

Covenant-First Presbyterian Church

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



September 27, 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
Christie Lee, Organ Scholar

Organ Symphony No.9 *Gothique*
Op.70, II. Andante sostenuto

Charles-Marie Widor

Concerns of the Congregation

Rev. Dr. Dan Turis

Call to Worship

Darlene Nored

One: Come worship the Lord who loosens oppression, feeds the hungry, shelters the vulnerable, and makes merciful communities shine like dawn in a wounded world today.

Passing of the Peace

This is a time in the worship service where we extend Christ's peace to one another.

Please greet those around you as a community bound together with the hope of Christ.

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Prelude
Christie Lee, Organ Scholar

Trio No.1 in G minor, Op. 49, No.1

Josef Rheinberger

Ringling of the Revere Tower Bell

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

*Hymn #58

This Is My Father's World

*Invocation

Darlene Nored

All: God of justice and mercy, unite us to Christ's redeeming love; break our indifference, fill us with your Spirit, and make compassionate service our truthful worship today and always. Amen.

*Prayer of Confession

Rev. Dr. Dan Turis

All: Merciful Lord, we confess that we sing while ignoring suffering, fast while exploiting others, and pray while withholding bread. We prefer ceremonies that cost little to mercy that changes lives. Forgive our hollow worship. Through Christ, loose injustice, heal indifference, and make us neighbors. Amen.

*Moments of Silent Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

Rev. Dr. Dan Turis

One: Hear the promise of grace: Jesus Christ is the true fast, the faithful worshiper, and the merciful servant we failed to be. He carried our guilt, broke sin's oppression, and rose as healing light. In him, God forgives us, restores our ruins, and sends us by the Spirit to repair breaches and share bread freely.

*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

God Will Make a Way

Don Moen and Mark Hayes

Covenant Choir and Congregation

See bulletin pg. 6

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

The Lord's Prayer

Albert Hay Malotte

Gretha Fergus, Mezzo Soprano

Arr. Ruth Elaine Schram

*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 #233

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 58:6-12

"Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: To loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? ⁷ Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter— when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? ⁸ Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard. ⁹ Then you will call, and the LORD will

answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I. “If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk,¹⁰ and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.¹¹ The LORD will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.¹² Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations; you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.

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

Sermon	The Marks of a Faithful Deacon	Rev. Dr. Dan Turis
*Hymn #43	Praise to the Lord, the Almighty	
*Benediction		
Postlude	Fughetta on Lobe den Herren	Andrew Hackett
Andrew Hackett, Organist		

* * * * *

Key Sermon Notes:
Historical Voice: John Calvin
Quote: “God rejects all ceremonies when sincerity of heart is wanting.”
Source: Commentary on Isaiah, Vol. 3, Isaiah 58

Confessional Witness: Second Helvetic Confession 5.218 — “The care of the poor was committed to the deacons.”

Presbyterian Church USA Book of Order: G-2.0201 — Deacons share in Christ’s ministry of redeeming love for “the poor, the hungry, the sick... and all who are in distress.”

* * * * *

The flowers today are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Laura Ross by her children and grandchildren on what would have been her 100th birthday on Saturday, September 26.

GOD WILL MAKE A WAY

(Incorporating **HE LEADETH ME! O BLESSED THOUGHT!**)

for congregation

Arranged by
MARK HAYES

Words and Music by
DON MOEN

Verse 1: God will make a way where there seems to be no way.
(Choir men only) He works in ways we cannot see; He will make a way for me.
He will be my guide, hold me closely to His side;
With love and strength for each new day, He will make a way, He will make a way.

Verse 1: God will make a way where there seems to be no way.
(Choir all voices) He works in ways we cannot see; He will make a way for me.
He will be my guide, hold me closely to His side;
With love and strength for each new day, He will make a way, He will make a way.

Verse 2: By a roadway in the wilderness He'll lead me, and rivers in the desert I will see.
(Choir all voices) Heaven and earth will fade, but His word will still remain.
He will do something new today.

Verse 1: God will make a way where there seems to be no way.
(Choir all voices) He works in ways we cannot see; He will make a way for me.
He will be my guide, hold me closely to His side;
With love and strength for each new day, He will make a way, He will make a way.

Verse 3: HE LEADETH ME! O BLESSED THOUGHT! - Choir and Congregation

Words by Joseph H. Gilmore (1834-1918); music by William B. Bradbury (1816-1868)



He lead - eth me! O bless - ed thought! O words with
heav'n - ly com - fort - fraught! What - e'er I do, wher - e'er I
be, Still 'tis God's hand that lead - eth me! He lead - eth me, He
lead - eth me, By His own hand He lead - eth me; His faith - ful
fol - l'wer I would be, For by His hand He lead - eth me.

