CHRIST



Thank you for joining us for this special worship service. We invite everyone to join us for worship any Sunday at 10:30 AM. Free, validated parking is available in the adjacent parking garage for all worship services.

Sunday, December 31 at 10:30 AM — A Service of Lessons and Carols

Join us next Sunday for a service of Lessons and Carols, as we recall through scripture and congregational carols the Christmas story. We will worship together at 10:30 AM. There will be no after worship Fellowship Time. Enjoy your extra family time!

CHURCH STAFF

Ministers: Every member of the congregation

Pastor: Rev. Dan Turis

Choir Director: Yolanda Ortiz-Parker

Church Administrator: Genita Heidenreich

Organist: Andrew Hackett

Organ Scholar: Christie Lee

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717 ELM STREET * CINCINNATI, OH * 45202
WWW.COVFIRSTCHURCH.ORG

Church Office Hours are Monday through Thursday 10 AM to 2 PM;
other hours are available by appointment