

Covenant-First Presbyterian Church

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



July 19, 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

** indicates please stand if you are able*

Pre-Service Music
Andrew Hackett, Organist

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring, BWV 147

J. S. Bach

Concerns of the Congregation

Rev. Dr. Dan Turis

Call to Worship

Darlene Nored

One: Pilgrims on the long road, come; the God who walked with Paul through tears and trials
walks with you in your slow obedience.

Prelude
Andrew Hackett, Organist

Improvisation on Austrian Hymn

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 #17

Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him

*Invocation

Darlene Nored

All: Lord of the marathon, not just the sprint, we praise you for sustaining grace. As we hear of Paul's years of teaching, warning, and weeping, strengthen our own tired hearts. Help us trade flash-in-the-pan enthusiasm for durable faithfulness. Meet us in this hour as the one who finishes what he starts.

*Prayer of Confession

Rev. Dr. Dan Turis

All: Faithful God, we confess that we like dramatic beginnings more than steady middles. We sign up quickly and check out quietly. When suffering looms, we look for detours instead of carrying our cross. We forget that, as Eugene Peterson paraphrased, discipleship is a "long obedience in the same direction." Our direction often zigzags with convenience, mood, and cultural pressure. We grow bored with basics, allergic to plodding faithfulness. Forgive our spiritual restlessness, our impatience with process, and our neglect of the small, daily "yes" to you.

*Moments of Silent Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

Rev. Dr. Dan Turis

One: Beloved, your hope is not in your ability to hold on, but in Christ's grip on you. He endured the ultimate long obedience—thirty hidden years, three years of ministry, and one awful hill—without flinching from the Father's will. His perseverance counts for you. Where you have dropped the baton, he has not. In him, your failures are forgiven, your faltering steps are fatherly-corrected, not angrily condemned. He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion. You are pardoned and kept on the road by a Savior who walks every mile beside you.

*Gloria Patri

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

The Trumpet Shall Sound

G.F. Handel

Kade Bennett, Baritone

The trumpet shall sound and the dead shall be raised and the dead shall be raised incorruptible. And we shall be changed.

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

Gott sei gelobet

Heinrich Scheidemann

Andrew Hackett, Organist

*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 blessing 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 See Insert

His Eye is on the Sparrow

Scripture Lesson

Acts 18:23-28, 20:17-38

Acts 18:23–28

After spending some time in Antioch, Paul set out from there and traveled from place to place throughout the region of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples. ²⁴ Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures. ²⁵ He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he spoke with great fervor and taught about Jesus accurately, though he knew only the baptism of John. ²⁶ He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately. ²⁷ When Apollos wanted to go to Achaia, the brothers and sisters encouraged him and wrote to the disciples there to welcome him. When he arrived, he was a great help to those who by grace had believed. ²⁸ For he vigorously refuted his Jewish opponents in public debate, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Messiah.

Acts 20:17–38

From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church. ¹⁸ When they arrived, he said to them: “You know how I lived the whole time I was with you, from the first day I came into the province of Asia. ¹⁹ I served the Lord with great humility and with tears and in the midst of severe testing by the plots of my Jewish opponents. ²⁰ You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house. ²¹ I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus. ²² “And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. ²³ I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. ²⁴ However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace. ²⁵ “Now I know that none of you among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom will ever see me again. ²⁶ Therefore, I declare to you today that I am innocent of the blood of any of you. ²⁷ For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God. ²⁸ Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. ²⁹ I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. ³⁰ Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. ³¹ So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears. ³² “Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. ³³ I have not coveted anyone’s silver or gold or clothing. ³⁴ You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions. ³⁵ In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ ” ³⁶ When Paul had finished speaking, he knelt down with all of them and prayed. ³⁷ They all wept as they embraced him and kissed him. ³⁸ What grieved them most was his statement that they would never see his face again. Then they accompanied him to the ship.