Choir Postlude: For by His hand He leadeth me. He will make a way.

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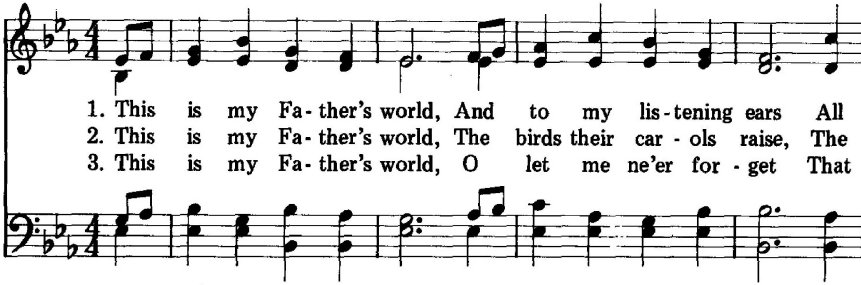
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This Is My Father's World 58

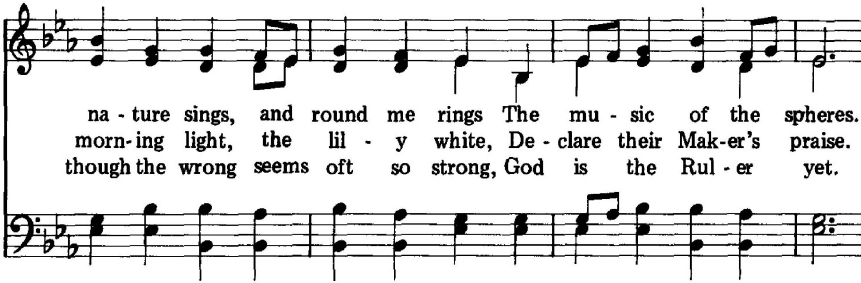
The morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy. Job 38:7

Maltbie D. Babcock, 1901

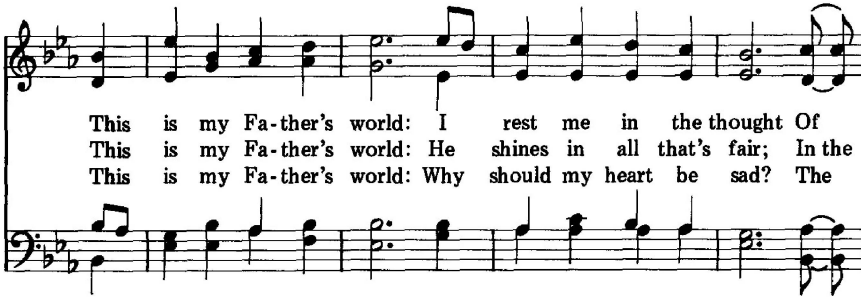
TERRA BEATA S.M.D.
Franklin L. Sheppard, 1915



1. This is my Fa-ther's world, And to my lis-tening ears All
2. This is my Fa-ther's world, The birds their car - ols raise, The
3. This is my Fa-ther's world, O let me ne'er for - get That



na - ture sings, and round me rings The mu - sic of the spheres.
morn-ing light, the lil - y white, De - clare their Mak-er's praise.
though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Rul - er yet.



This is my Fa-ther's world: I rest me in the thought Of
This is my Fa-ther's world: He shines in all that's fair; In the
This is my Fa-ther's world: Why should my heart be sad? The



rocks and trees, of skies and seas—His hand the won-ders wrought.
rus - tling grass I hear Him pass, He speaks to me ev-ery-where.
Lord is King: let the heav - ens ring! God reigns: let earth be glad! A-men.

HIS WORKS IN CREATION

233 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Thou, O Lord, art a God . . . plenteous in mercy and truth. Psa. 86:15

Frederick W. Faber, 1862

WELLESLEY 8 7 8 7

Lizzie S. Tourjée, 1878

1. There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy Like the wide-ness of the sea;
2. There is wel-come for the sin-ner And more grac-es for the good;
3. For the love of God is broad-er Than the meas-ure of man's mind;
4. If our love were but more sim-ple We should take Him at His word,

There's a kind-ness in His jus-tice Which is more than lib-er-ty.
There is mer-cy with the Sav-ior; There is heal-ing in His blood.
And the heart of the E-ter-nal Is most won-der-ful-ly kind.
And our lives would be all sun-shine In the sweet-ness of our Lord. A-men.

