

# Covenant-First Presbyterian Church

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Sunday, January 14, 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.

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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](http://www.covfirstchurch.org).

# Service for the Lord's Day

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## Pre-Service Music

Improvisation on *Ash Grove*

Andrew Hackett, Organist

## Concerns of the Congregation

### Call to Worship

Hugh Ralston

*One: Praise be to the Eternal One.*

**All: Assemble, O people, in reverence.**

*One: Embrace the mystery, like Melchizedek's encounter.*

**All: Let justice and righteousness guide our worship. Amen.**

### Prelude

Passacaglia

William Walton

Andrew Hackett, Organist

### 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 #499

The Master Has Come and He Calls Us

### \*Invocation

Hugh Ralston

**All: As we gather in your presence, we invoke your Holy Spirit to descend upon us.**

**Like Melchizedek meeting Abraham, may this sacred moment be filled with mystery and reverence. Grant us the wisdom to embrace our roles as your people as we follow David's model of repentance. Amen.**

### \*Prayer of Confession

Rev. Dan Turis

**All: Lord Jesus, we have sinned against you. Like Abraham meeting Melchizedek, we recognize the holiness and mystery in your presence. Forgive our shortcomings, both as kings and priests, in your order. We confess our failures in reflecting your righteousness and justice to others. As we bring our offerings and tithes, we lay bare our hearts, trusting in your mercy. Lord, forgive our neglect of the roles you've called us to play. We acknowledge our dependence on Jesus Christ, our eternal High Priest. Renew our hearts, empowering us to live according to your will. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.**

### \*Moments of Silent Confession

## **\*Assurance of Pardon**

Rev. Dan Turis

*One: Hear this, the best news you could ever hear. The Lord who sits upon his holy throne as your high priest and king extends to you the hand of fellowship. The Lord Jesus, in his completed work, achieved what the greatest could not. He brings peace to us through God and through how we live. True justice and peace in a new society governed and guided by him. There will be no enmity between you and God and among you and others. He will make things whole.*

**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**

The Majesty and Glory of Your Name

Linda Lee Johnson/  
Thomas Eugene Fettke

Covenant Choir

When I gaze into the night sky and see the works of your fingers,  
the moon and stars suspended in space,  
but what is man that you are mindful of him?

You have given man a crown of glory and honor.  
And have made him a little lower than the angels.  
You have put him in charge of all creation,  
the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, the fish of the sea.  
Oh, what is man that you are mindful of him?

O Lord, our God, the majesty and glory of your name  
transcends the earth and fills the heavens.

O Lord, our God, little children praise him perfectly  
And so would we, and so would we.

Alleluia, Alleluia. The majesty and glory of your name.

## **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, Organist

Prelude and Fugue in C minor

Andrew Hackett

**\*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 #446**

Jesus, Savior Pilot Me

**Scripture Lesson**

Genesis 14:18-20

Rev. Dan Turis

Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, and he blessed Abram, saying, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. And praise be to God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand." Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

Hebrews 7:11-22

If perfection could have been attained through the Levitical priesthood—and indeed the law given to the people established that priesthood—why was there still need for another priest to come, one in the order of Melchizedek, not in the order of Aaron? For when the priesthood is changed, the law must be changed also. He of whom these things are said belonged to a different tribe, and no one from that tribe has ever served at the altar. For it is clear that our Lord descended from Judah, and in regard to that tribe Moses said nothing about priests. And what we have said is even more clear if another priest like Melchizedek appears, one who has become a priest not on the basis of a regulation as to his ancestry but on the basis of the power of an indestructible life. For it is declared: "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."

The former regulation is set aside because it was weak and useless (for the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God. And it was not without an oath! Others became priests without any oath, but he became a priest with an oath when God said to him: "The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind: 'You are a priest forever.'" Because of this oath, Jesus has become the guarantor of a better covenant.

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

**All: Thanks be to God**

**Sermon**

Who is Melchizedek and  
Why is Jesus a Priest like Him?

Rev. Dan Turis

**\*Hymn #7**

Praise Ye the Father

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**

Christie Lee, Organ Scholar

Cantique

Theodore Dubois

\*Those who are able, please stand.