One: This is God's Word for God's people.
All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The Long Obedience of the Apostle Paul

Rev. Dr. Dan Turis

*Hymn #207

Blest be the Tie that Binds

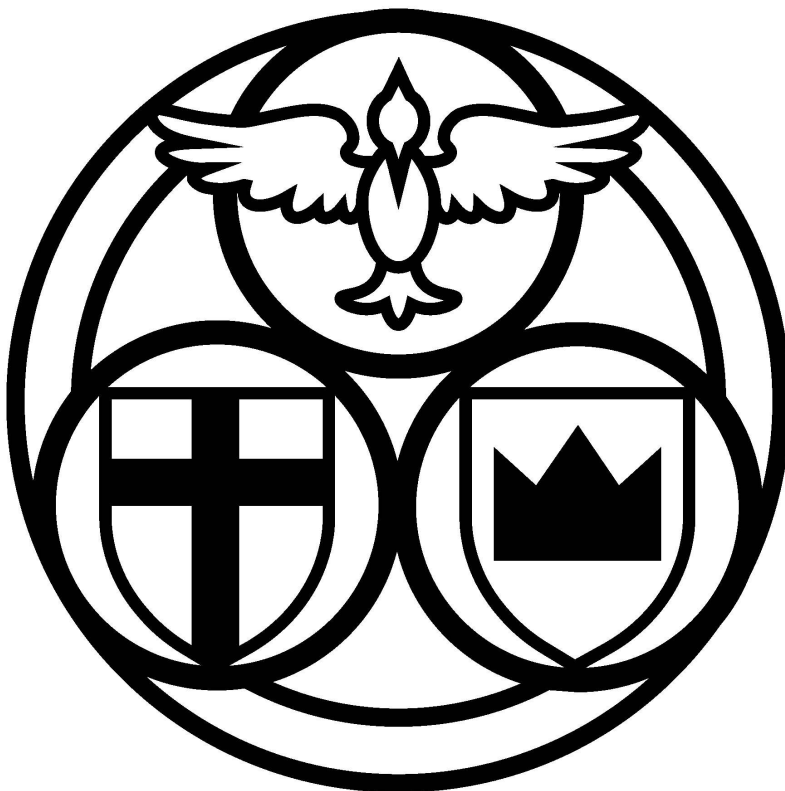
*Benediction

Postlude

Christie Lee, Organ Scholar

Fugue from Fantasia and Fugue
in G minor, BWV 542

J.S. Bach

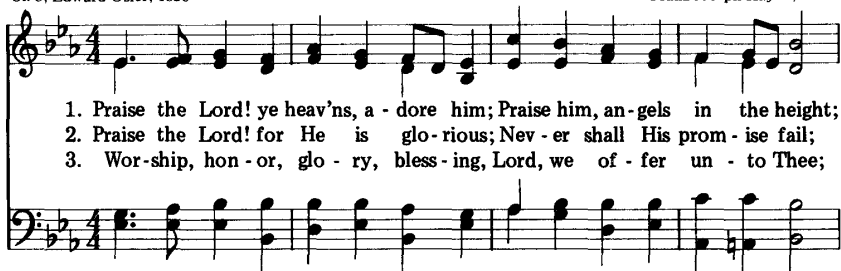


17 Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him

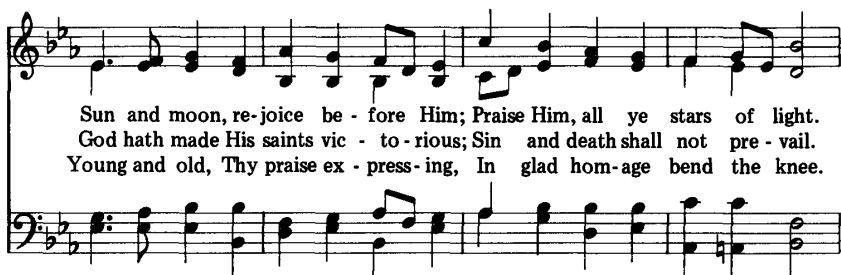
Praise ye the Lord from the heavens: praise Him in the heights. Psa. 148:1

