



Covenant-First Presbyterian Church

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



April 26, 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

Fantasie in C Major (excerpt)

César Franck

Christie Lee, Organ Scholar

Concerns of the Congregation

Rev. Dr. Dan Turis

Call to Worship

Zach Burnham

One: Come, former enemies and current strugglers; the Jesus who tackled Saul in blinding grace still specializes in wrecking resistance with mercy.

Prelude

Heut' triumphieret Gottes Sohn, BWV 630

J. S. Bach

Christie Lee, Organ Scholar

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 #22

Stand Up and Bless the Lord

*Invocation

Zach Burnham

All: Lord Jesus, pursuing shepherd, you do not wait for enemies to wander home; you go after them on their angry roads. Gather us in your surprising kindness. For those who feel too far gone, make Damascus shine. For those who feel “good enough,” expose the deeper rescue we need. Turn this room into holy ground where old identities fall, and new names are spoken.

*Prayer of Confession

Rev. Dr. Dan Turis

All: God of scandalous grace, we confess our inner Saul. We may not breathe murderous threats, but we often breathe quiet contempt—toward enemies, toward “those people,” sometimes even toward ourselves. We classify some as beyond your reach and ourselves as beyond serious critique. We forget that, as Charles Spurgeon said, “If any man thinks ill of you, do not be angry with him; for you are worse than he thinks.” Our pride resists being knocked down so you can raise us up. Forgive our self-righteousness, our loveless labels, and our lack of faith in your power to transform anyone.

*Moments of Silent Confession

***Assurance of Pardon**

Rev. Dr. Dan Turis

One: Hear the gospel: “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners”—not the mildly misguided, but enemies. On the cross, he took the place of Sauls and self-righteous Sauls-in-training rising, he turned persecutors into preachers and rebels into sons and daughters. If he can rewrite Saul’s story, he can certainly rewrite yours. In Christ, your record is cleared, your status is changed, your future is re-scripted. You are forgiven, reconciled, and, like Ananias said to Saul, you are now “Brother, Sister” in the family of God.

***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

Come Follow Me

Covenant Choir

Take up your cross and follow.

Come, faithful seeker of the light, my voice is calling in the night.

Walk with me; I’ll be your guide. Follow me.

Come weary pilgrim, take my hand. I’ll lift you up and help you stand.

All who seek the promised land, follow me, come follow me.

All who hunger, all who suffer, all who sorrow, all who would be free, follow me.

The path is steep, the road is long, but with my love I’ll keep you strong; then my grace will lead you home. Come follow me.

Come follow me, O faithful one, until the final race is won, until the great Amen is sung!

Follow me, come follow me, until the great Amen is sung! Follow me, come follow me. I am the way, the truth, the life. Follow me.

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

O Saviour, Hear Me!

Arr. Dudley Buck

Lauren Albano, Soprano

Oh Savior hear me, I implore thee. In thee alone can peace be found. Thou can't sustain and thou restore me whate'er the cares that hover round. Hear my supplication. Turn on me thy loving eyes, oh turn on me thy loving eyes. Lord I long for thy salvation and would feign attain the prize.

When care of earth to me seem heavy, heart sore I seek of thee relief. Thy grace remaineth ever ready to soothe my pain to assuage my grief. Hear my supplication. Turn on me thy loving eyes, oh turn on me thy loving eyes. Lord I long for thy salvation and would feign attain the prize.

***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 #503**

Jesus Calls Us; O'er the Tumult

Scripture Lesson

Acts 9:1-31

Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest² and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.³ As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"⁵ "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied.⁶ "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."⁷ The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone.⁸ Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus.⁹ For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.¹⁰ In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered.¹¹ The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying.¹² In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."¹³ "Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem.¹⁴ And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name."¹⁵ But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen

Continued on next page

instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. ¹⁶ I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.” ¹⁷ Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” ¹⁸ Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, ¹⁹ and after taking some food, he regained his strength. Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. ²⁰ At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. ²¹ All those who heard him were astonished and asked, “Isn’t he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn’t he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?” ²² Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Messiah. ²³ After many days had gone by, there was a conspiracy among the Jews to kill him, ²⁴ but Saul learned of their plan. Day and night they kept close watch on the city gates in order to kill him. ²⁵ But his followers took him by night and lowered him in a basket through an opening in the wall. ²⁶ When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. ²⁷ But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus. ²⁸ So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. ²⁹ He talked and debated with the Hellenistic Jews, but they tried to kill him. ³⁰ When the believers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus. ³¹ Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened. Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

The Enemy God Loved

Rev. Dr. Dan Turis

***Hymn #448**

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

***Benediction**

Postlude

Fugue on St. Michael

Andrew Hackett

Andrew Hackett, Organist

*Those who are able, please stand.

22 Stand Up and Bless the Lord

Stand up and bless the Lord your God, for ever and ever. Neh. 9:5

ST. MICHAEL S.M.

Genevan Psalter, 1551

Arr. by William Crotch, 1836

James Montgomery, 1824

1. Stand up and bless the Lord, Ye peo - ple of His
2. Though high a - bove all praise, A - bove all bless - ing
3. O for the liv - ing flame From His own al - tar
4. God is our strength and song, And His sal - va - tion
5. Stand up and bless the Lord, The Lord your God a -

choice; Stand up and bless the Lord your God
high, Who would not fear His ho - ly name,
brought, To touch our lips, our minds in - spire,
ours; Then be His love in Christ pro - claimed
dore; Stand up and bless His glo - rious name,

With heart and soul and voice.
And laud and mag - ni - fy?
And wing to heav'n our thought!
With all our ran - somed pow'rs.
Hence - forth for - ev - er - more. A - men.

448 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

This God is our God . . . He will be our guide even unto death. Psa. 48:14

William Williams, 1745
Trans. by Peter Williams and
William Williams, 1771 and 1772

CWM RHONDDA 8787877
John Hughes, 1907

1. Guide me, O Thou great Je - ho - vah, Pil - grim through this bar - ren land;
2. O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, Whence the healing stream doth flow;
3. When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, Bid my anx - ious fears sub - side;

I am weak, but Thou art might - y; Hold me with Thy pow'r - ful hand;
Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar Lead me all my jour - ney through;
Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion, Land me safe on Ca - naan's side;

Bread of heav - en, Bread of heav - en, Feed me till I want no
Strong De - liv - erer, strong De - liv - erer, Be Thou still my strength and
Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es I will ev - er give to

more, (want no more,) Feed me till I want no more.
shield, (strength and shield,) Be Thou still my strength and shield.
Thee, (give to Thee,) I will ev - er give to Thee. A - men.

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LIFE IN CHRIST

503 Jesus Calls Us; o'er the Tumult

He saith unto them, Follow Me. Matt. 4:19

Cecil F. Alexander, 1852

GALILEE 8 7 8 7
William H. Jude, 1887



1. Je - sus calls us; o'er the tu - mult Of our life's wild, rest - less sea,
2. Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship Of the vain world's gold - en store,
3. In our joys and in our sor - rows, Days of toil and hours of ease,
4. Je - sus calls us: by Thy mer - cies, Sav - ior, may we hear Thy call,



Day by day His sweet voice sound-eth, Say-ing, "Chris-tian, fol-low Me."
From each i - dol that would keep us, Say - ing, "Chris-tian, love Me more."
Still He calls in cares and pleas-ures, "Chris-tian, love Me more than these."
Give our hearts to Thine o - be-dience, Serve and love Thee best of all. A-men.