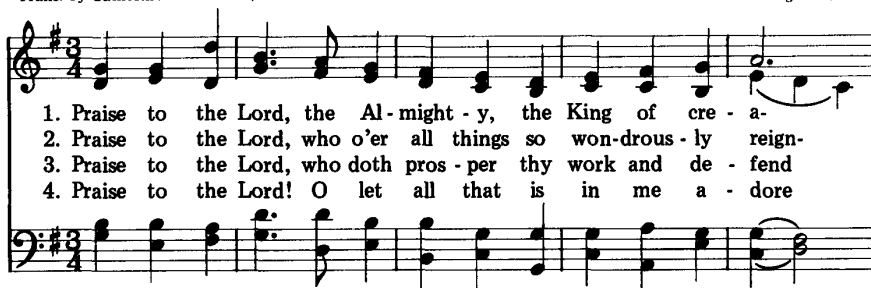
The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass staff for the voice, and a grand staff (treble and bass) for the piano accompaniment. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a clear harmonic structure. The lyrics are printed below the voice staff, with line numbers 1 through 4 corresponding to the verses. The piano accompaniment provides a steady harmonic foundation, with chords and single notes that complement the vocal line. The score concludes with a double bar line and repeat signs for both the voice and piano parts.

43 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

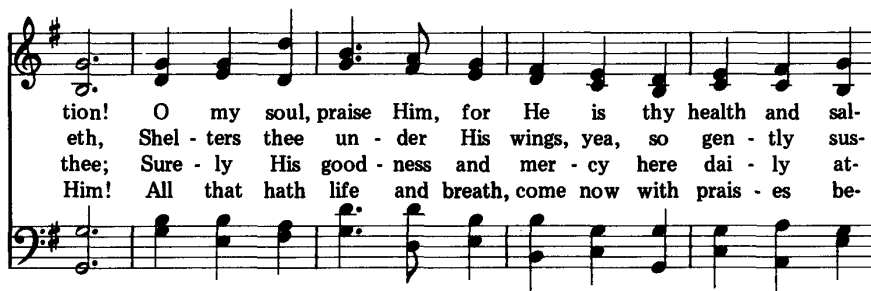
For then shalt thou have thy delight in the Almighty. Job 22:26

Joachim Neander, 1680
Trans. by Catherine Winkworth, 1863

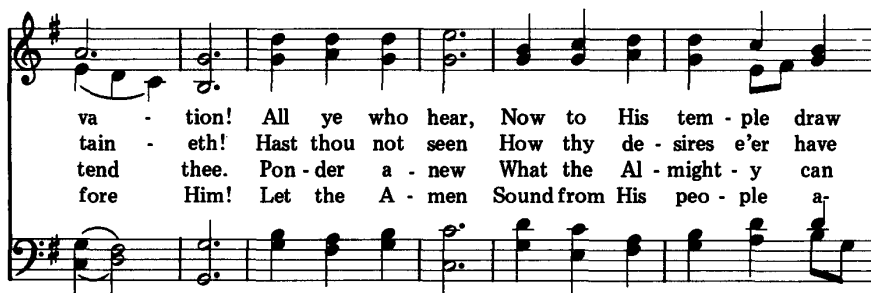
LOBE DEN HERREN 14 14 4 7 8
Stralsund Gesangbuch, 1665



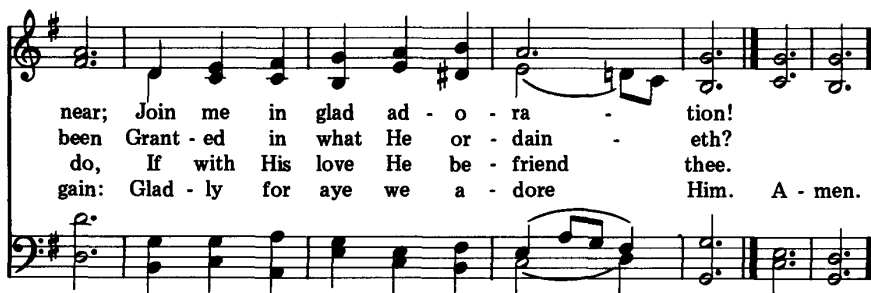
1. Praise to the Lord, the Al-might-y, the King of cre-a-
2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous-ly reign-
3. Praise to the Lord, who doth pros-per thy work and de-fend
4. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a-dore



tion! O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and sal-
eth, Shel-ters thee un-der His wings, yea, so gen-tly sus-
thee; Sure-ly His good-ness and mer-cy here dai-ly at-
Him! All that hath life and breath, come now with prais-es be-



va-tion! All ye who hear, Now to His tem-ple draw
tain-eth! Hast thou not seen How thy de-sires e'er have
tend thee. Pon-der a-new What the Al-might-y can
fore Him! Let the A-men Sound from His peo-ple a-



near; Join me in glad ad-o-ra-tion!
been Grant-ed in what He or-dain-eth?
do, If with His love He be-friend thee.
gain: Glad-ly for aye we a-dore Him. A-men.

GOD THE FATHER