Psalm 148
Founding Hospital Collection, 1796
St. 3, Edward Osler, 1836

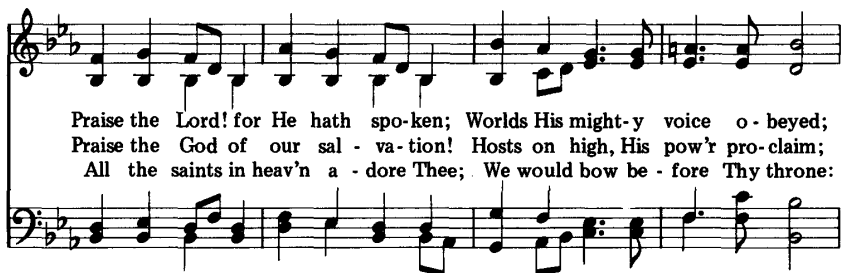
AUSTRIAN HYMN 8787 D.
Franz Joseph Haydn, 1797



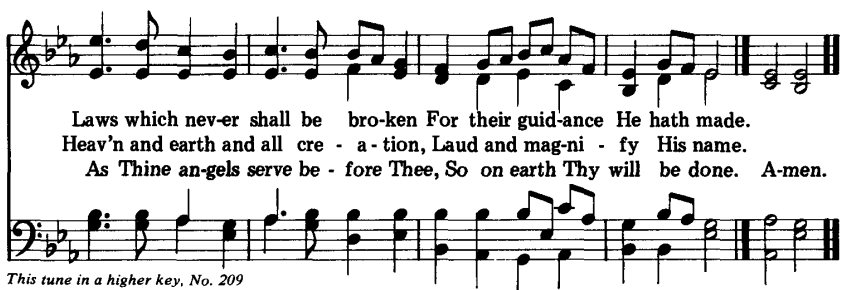
1. Praise the Lord! ye heav'ns, a - dore him; Praise him, an - gels in the height;
2. Praise the Lord! for He is glo - rious; Nev - er shall His prom - ise fail;
3. Wor - ship, hon - or, glo - ry, bless - ing, Lord, we of - fer un - to Thee;



Sun and moon, re - joice be - fore Him; Praise Him, all ye stars of light.
God hath made His saints vic - to - rious; Sin and death shall not pre - vail.
Young and old, Thy praise ex - press - ing, In glad hom - age bend the knee.



Praise the Lord! for He hath spo - ken; Worlds His might - y voice o - beyed;
Praise the God of our sal - va - tion! Hosts on high, His pow'r pro - claim;
All the saints in heav'n a - dore Thee; We would bow be - fore Thy throne:



Laws which nev - er shall be bro - ken For their guid - ance He hath made.
Heav'n and earth and all cre - a - tion, Laud and mag - ni - fy His name.
As Thine an - gels serve be - fore Thee, So on earth Thy will be done. A - men.

This tune in a higher key, No. 209

GOD THE FATHER

His Eye Is on the Sparrow

Civilla D. Martin, 1860-1948

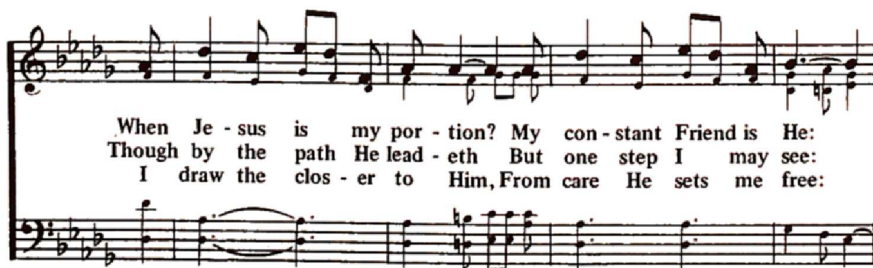
Charles H. Gabriel, 1856-1932



1. Why should I feel dis-cour-aged, Why should the shad-ows come,
2. "Let not your heart be trou-bled," His ten-der word I hear,
3. When-ev-er I am tempt-ed, When-ev-er clouds a-rise,



Why should my heart be lone-ly And long for heaven and home,
And rest-ing on His good-ness, I lose my doubts and fears;
When song gives place to sigh-ing, When hope with-in me dies,



When Je-sus is my por-tion? My con-stant Friend is He:
Though by the path He lead-eth But one step I may see:
I draw the clos-er to Him, From care He sets me free:

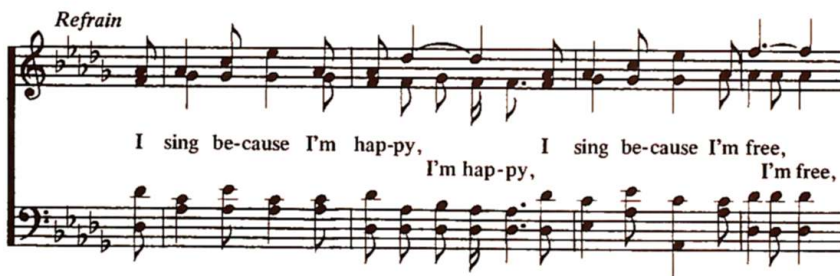


His eye is on the spar-row, And I know He watch-es me;
 His eye is on the spar-row, And I know He watch-es me;
 His eye is on the spar-row, And I know He watch-es me;



His eye is on the spar-row, And I know He watch-es me.
 His eye is on the spar-row, And I know He watch-es me.
 His eye is on the spar-row, And I know He watch-es me.

Refrain



I sing be-cause I'm hap-py, I sing be-cause I'm free,
 I'm hap-py, I'm free,



For His eye is on the spar-row, And I know He watch-es me.

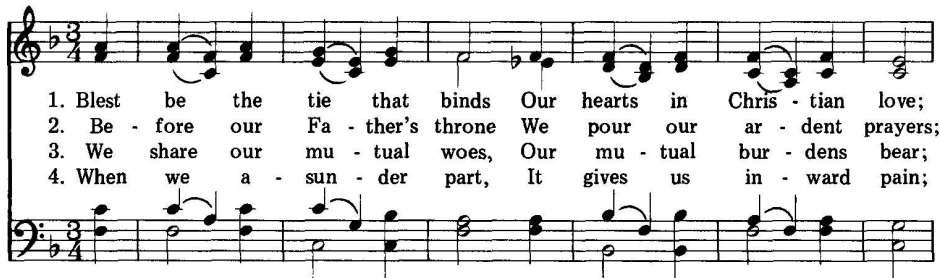
207 Blest Be the Tie That Binds

For ye are all one in Christ Jesus. Gal. 3:28

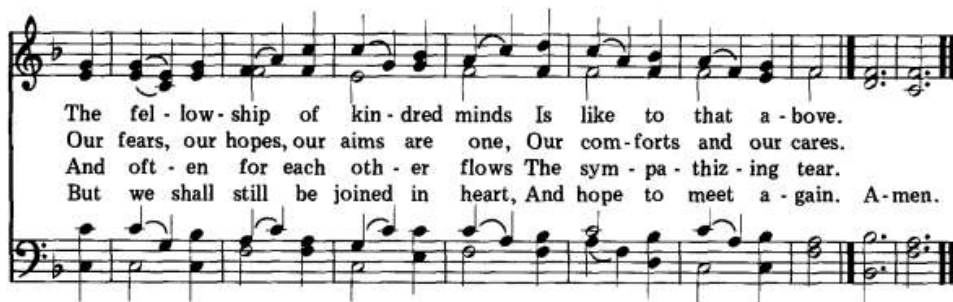
John Fawcett, 1782

DENNIS S.M.

Johann G. Nageli, 1773-1836
Arr. by Lowell Mason, 1845



1. Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Chris - tian love;
2. Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne We pour our ar - dent prayers;
3. We share our mu - tual woes, Our mu - tual bur - dens bear;
4. When we a - sun - der part, It gives us in - ward pain;



The fel - low - ship of kin - dred minds Is like to that a - bove.
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, Our com - forts and our cares.
And oft - en for each oth - er flows The sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
But we shall still be joined in heart, And hope to meet a - gain. A - men.