

# Covenant-First Presbyterian Church

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Sunday, January 21, 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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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](http://www.covfirstchurch.org).

# Service for the Lord's Day

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**Pre-Service Music** Fugue in E-flat major, "St. Anne", BWV 552  
Andrew Hackett, Organist

J.S. Bach

## Concerns of the Congregation

### Call to Worship

Brian Calfano

*One: In God's sovereign grace, we gather, as he predestined us for adoption to himself.*

**All: Praise to God, who chose us in him before the foundation of the world!**

*One: In love, he predestined us for his glory. Let us worship our Almighty God.*

**All: We rejoice in his unchanging plan, trusting in his sovereign will.**

*One: Let's praise the Lord, who makes all things work together for the good of those who are called according to his purpose.*

**All: To him be glory, now and forever. Amen.**

### Prelude

Improvisation on *St. Anne*

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 #48

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

### \*Invocation

Brian Calfano

**All: Gracious and Almighty God, we invoke your presence among us. Guided by your sovereign will, we humbly gather in worship. You predestine and sustain; your purpose unfolds in our lives. Open our hearts to your Spirit, enlighten our minds with your Word. May our worship glorify you, aligning us with your divine plan. In unity, we seek your grace and wisdom. In Jesus' name, we commit this time to you. Amen.**

### \*Prayer of Confession

Rev. Dan Turis

**All:** Lord Jesus, in your holy presence, we acknowledge our shortcomings and failures. We confess that we often stray from your path, swayed by our own desires and the temptations of the world. We have sinned in thought, word, and deed, not only by our actions but by our silence and inaction. Forgive us for the times we've failed to reflect your love and grace, for not loving our neighbors as ourselves, and for our total depravity. Renew our hearts, O God. Help us to live in a manner worthy of the calling you have given us, striving for holiness, compassion, and righteousness. Guide our steps in your truth and lead us in the way everlasting. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

### \*Moments of Silent Confession

### \*Assurance of Pardon

Rev. Dan Turis

*One:* Hear this, the best news you could possibly hear. The Lord hasn't abandoned you. He hasn't chosen another way. He has chosen you. He has made you his affection. Even though you have fallen short, he makes up the difference. He makes your life complete and whole. The Lord has done a mighty thing in his resurrection. Allow the grace of his resurrection to pour out over your being. Trust in his forgiveness.

**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

Total Praise

Arr. Keith Christopher

Covenant Choir

Lord, I will lift my eyes to the hills, knowing my help is coming from you.  
Your peace you give me in time of the storm.  
You are the source of my strength. You are the strength of my life.  
I lift my hands in total praise to you.

### 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**

Speak, O Lord

Mary McDonald

Zach Burnham, Lucy Evans, and Ashlyn Rock

Speak, O Lord, as we come to you to receive the food of your Holy Word;  
Take your truth, plant it deep in us; shape and fashion us in your likeness,  
that the light of Christ may be seen today in your acts of love and our deeds of faith.  
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us all your purposes for your glory.

Teach us, Lord, full obedience, holy reverence, true humility;  
Test our thoughts and our attitudes in the radiance of your purity.  
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see your majestic love and authority.  
Words of pow'r that can never fail, let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds; help us grasp the heights of your plans for us,  
truth unchanged from the dawn of time that will echo down through eternity.  
And by grace we'll stand on your promises, and by faith we'll walk as you walk with us.  
Speak, O Lord, 'til your church is built, and the earth is filled with your glory!

Speak, O Lord, as we come to you to receive the truth of your Holy Word.

**\*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 #32**

How Great Thou Art

**Scripture Lesson**

Romans 9:14-24

Rev. Dan Turis

What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion."

It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God's mercy. For Scripture says to Pharaoh: "I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden.

*(Continued on page 6)*

One of you will say to me: “Then why does God still blame us? For who is able to resist his will?” But who are you, a human being, to talk back to God? “Shall what is formed say to the one who formed it, ‘Why did you make me like this?’ ” Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for special purposes and some for common use?

