



# Covenant-First Presbyterian Church

Our mission is to praise the Father, proclaim the Son  
and submit to the perfecting power of the Holy Spirit.



August 17, 2025 • 10:30 AM Worship

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Covenant-First Presbyterian Church • 717 Elm Street • Cincinnati, OH 45202  
[covfirstchurch.org](http://covfirstchurch.org) • [office@covfirstchurch.org](mailto: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 card when you enter the building and present to the parking attendant when exiting the garage. You must exit on Elm street to see the attendant. If you have already registered your car with Metropolis parking, you can simply scan the QR code on the back of the validation card and exit and Elm Street or Eighth Street. The gate will open when you leave.

## **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](http://covfirstchurch.org).

# Service for the Lord's Day

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## Pre-Service Music

Improvisation on *Amsterdam*

Andrew Hackett, Organist

## Concerns of the Congregation

### Call to Worship

Eli Maxwell

One: Come, behold the God who meets us in truth, binding up the brokenhearted through his Son.

### Prelude

Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr, BWV 715

J. S. Bach

Andrew Hackett, Organist

### Ringing 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 #10

All Glory Be to God on High

### \*Invocation

Eli Maxwell

**All: Lord Jesus Christ, risen yet bearing our griefs, draw near in your reconciling presence. Reveal the Father's love amid our lament, that we may worship in spirit and truth, redeemed from despair into hope.**

### \*Prayer of Confession

Rev. Dr. Dan Turis

**All: Merciful God, you search our hearts and know our grief, yet we confess our hardness toward your truth. Like Israel mourning Saul and Jonathan, we cling to our own judgments and fail to trust your righteous reign. Forgive us for resisting your transforming grace. Gather up our sorrow into Christ's redeeming death, and lift us into his resurrection life, where mercy triumphs over judgment.**

### \*Moments of Silent Confession

### \*Assurance of Pardon

One: Hear the Gospel: In Christ crucified and risen, God has borne our sorrows and judged our sin. The one who knew no sin became sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God. Even in the valley of grief, his pierced hands hold us fast, for he has reconciled us to the Father through his own self-offering. As David's lament was gathered into the purposes of God, so your mourning is gathered into the joy of Christ's kingdom. In him, you are forgiven, restored, and embraced with everlasting love. Thanks be to God.

**\*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.

**Special Music**

Come, Blessed Savior

Camille Saint-Saens

Natalie Sheppard, Soprano; Lauren Albano, Mezzo Soprano

Come, blessed Savior, grant us thy blessing, we implore thee, come. Weary of striving, we kneel before thee. O blessed Savior, grant us now thy peace and mercy. Souls faint with longing, pray for thy healing balm of heavenly grace. O hear, O Lord, our prayer.

Come, blessed Savior, grant us thy blessing, we wait before thee. Hear our humble prayer. Amen.

**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**

Lord, Speak To Me

J. E. Roberts

Zach Burnham, Tenor; Andrew Hallam, Baritone

Lord, speak to me, that I may speak in living echoes of thy tone;  
as thou hast sought, so let me seek thine erring children lost and lone.

O teach me, Lord, that I may teach the precious things thou dost impart;  
and wing my words, that they may reach the hidden depths of many a heart.

O give thine own sweet rest to me, that I may speak with soothing power;  
a word in season, as from thee to weary ones in needful hour.

O fill me with thy fullness, Lord, until my very heart o'erflow;  
in kindling thought and glowing word, thy love to tell, thy praise to show.

**\*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 #203**                                      I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord

**Scripture Lesson**                                      2 Samuel 1:1-16

After the death of Saul, David returned from striking down the Amalekites and stayed in Ziklag two days. <sup>2</sup> On the third day a man arrived from Saul's camp with his clothes torn and dust on his head. When he came to David, he fell to the ground to pay him honor. <sup>3</sup> "Where have you come from?" David asked him. He answered, "I have escaped from the Israelite camp." <sup>4</sup> "What happened?" David asked. "Tell me." "The men fled from the battle," he replied. "Many of them fell and died. And Saul and his son Jonathan are dead." <sup>5</sup> Then David said to the young man who brought him the report, "How do you know that Saul and his son Jonathan are dead?" <sup>6</sup> "I happened to be on Mount Gilboa," the young man said, "and there was Saul, leaning on his spear, with the chariots and their drivers in hot pursuit. <sup>7</sup> When he turned around and saw me, he called out to me, and I said, 'What can I do?' <sup>8</sup> "He asked me, 'Who are you?' " 'An Amalekite,' I answered. <sup>9</sup> "Then he said to me, 'Stand here by me and kill me! I'm in the throes of death, but I'm still alive.' <sup>10</sup> "So I stood beside him and killed him, because I knew that after he had fallen he could not survive. And I took the crown that was on his head and the band on his arm and have brought them here to my lord." <sup>11</sup> Then David and all the men with him took hold of their clothes and tore them. <sup>12</sup> They mourned and wept and fasted till evening for Saul and his son Jonathan, and for the army of the LORD and for the nation of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword. <sup>13</sup> David said to the young man who brought him the report, "Where are you from?" "I am the son of a foreigner, an Amalekite," he answered. <sup>14</sup> David asked him, "Why weren't you afraid to lift your hand to destroy the LORD's anointed?" <sup>15</sup> Then David called one of his men and said, "Go, strike him down!" So he struck him down, and he died. <sup>16</sup> For David had said to him, "Your blood be on your own head. Your own mouth testified against you when you said, 'I killed the LORD's anointed.' "

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

Crowned in Sorrow, Raised in Glory

Rev. Dr. Dan Turis

**\*Hymn #18** Praise The Lord Who Reigns Above

**\*Pray for Blessing for Student**

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude** Toccata in F major, BWV 540 J.S. Bach  
Andrew Hackett, Organist

\*Those who are able, please stand.

