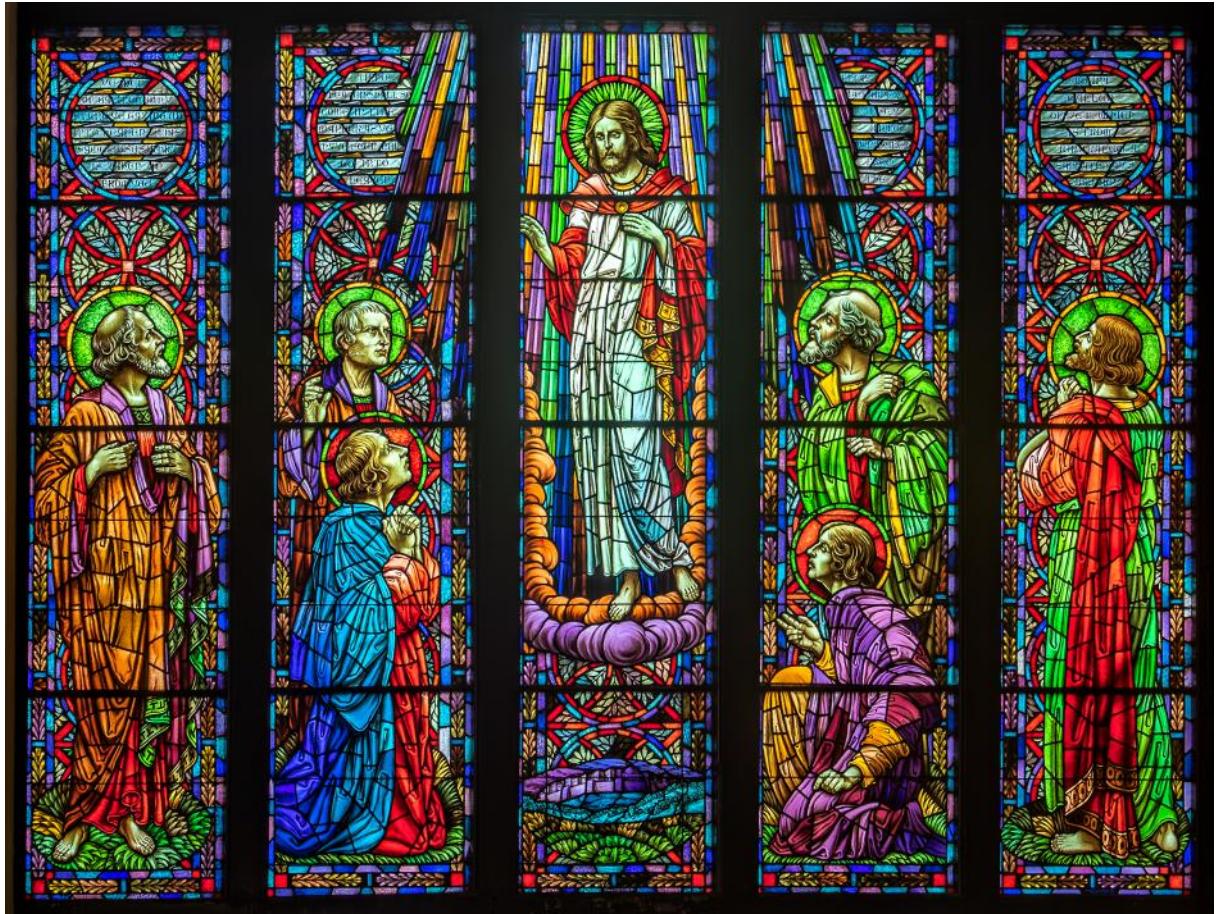




Covenant-First Presbyterian Church

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



January 11, 2026 • 10:30 AM Worship

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.

Validated Parking

Validated parking is available in the 222 W. 7th St. Garage. Validation is done using your car's license plate number. Please locate a greeter to complete the validation process which requires your license plate number.

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 Music

Andrew Hackett, Organist

Pavane

Maurice Ravel

Concerns of the Congregation

Rev. Dr. Dan Turis

Call to Worship

One: Risen King Jesus, ascended and reigning, gather us; lift our hearts from small stories into your global, joyful, Spirit-powered mission today.

Prelude

Andrew Hackett, Organist

Improvisation on Llanfair

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 #173

Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise

*Invocation

All: Ascended Lord, you walked into the clouds yet never left your church. By your Spirit, tune our ears to your Word, loosen our tongues for praise, and fix our eyes on your present-tense reign. Let this hour re-center us around your majesty and your mission.

Hugh Ralston

*Prayer of Confession

All: Majestic Christ, enthroned above every power, we confess how narrow our horizons have become. You promised power for witness, yet we cling to comfort. You send us to neighbors and nations, yet we stare at our feet. Our hearts, as Calvin said, are “idol factories,” cranking out excuses and rival loves. We treat your Great Commission like a great suggestion. Forgive our mission drift, our sky-gazing without going, our worship without witness. Lift our eyes and loosen our grip on ourselves.

