

Covenant-First Presbyterian Church

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



October 18, 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

Pastorale, Op. 19 (Excerpt)

César Franck

Concerns of the Congregation

Rev. Dr. Dan Turis

Call to Worship

Sonja Vernon

One: Come, living members of Christ: receive mercy, practice genuine love, honor one another, bless enemies, share generously, and overcome evil with faithful good together.

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

Komm, o komm, du Geist des Lebens
Op. 67, Nr. 22

Max Reger

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 #9

Holy God, We Praise Thy Name

*Invocation

Sonja Vernon

All: God of mercies, unite our many gifts in Christ; kindle sincere love through your Spirit, and form us as joyful stewards for our neighbors' good and your glory alone. Amen.

*Prayer of Confession

Rev. Dr. Dan Turis

All: Merciful God, we confess love mixed with hypocrisy. We seek honor, hoard gifts, repay injury, and serve only those who please us. We forget that everything received is entrusted for our neighbors. Forgive our self-protection. Through Christ, renew minds and make our love sincere. Amen.

*Moments of Silent Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

Rev. Dr. Dan Turis

One: Receive this mercy: Jesus Christ offered himself without hypocrisy, loved his enemies, and stewarded every gift for our salvation. At the cross he overcame evil with good; in resurrection he made us one body. God pardons our lovelessness and, by the Spirit, equips us to honor, share, bless, and serve with joy before the world.

*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

O Perfect Love

Arr. Dan Miller

Covenant Ringers: Claire Crousey, Linda Meier, Becky Bell, Kit Crousey, Matt Bell, Mike Milhaem
O perfect love, all human thought transcending, lowly we kneel in prayer before thy throne,
that theirs may be the love which knows no ending, whom thou forevermore dost join in one.

O perfect life, be thou their full assurance of tender charity and steadfast faith,
of patient hope and quiet, brave endurance, with childlike trust that fears nor pain nor death.

Grant them the joy which brightens earthly sorrow; grant them the peace which calms all earthly
strife, and to life's day the glorious unknown morrow that dawns upon eternal love and life.

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

Soon and Very Soon

André Crouch and Jack Schrader

Covenant Choir

Soon and very soon, we are going to see the king;
Hallelujah, hallelujah! We're going to see the king!

No more dying there, we are going to see the king;
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! We're going to see the King!

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 #366

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

Scripture Lesson

Romans 12:9-21

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. ¹¹ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. ¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³ Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹ Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. ²⁰ On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Love Without Hypocrisy

Rev. Dr. Dan Turis

*Hymn #385

Take My Life and Let It Be

*Benediction

Postlude

Improvisation on Hendon

Andrew Hackett, Organist

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Key Sermon Notes:

Historical Voice: John Calvin

Quote: "Whatever man possesses he has received from God, on condition that he be a steward for the benefit of his neighbors."

Source: Institutes of the Christian Religion, III.vii.5

Confessional Witness: Westminster Confession of Faith 26.2 — "Saints... are bound to maintain a holy fellowship and communion... and to relieve each other in outward things."

Presbyterian Church (USA) Book of Order: F-1.0302a — The Church is a community where mutual love and reconciliation are lived out.