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### **An Update on Sanctuary Ceiling Repairs — Part 2**

The repairs to the East side of the sanctuary ceiling will begin on Monday, January 22. We will once again have scaffolding in the sanctuary. We will meet in the chapel for some of these Sundays; our plan at this point is to meet in the chapel on Sunday, February 11 and 18, however, dates may change depending on how the work progresses. If we are in the chapel or the sanctuary the worship times will remain the same and Fellowship Time will continue.

# Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me 446

*He commandeth even the winds and water, and they obey Him. Luke 8:25*

ARFON 7777 D.

Edward Hopper, 1871

Traditional Welsh hymn melody

1. Je - sus, Sav - ior, pi - lot me O - ver life's tem - pes - tuous sea;  
2. As a moth - er stills her child, Thou canst hush the o - cean wild;  
3. When at last I near the shore, And the fear - ful break - ers roar

Un - known waves be - fore me roll, Hid - ing rock and treach - ous shoal;  
Bois - terous waves o - bey Thy will When Thou say'st to them, "Be still!"  
'Twixt me and the peace - ful rest, Then, while lean - ing on Thy breast,

Chart and com - pass came from Thee: Je - sus, Sav - ior, pi - lot me.  
Won - drous Sov - reign of the sea, Je - sus, Sav - ior, pi - lot me.  
May I hear Thee say to me, "Fear not, I will pi - lot thee." A - men.

PILGRIMAGE AND GUIDANCE

# 499 The Master Has Come, and He Calls Us

*The Master is come, and calleth for thee, John 11:28*

ASH GROVE 12 11 12 11 D.

Traditional Welsh melody

Sarah Doudney, 1871

1. The Mas-ter has come, and He calls us to fol-low The track of the  
2. The Mas-ter has called us; the road may be drear-y, And dan-gers and  
3. The Mas-ter has called us in life's ear-ly morn-ing, With spir-its as

foot-prints He leaves on our way; Far o-ver the moun-tain and  
sor-rows are strewn on the track; But God's Ho-ly Spir-it shall  
fresh as the dew on the sod; We turn from the world with its

through the deep hol-low, The path leads us on to the man-sions of day: The  
com-fort the wea-ry; We fol-low the Sav-ior and can-not turn back; The  
smiles and its scorn-ing, To cast in our lot with the peo-ple of God: The

Mas-ter has called us, the chil-dren who fear Him, Who march 'neath Christ's  
Mas-ter has called us: tho' doubt and temp-ta-tion May com-pass our  
Mas-ter has called us, His sons and His daugh-ters, We plead for His

LIFE IN CHRIST

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ban - ner, His own lit - tle band; We love Him and seek Him, we  
jour - ney, we cheer - ful - ly sing: "Press on - ward, look up - ward," thro'  
bless - ing and trust in His love; And through the green pas - tures, be -

long to be near Him, And rest in the light of His beau - ti - ful land.  
much trib - u - la - tion; The chil - dren of Zi - on must fo - low their King.  
side the still wa - ters, He'll lead us at last to His king - dom a - bove.

## 7 Praise Ye the Father

*I will . . . praise Thy name for Thy lovingkindness. Psa. 138:2*

FLEMMING 11 11 11 6

Elizabeth R. Charles. c. 1859

Friedrich F. Flemming. 1811

1. Praise ye the Fa - ther! for His lov - ing kind - ness, Ten - der - ly  
2. Praise ye the Sav - ior! great is His com - pas - sion, Gra - cious - ly  
3. Praise ye the Spir - it! Com - fort - er of Is - rael, Sent of the

care He for His err - ing chil - dren; Praise Him, ye an - gels,  
cares He for His cho - sen peo - ple; Young men and maid - ens,  
Fa - ther and the Son to bless us; Praise ye the Fa - ther,

praise Him in the heav - ens, Praise ye Je - ho - vah!  
ye old men and chil - dren, Praise ye the Sav - ior!  
Son and Ho - ly Spir - it, Praise ye the tri - une God! A - men.