What if God, although choosing to show his wrath and make his power known, bore with great patience the objects of his wrath—prepared for destruction? What if he did this to make the riches of his glory known to the objects of his mercy, whom he prepared in advance for glory—even us, whom he also called, not only from the Jews but also from the Gentiles?

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

**All: Thanks be to God**

**Sermon**

Predestination, is it real?

Rev. Dan Turis

**\*Hymn #420**

If Thou but Suffer God to Guide Thee

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**

Marche-Sortie

Theodore Dubois

Christie Lee, Organ Scholar

\*Those who are able, please stand.

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The flowers on the communion table are given to the glory of God  
by Don and Kathleen Plake in memory of Adele Lanier.

# O God, Our Help in Ages Past 48

*Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. Psa. 90:1*

Psalm 90  
Isaac Watts, 1719

ST. ANNE C.M.  
William Croft, 1708



1. O God, our help in a - ges past, Our hope for years to come,
2. Un - der the shad - ow of Thy throne Still may we dwell se - cure;
3. Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, Or earth re - ceived her frame,
4. A thou - sand a - ges in Thy sight Are like an eve - ning gone;
5. O God, our help in a - ges past, Our hope for years to come,



Our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, And our e - ter - nal home!  
Suf - fi - cient is Thine arm a - lone, And our de - fense is sure.  
From ev - er - last - ing Thou art God, To end - less years the same.  
Short as the watch that ends the night, Be - fore the ris - ing sun,  
Be Thou our guide while life shall last, And our e - ter - nal home! A-men.



*HIS PROVIDENCE AND CARE*

# 32 How Great Thou Art

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised. Psa. 48:1

Carl Boberg, c. 1885  
Trans. by Stuart K. Hine, 1949

O STORE GUD 11 10 11 10 Ref.  
Swedish Folk melody  
Arr. by Stuart K. Hine, 1949

1. O Lord my God, when I in awe - some won - der Con - sid - er  
2. When thro' the woods and for - est glades I wan - der And hear the  
3. And when I think that God, His Son not spar - ing, Sent Him to  
4. When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion And take me

all the worlds Thy hands have made, I see the stars, I hear the roll - ing  
birds sing sweet - ly in the trees, When I look down from loft - y moun - tain  
die, I scarce can take it in, That on the cross, my bur - den glad - ly  
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -

*Refrain*  
thun - der, Thy pow'r thro' - out the u - ni - verse dis - played.  
gran - deur, And hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze. Then sings my  
bear - ing, He bled and died to take a - way my sin.  
ra - tion, And there pro - claim, my God, how great Thou art.

soul, my Sav - ior God, to Thee; How great Thou art, how great Thou art! Then sings my

soul, my Sav - ior God, to Thee: How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

\*Translator's original words are "works" and "mighty."  
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GOD THE FATHER: HIS PRAISE



# If Thou but Suffer God to Guide Thee 420

*Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and He shall sustain thee... Ps. 55:22*

Georg Neumark, 1641  
Trans. by Catherine Winkworth, 1855  
Based on Psalm 55

NEUMARK 989888  
Georg Neumark, 1657

1. If thou but suf - fer God to guide thee, And hope in Him through  
2. On - ly be still and wait His lei - sure In cheer - ful hope, with  
3. Sing, pray, and keep His ways un - swerv - ing; In all thy la - bor

all thy ways, He'll give thee strength, what - e'er be - tide thee,  
heart con - tent To take what - e'er thy Fa - ther's plea - sure  
faith - ful be, And trust His Word; though un - de - serv - ing,

And bear thee thro' the e - vil days; Who trusts in God's un -  
And all - dis - cern - ing love hath sent; Nor doubt our in - most  
Thou yet shalt find it true for thee; God nev - er will for -

chang - ing love Builds on the rock that naught can move.  
wants are known To Him who chose us for His own.  
sake in need The soul that trusts in Him in - deed. A - men.

COMFORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT