



Covenant-First Presbyterian Church



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

December 21, 2025 • 10:30 AM Worship

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 Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645
Christie Lee, Organ Scholar

J.S. Bach

Concerns of the Congregation

Rev. Dr. Dan Turis

Advent Candle Lighting

The Candle of Love

The York Family

The dawn is near now; the horizon is thinning with promise. John the Baptist's cry echoes through Advent: "Prepare the way of the Lord." We prepare not by noise, but by light — lives that glow with the coming mercy of Christ.

"You will go before the Lord to prepare his ways...The dawn from on high shall break upon us." (Luke 1:76, 78)

Four flames now stand together, quiet prophets telling of a greater Light about to break into the world.

One: We light the Candle of Love.

All: May Christ's light shine through us as we prepare his way.

Prelude Gott, durch deine Güte, BWV 600
Christie Lee, Organ Scholar

J.S. Bach

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 #101** Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

***Invocation**

Rev. Dr. Turis

One: God of light, send your Spirit upon us. As you sent John, send us too. We want to be faithful heralds preparing hearts for Christ's peace and kingdom.

***Prayer of Confession**

Rev. Turis

All: Lord, we confess crooked paths in our lives, silence in our witness, and hearts unready for your coming. Forgive us. By your Spirit, make us faithful heralds of Christ's light.

***Moments of Silent Confession**

***Assurance of Pardon**

One: Hear this assurance: The tender mercy of our God has shone upon us; the dawn from on high has broken into our darkness. Christ has come, bringing forgiveness for sin and light for those who sit in shadow. By his cross you are pardoned; by his resurrection you are renewed. Walk, then, as children of the day, preparing the way of the Lord until he comes again in glory.

***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.

Anthem

Silent Night

Arr. Eric Lane Barnes

Covenant Choir and Covenant Ringers

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright, 'round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight. Glories stream from heaven afar. Heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia." Christ, the savior is born, Christ the Savior, is born.

Silent night, holy night, son of God, love's pure light. Radiant beams from thy holy face. With the dawn of redeeming grace. Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth. Sleep in heavenly peace.

Baptism of Hugh David Cameron

See 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

Behold the Star

Arr. H. T. Burleigh

Andrew Hallam, Baritone

Behold that star! Behold that star up yonder, behold that star! It is the star of Bethlehem. There was no room found in the inn. It is the star of Bethlehem. For him who was born free from sin. It is the star of Bethlehem. The wise men came on from the East. It is the star of Bethlehem. To worship him the Prince of Peace. It is the star of Bethlehem.

Behold that star! Behold that star up yonder, behold that star! It is the star of Bethlehem.
A song broke forth upon the night. It is the star of Bethlehem.
From angel hosts all robed in white; It is the star of Bethlehem.
“Glory to God, world without end.” It is the star of Bethlehem.
“And peace on earth, good will to men.” It is the star of Bethlehem.
Behold that star up yonder! Behold that star! It is the star of Bethlehem.

***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 #109** Once in Royal David’s City

Scripture Lesson Luke 1:76-80
And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, ⁷⁷ to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, ⁷⁸ because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven ⁷⁹ to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace.” ⁸⁰ And the child grew and became strong in spirit; and he lived in the wilderness until he appeared publicly to Israel.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Witness in Advent Rev. Dr. Dan Turis

***Hymn #108** The First Noel

***Benediction**

Postlude Improvisation on The First Noel
Andrew Hackett, Organist

*Those who are able, please stand.

The flowers on the communion table are given to the glory of God
by Margaret Valentine in celebration of her grandson’s first birthday
on December 28, 2025, Noam Lev Pillsbury.

Baptism of Hugh David Cameron

Born August 8, 2024

Parents: Alex and Maria Cameron

Introduction

The Parents' Vows

Pastor: Relying on God's grace, do you promise to live the Christian faith, and to teach that faith to Hugh?

Parents: **We do.**

Pastor: Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?

Parents: **We do.**

Pastor: Who is your Lord and Savior?

Parents: **Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior.**

Pastor: Will you, with God's help, be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love?