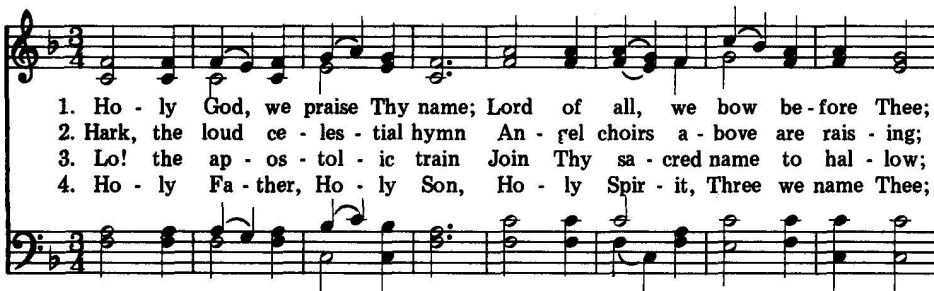
Holy God, We Praise Thy Name 9

Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of hosts. Isa. 6:3

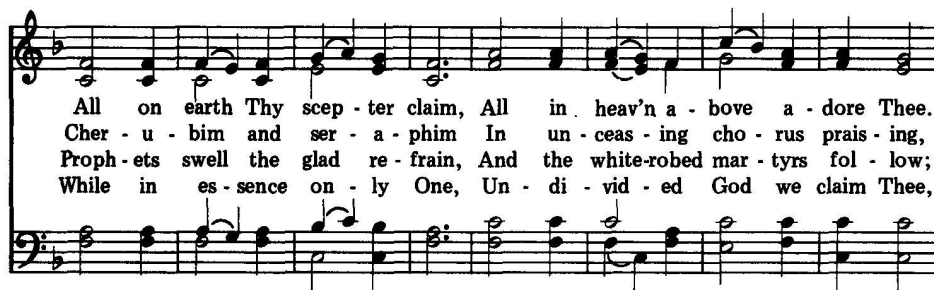
Attr. to Ignace Franz, c. 1774
Trans. by Clarence A. Walworth, 1853
Based on *Te Deum*, c. 4th century

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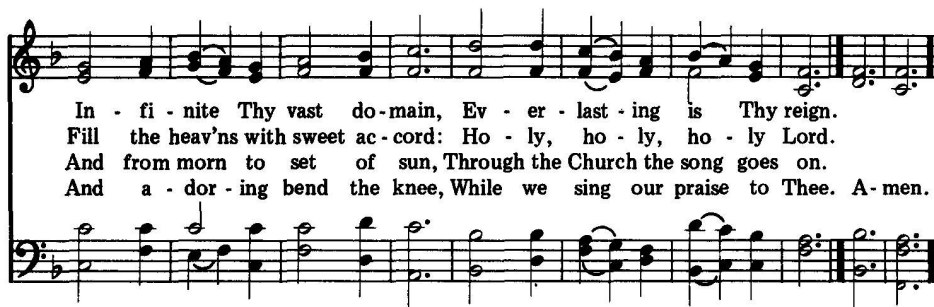
Katholisches Gesangbuch, Vienna, c. 1774



1. Ho - ly God, we praise Thy name; Lord of all, we bow be - fore Thee;
2. Hark, the loud ce - les - tial hymn An - gel choirs a - bove are rais - ing;
3. Lo! the ap - os - tol - ic train Join Thy sa - cred name to hal - low;
4. Ho - ly Fa - ther, Ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spir - it, Three we name Thee;



All on earth Thy scep - ter claim, All in heav'n a - bove a - dore Thee.
Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim In un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing,
Proph - ets swell the glad re - frain, And the white-robed mar - tyrs fol - low;
While in es - sence on - ly One, Un - di - vid - ed God we claim Thee,



In - fi - nite Thy vast do - main, Ev - er - last - ing is Thy reign.
Fill the heav'ns with sweet ac - cord: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord.
And from morn to set of sun, Through the Church the song goes on.
And a - dor - ing bend the knee, While we sing our praise to Thee. A - men.