The flowers today are given by Karen Stine to the glory of God and  
in thanksgiving for her and husband's, Jim, 44th wedding anniversary on August 22.

# 10 All Glory Be to God on High

*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. Luke 2:14*

Nicolaus Decius, 1522

Based on *Gloria in Excelsis*

Trans. by Catherine Winkworth, 1863

ALLEIN GOTT IN DER HÖH 8 7 8 7 8 8 7

Nicolaus Decius, 1522

*Geistliche Lieder*, 1539

1. All glo - ry be to God on high, Who hath our race be -  
 2. We praise, we wor - ship Thee, we trust, And give Thee thanks for -  
 3. O Je - sus Christ, our God and Lord, Be - got - ten of the  
 4. O Ho - ly Spir - it, pre - cious Gift, Thou Com - fort - er un -

friend - ed. To us no harm shall now come nigh; The strife at last is  
 ev - er, O Fa - ther, that Thy rule is just, And wise, and chang - es  
 Fa - ther, Who hast our fal - len race re - stored And stray - ing sheep dost  
 fail - ing, Do Thou our trou - bled souls up - lift, A - gainst the foe pre -

end - ed. God show - eth His good will to men, And peace shall reign on  
 nev - er. Thy bound - less pow'r o'er all things reigns, Thou dost what - e'er Thy  
 gath - er; Thou Lamb of God, en - throned on high, Be - hold our need, and  
 vail - ing; Since Christ for us His blood hath shed, A - vert our woes and

earth a - gain: O thank Him for His good - ness!  
 will or - dains. 'Tis well Thou art our Rul - er!  
 hear our cry: Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus!  
 calm our dread; We trust in Thee to help us! A - men.

THE TRINITY

# I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord 203

*Lord, I have loved the habitation of Thy house. Psa. 26:8*

Timothy Dwight, 1800

ST. THOMAS S.M.

Aaron Williams, 1763

1. I love Thy king - dom, Lord, The house of Thine a - bode, The  
 2. I love Thy Church, O God! Her walls be - fore Thee stand, Dear  
 3. For her my tears shall fall; For her my prayers as - cend; To  
 4. Be - yond my high - est joy I prize her heav'n - ly ways, Her  
 5. Sure as Thy truth shall last, To Zi - on shall be giv'n The

Church our blest Re - deem - er saved With His own pre - cious blood.  
 as the ap - ple of Thine eye, And grav - en on Thy hand.  
 her my cares and toils be giv'n, Till toils and cares shall end.  
 sweet com - mun - ion, sol - emn vows, Her hymns of love and praise.  
 bright - est glo - ries earth can yield, And bright - er bliss of heav'n. A-men.

*ITS NATURE AND FELLOWSHIP*



# Praise the Lord Who Reigns Above 18


*Praise God in His sanctuary: praise Him in the firmament of His power. Psa. 150:1*

Psalms 150  
Charles Wesley, 1743

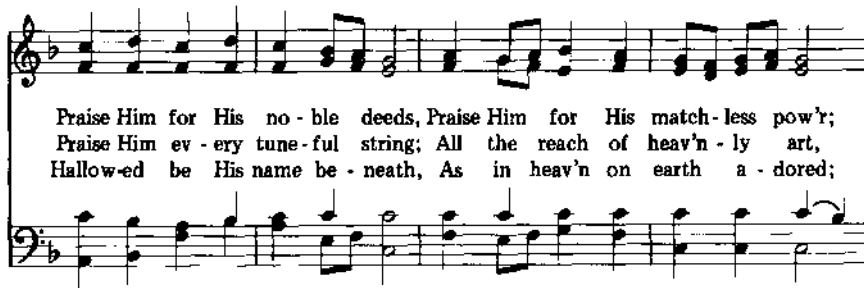
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Foundery Collection, 1742



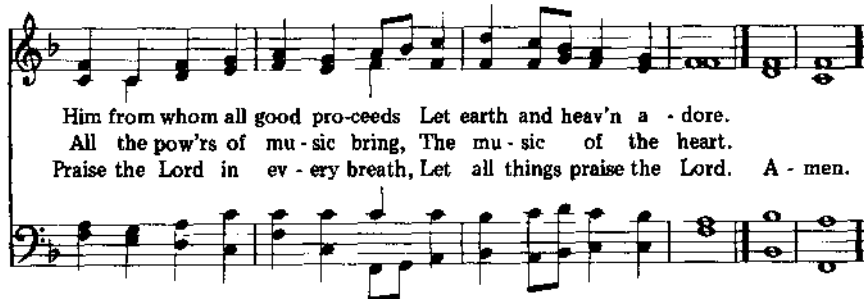
1. Praise the Lord who reigns a - bove And keeps His court be - low;  
2. Cel - e - brate th'e - ter - nal God With harp and psal - ter - y,  
3. Him, in whom they move and live, Let ev - ery crea - ture sing,



Praise the ho - ly God of love, And all His great - ness show;  
Tim - brels soft and cym - bals loud In His high praise a - gree;  
Glo - ry to their Mak - er give, And hom - age to their King.



Praise Him for His no - ble deeds, Praise Him for His match - less pow'r;  
Praise Him ev - ery tune - ful string; All the reach of heav'n - ly art,  
Hallow - ed be His name be - neath, As in heav'n on earth a - dored;



Him from whom all good pro - ceeds Let earth and heav'n a - dore.  
All the pow'rs of mu - sic bring, The mu - sic of the heart.  
Praise the Lord in ev - ery breath, Let all things praise the Lord. A - men.