

Covenant-First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, March 17, 2024 • 10:30 AM



Covenant-First's mission is to praise the Father, proclaim the Son and submit to the perfecting power of the Holy Spirit.

Covenant-First Presbyterian Church • 717 Elm Street • Cincinnati, OH 45202
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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 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.

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, please pick up any of the literature located on the back tables, see your morning greeter, contact the church office at 513-621-4144, or visit our website at www.covfirstchurch.org.

Service for the Lord's Day

Pre-Service Music O Mensch, bewein dein Sünde groß, BWV 622
Christie Lee, Organ Scholar

J.S. Bach

Concerns of the Congregation

Call to Worship

Randy Page

One: Beloved in Christ, let us gather with grateful hearts, embracing the profound gift of Jesus' humanity. In his atonement, we find our redemption and the restoration of our brokenness. Through his life, death, and resurrection, he has bridged the chasm of sin, inviting us into divine fellowship. Let us worship in spirit and truth, celebrating the sacrificial love that binds us to eternity. Come, let us worship him together.

Prelude Nun bitten wir den Heiligen Geis, BuxWV 209
Christie Lee, Organ Scholar

Dietrich Buxtehude

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 #85** Crown Him with Many Crowns

*Invocation

Randy Page

One: Let us pray in unity, invoking the spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ. Gracious Father, who through your son, Jesus Christ, embraced humanity to redeem us.

All: In his humanity we are given righteousness.

One: In his suffering, we find our strength; in his resurrection, our hope,

All: in his ascension, communion with God.

One: For the peace that surpasses understanding, through Christ's vicarious humanity,

All: grant us the benefits of a holy life.

One: As we gather to confess our sins, bind our hearts in the love and sacrifice of your son,

All: transform us more into Christ's image, O Father; in humble adoration, we invoke your presence among us. Amen.

***Prayer of Confession**

Rev. Dan Turis

All: Almighty and merciful God, we confess our rebellious nature, acknowledging our shortcomings and the ways we have not lived the life given to us by your son, Jesus Christ. In thought, word, and deed, we have fallen short of your glory, ignoring the call to embody his vicarious humanity in our lives. We confess our selfishness, our pride, and our failure to show your love to those around us. Forgive us for the times we've neglected the needs of our neighbors and turned away from opportunities to serve. In your infinite mercy, cleanse our hearts and renew our spirits, that we may live more fully in the light of your grace. Guide us to embrace the humility and sacrifice of Christ, that we might reflect his love in all we do. Amen.

***Moments of Silent Confession**

***Assurance of Pardon**

Rev. Dan Turis

One: If you search every corner of the world, you will never find a more hopeful message than this: It is in Jesus Christ's life that you are united within your life. When you fail to help the hurting, Christ has done it for you, giving you the benefits of a holy life. If you are united to him, the Father doesn't see your sinful, rebellious life. He sees the holy and sanctified life of his son and bestows the gift of his presence upon you in the form of the Spirit. He gives you a holy life with the hope that you will live into it. If you proclaim Jesus is Lord, you have been given the gift of salvation and hope and the sanctification of a holy man found in Jesus' holiness. You have no sin on you, and it is as far from you as the East is from the West.

All: 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.

Anthem

Behold the Lamb of God, *from Messiah*

George F. Handel

Covenant Choir

Behold, the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sin of the world!

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.

Offertory
Andrew Hackett, Organ

Concerto in D minor, mvt. ii, RV 565

Antonio Vivaldi

***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 #137** What Wondrous Love is This

Scripture Lesson Ephesians 4:8-10 Rev. Dan Turis
This is why it says: "When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people." (What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.)

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

All: Thanks be to God

Sermon Descent to Hell Atonement Rev. Dan Turis

***Hymn #136** O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

***Benediction**

Postlude Prelude in B Minor, BWV 544 J.S. Bach
Andrew Hackett, Organist

*Those who are able, please stand.

85 Crown Him with Many Crowns

... And on His head were many crowns ... Rev. 19:12

Matthew Bridges, 1851, and
Godfrey Thring, 1874

DIADEMATA S.M.D.
George J. Elvey, 1868

1. Crown Him with man - y crowns, The Lamb up - on His throne;
2. Crown Him the Son of God Be - fore the worlds be - gan,
3. Crown Him the Lord of life, Who tri - umphed o'er the grave,
4. Crown Him the Lord of love! Be - hold His hands and side,

Hark! how the heav'n - ly an - them drowns All mu - sic but its own!
And ye, who tread where He hath trod, Crown Him the Son of Man;
And rose vic - to - rious in the strife For those He came to save;
Those wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, In beau - ty glo - ri - fied:

A - wake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee, And
Who ev - ery grief hath known That wrings the hu - man breast, And
His glo - ries now we sing, Who died and rose on high, Who
All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For Thou hast died for me: Thy

hail Him as thy match-less King Thro' all e - ter - ni - ty.
takes and bears them for His own, That all in Him may rest.
died e - ter - nal life to bring, And lives that death may die.
praise and glo - ry shall not fail Thro' - out e - ter - ni - ty. A - men.

This tune in a higher key, No. 422

JESUS CHRIST

137 What Wondrous Love Is This

What manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us . . . 1 John 3:1

WONDROUS LOVE 12 9 12 9

Southern Harmony, 1835

American folk hymn

1. What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, What
2. To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing, To
3. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, And

won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is
God and to the Lamb I will sing; To God and to the
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; And when from death I'm

this that caused the Lord of bliss To bear the dread-ful curse for my
Lamb, who is the great "I Am," While mil-lions join the theme, I will
free, I'll sing and joy-ful be, And through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing

soul, for my soul, To bear the dread-ful curse for my soul!
sing, I will sing, While mil-lions join the theme, I will sing!
on, I'll sing on, And through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing on!

JESUS CHRIST

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded 136

When they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon His head . . . Matt. 27:29

Attr. to Bernard of Clairvaux, 12th century
Trans. (German) by Paul Gerhart, 1656
Trans. (English) by James W. Alexander, 1830

PASSION CHORALE 7 6 7 6 D.

Hans Leo Hassler, 1601
Arr. by J. S. Bach, 1729

1. O sa - cred Head, now wound - ed, With grief and shame weighed down,
2. What Thou, my Lord, hast suf - fered Was all for sin - ners' gain;
3. What lan - guage shall I bor - row To thank Thee, dear - est friend,

Now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed With thorns, Thine on - ly crown:
Mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, But Thine the dead - ly pain.
For this Thy dy - ing sor - row, Thy pit - y with - out end?

O sa - cred Head, what glo - ry, What bliss till now was Thine!
Lo, here I fall, my Sav - ior! 'Tis I de - serve Thy place;
O make me Thine for - ev - er; And should I faint - ing be,

Yet, though de - spised and go - ry, I joy to call Thee mine.
Look on me with Thy fa - vor, Vouch - safe to me Thy grace.
Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er Out - live my love to Thee. A - men.

HIS SUFFERING AND DEATH