THE TRINITY

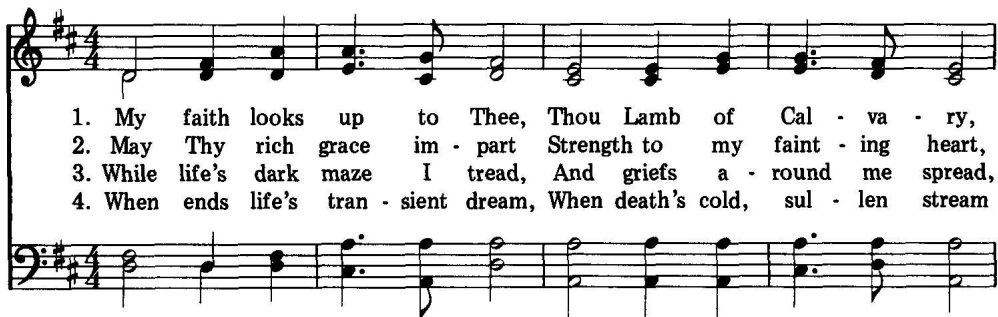
My Faith Looks Up to Thee 366

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith. Heb. 12:2

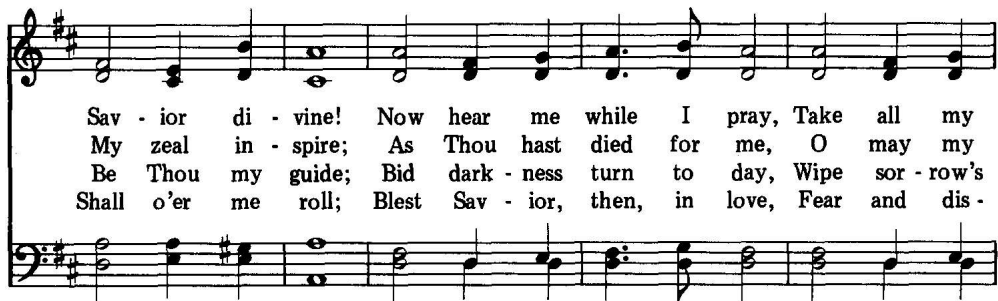
Ray Palmer, 1830

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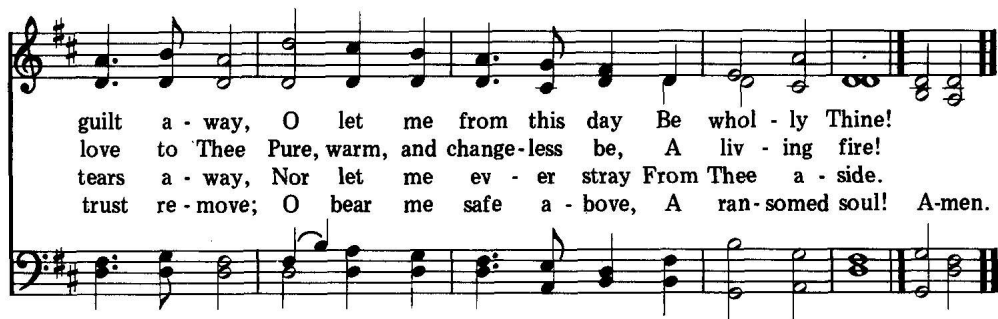
Lowell Mason, 1832



1. My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
 2. May Thy rich grace im - part Strength to my faint - ing heart,
 3. While life's dark maze I tread, And griefs a - round me spread,
 4. When ends life's tran - sient dream, When death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, Take all my
 My zeal in - spire; As Thou hast died for me, O may my
 Be Thou my guide; Bid dark - ness turn to day, Wipe sor - row's
 Shall o'er me roll; Blest Sav - ior, then, in love, Fear and dis -



guilt a - way, O let me from this day Be whol - ly Thine!
 love to Thee Pure, warm, and change-less be, A liv - ing fire!
 tears a - way, Nor let me ev - er stray From Thee a - side.
 trust re - move; O bear me safe a - bove, A ran - somed soul! A-men.

HOPE AND ASPIRATION

385 Take My Life and Let It Be

Ye are bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body . . . I Cor. 6:20

Frances R. Havergal, 1874

HENDON 7 7 7 7 7

Henri A. César Malan, 1827

1. Take my life and let it be Con-se - crat-ed, Lord, to Thee; Take my hands and
 2. Take my feet and let them be Swift and beau-ti - ful for Thee; Take my voice and
 3. Take my lips and let them be Filled with mes-sa - ges for Thee; Take my sil - ver
 4. Take my love, my God, I pour At Thy feet its treas-ure store; Take my-self and

let them move At the im-pulse of Thy love, At the im - pulse of Thy love.
 let me sing Al-ways, on - ly, for my King, Al-ways, on - ly, for my King.
 and my gold, Not a mite would I with-hold, Not a mite would I with-hold.
 I will be Ev - er, on - ly, all for Thee, Ev - er, on - ly, all for Thee.

LIFE IN CHRIST: OBEDIENCE AND CONSECRATION