Parents: **We will, with God's help.**

The Congregational Vow

Pastor: Members and friends of Covenant-First Presbyterian, will you, with the help of God, guide and nurture this child by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging him to know and follow Christ, and to be a faithful member of his church?
Will you?

Congregation: **We will.**

*The Apostles' Creed

Pastor: Please stand as we confess the faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.
Christian, what do you believe?

Congregation and Pastor: **I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Baptism

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence 101

Let all the earth keep silence . . . Hab. 2:20

PICARDY 878787

*Liturgical of St. James, 5th century
Adapt. by Gerard Moultrie, 1864*

*Traditional French melody, 17th century
Hymn version, 1906*

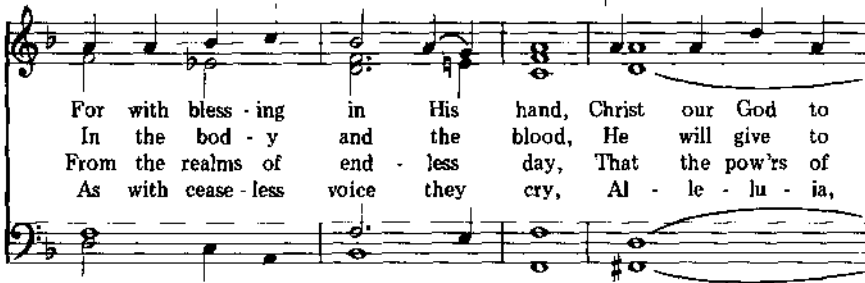
Unison



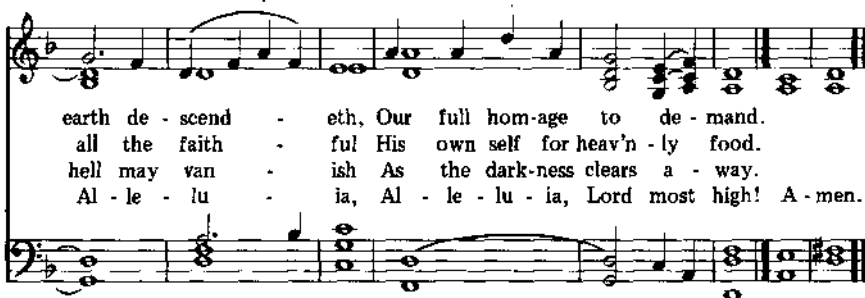
1. Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, And with fear and
2. King of kings, yet born of Ma - ry, As of old on
3. Rank on rank the host of heav - en Spreads its van - guard
4. At his feet the six - winged Ser - aph, Cher - u - bim, with



trem - bling stand; Pon - der noth - ing earth - ly mind - ed,
earth He stood, Lord of lords, in hu - man ves - ture,
on the way, As the Light of light de - scend - eth
sleep - less eye, Veil their fac - es to the pres - ence,



For with bless - ing in His hand, Christ our God to
In the bod - y and the blood, He will give to
From the realms of end - less day, That the pow'rs of
As with cease - less voice they cry, Al - le - lu - ia,



earth de - scend - eth, Our full hom - age to de - mand.
all the faith - ful His own self for heav'n - ly food.
hell may van - ish As the dark - ness clears a - way.
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Lord most high! A - men.