Rev. Dr. Turis

*Moments of Silent Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

One: Church of the risen Christ, hear the good news. The one who ascended did so as your crucified, atoning Savior. In him, God has already made you alive and seated you with Christ in the heavenly realms. Your failures in mission do not dethrone him or unsave you. As Spurgeon rejoiced, “I have a great need for Christ; I have a great Christ for my need.” In him, you are forgiven, welcomed, and sent—covered by his grace, carried by his Spirit.

*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.

Anthem

Be Thou My Vision

Arr. Alice Parker

Covenant Choir

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
Thou my best thought by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I thy true son; thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise, thou mine inheritance now and always;
thou and thou only, first in my heart, high King of heaven my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven my victory won; may I reach heavens joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

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

Behold, The Tabernacle of God

Leon Abbott Hoffmeister

Zach Burnham, Tenor

And I heard a great voice out of heaven, saying, behold, the tabernacle of God is with men. And he shall dwell with them, and they shall be his people. And God shall be with them and be their God. And he will rejoice in his people. And the voice of weeping shall be heard no more, nor the voice of crying. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes, shall wipe all tears, from their eyes. And there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, nor any more pain.

***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 #563** Great God, We Sing That Mighty Hand**Scripture Lessons**

Acts 1:1-11

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ² until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³ After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. ⁴ On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵ For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

⁶ Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

⁷ He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

⁹ After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

(Continued on page 6)

¹⁰They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹“Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

When the King Walked into the Clouds

Rev. Dr. Dan Turis

***Hymn #326**

God of Our Life, through All the Circling

***Benediction**

Postlude

Prelude in E-Flat major, BWV 552 (excerpt)

J.S. Bach

Christie Lee, Organ Scholar

*Those who are able, please stand.

The flowers on the communion table are given in memory of Justin VanEpps, son of Joan VanEpps. Justin lost his struggle with cancer on December 28. Our thoughts and prayers are with Justin’s family, his mother Joan VanEpps and uncle Phil Howles.

173 Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise

Lift up your heads. O ye gates . . . and the King of glory shall come in. Psa. 24:7

ELANFAIR 7 7 7 7 Alleluia

Welsh hymn melody

Arr. by John Roberts, 1837

Charles Wesley, 1739

1. Hail the day that sees Him rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 2. There for Him high tri - umph waits; Al - le - lu - ia!
 3. See, He lifts His hands a - bove! Al - le - lu - ia!
 4. Lord, be - yond our mor - tal sight, Al - le - lu - ia!

To His throne a - bove the skies; Al - le - lu - ia!
 Lift your heads, e - ter - nal gates, Al - le - lu - ia!
 See, He shows the prints of love! Al - le - lu - ia!
 Raise our hearts to reach Thy height, Al - le - lu - ia!

Christ, the Lamb for sin - ners giv'n, Al - le - lu - ia!
 He hath con-quered death and sin, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Hark! His gra - cious lips be - stow, Al - le - lu - ia!
 There Thy face un - cloud - ed see, Al - le - lu - ia!

En - ters now the high - est heav'n. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Take the King of glo - ry in! Al - le - lu - ia!
 Bless - ings on His church be - low. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Find our heav'n of heav'n's in Thee! Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

JESUS CHRIST

Great God, We Sing That Mighty Hand 563

Thou hast a mighty arm: strong is Thy hand . . . Psa. 89:13

Philip Doddridge, 1755

WAREHAM L.M.

William Knapp, 1738

1. Great God, we sing that mighty hand By which sup - port-ed still we stand;
2. By day, by night, at home, a - broad, Still are we guard-ed by our God;
3. With grate-ful hearts the past we own; The fu - ture, all to us un-known,
4. In scenes ex - alt - ed or de-pressed, Thou art our Joy, and Thou our Rest;

The o-pening year Thy mer-cy shows; That mer-cy crowns it till it close.
By His in - ces - sant boun-ty fed, By His un - err - ing coun-sel led.
We to Thy guard-ian care com-mit, And peace-ful leave be - fore Thy feet.
Thy good-ness all our hopes shall raise, A-dored thro' all our changing days. A-men.

THE CHANGING YEAR

326 God of Our Life, through All the Circling

Thou art the same, and Thy years shall have no end. Psa. 102:27

Hugh T. Kerr, 1916; alt., 1928

SANDON 10 4 10 4 10 10
Charles H. Purday, 1860

1. God of our life, through all the cir - cling years, We trust in Thee;
2. God of the past, our times are in Thy hand; With us a - bide.
3. God of the com - ing years, through paths un-known We fol - low Thee;

In all the past, through all our hopes and fears, Thy hand we see.
Lead us by faith to hope's true prom-ised land; Be Thou our guide.
When we are strong, Lord, leave us not a - lone; Our ref - uge be.

With each new day, when morn - ing lifts the veil,
With Thee to bless, the dark - ness shines as light,
Be Thou for us in life our dai - ly bread,

We own Thy mer - cies, Lord, which nev - er fail.
And faith's fair vi - sion chang - es in - to sight.
Our heart's true home when all our years have sped. A-men.

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LIFE IN CHRIST