HIS ADVENT

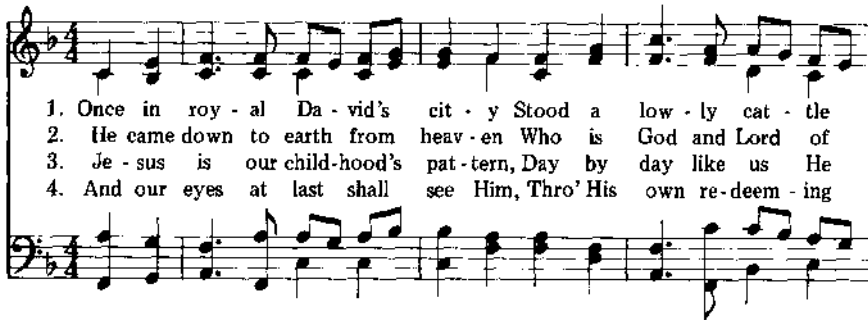
Once in Royal David's City 109

Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior . . . Luke 2:11

IRBY 878777

Cecil F. Alexander, 1848

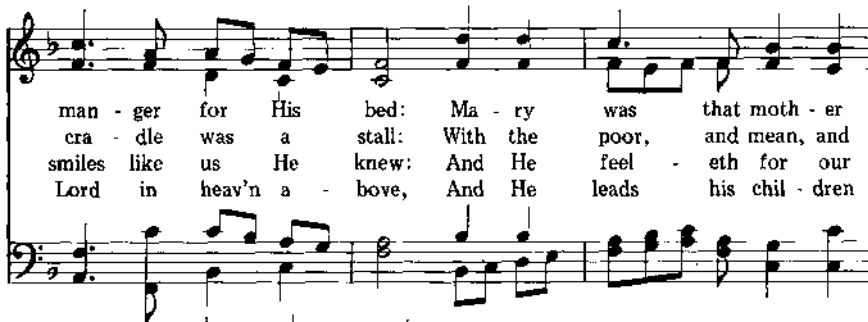
Henry J. Gauntlett, 1849



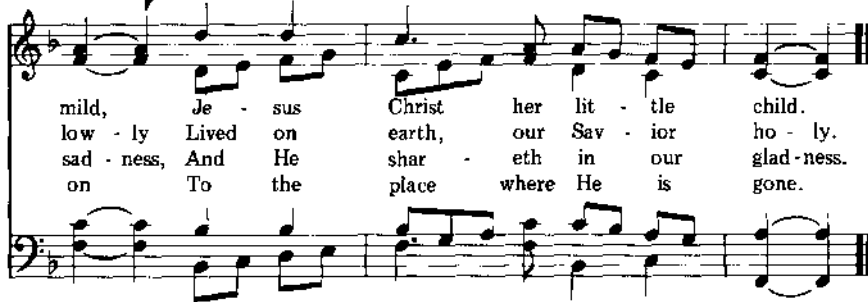
1. Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a low - ly cat - tle
 2. He came down to earth from heav - en Who is God and Lord of
 3. Je - sus is our child-hood's pat - tern, Day by day like us He
 4. And our eyes at last shall see Him, Thro' His own re - deem - ing



shed, Where a moth - er laid her ba - by In a
 all, And His shel - ter was a sta - ble, And His
 grew; He was lit - tle, weak, and help - less, Tears and
 love; For that child so dear and gen - tle Is our



man - ger for His bed: Ma - ry was that moth - er
 cra - dle was a stall: With the poor, and mean, and
 smiles like us He knew: And He feel - eth for our
 Lord in heav'n a - bove, And He leads his chil - dren



mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
 low - ly Lived on earth, our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 sad - ness, And He shar - eth in our glad - ness.
 on To the place where He is gone.

HIS BIRTH

108 The First Noel, the Angel Did Say

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field . . . Luke 2:8

THE FIRST NOEL Irreg. Ref.

W. Sandys' *Christmas Carols*, 1833

Arr. by John Stainer, 1871

Traditional English carol

1. The first No - el, the an - gel did say, Was to cer - tain poor shepherds in
 2. They look - ed up and saw a star Shin - ing in the east, be -
 3. And by the light of that same star Three wise men came from
 4. This star drew nigh to the north - west, O'er Beth - le - hem it
 5. Then en - tered in those wise men three, Full rev - 'rent - ly up -
 6. Then let us all with one ac - cord Sing prais - es to our

fields as they lay; In fields where they lay keep - ing their sheep, On a
 yond them far, And to the earth it gave great light, And
 coun - try far; To seek for a king was their in - tent, And to
 took its rest, And there it did both stop and stay, Right
 on their knee, And of - fered there in His pres - ence Their
 heav'n - ly Lord, That hath made heav'n and earth of naught, And

Refrain

cold win - ter's night that was so deep.
 so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
 fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
 o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.
 gold, and myrrh, and frank - in - cense.
 with His blood man - kind hath bought.

el, No - el, Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

JESUS CHRIST