

Covenant-First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, January 7, 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.”

Covenant-First Presbyterian Church • 717 Elm Street • Cincinnati, OH 45202
www.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.

The Sacrament of The Lord's Supper

We offer Communion during the worship service on the first Sunday of each month. We welcome anyone who proclaims Christ as Savior to partake. The Communion table is not restricted to Presbyterians. During the service, the church elders will distribute the elements, while the congregation remains seated in the pews.

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.

Service for the Lord's Day

Pre-Service Music Old Hundredth: O Enter Then His Gates
Christie Lee, Organ Scholar

Healy Willan

Concerns of the Congregation

Call to Worship

One: O worshipers of the Sovereign Lord, draw near with reverence and joy, for we gather in the presence of the Almighty.

All: We come, acknowledging the sovereignty of our God, Creator of heaven and earth.

One: Lift your hearts in gratitude, for we are the chosen ones, redeemed by the blood of Christ.

All: Praise be to God for his grace and the gift of salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

One: As the Spirit moves among us, let us offer our worship with sincerity and awe.

All: We yield to the Spirit's leading, that our worship may be pleasing to the one who has called us out of darkness into his marvelous light.

One: Rejoice, for we are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation—set apart to declare the praises of him who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light.

All: Hallelujah! We gather as one body to exalt the Triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prelude Nun bitten wir den heiligen Geist, BuxWV 208
Christie Lee, Organ Scholar

Dietrich Buxtehude

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 See pg. 7

We Three Kings

*Invocation

Rev. Dan Turis

All: We invoke your presence. As finite beings, we humbly enter your transcendent reality. Grant us the grace to comprehend the mysteries of your divine love revealed through Christ. In the humility of true repentance, we surrender our attempts to grasp your infinite nature. May the incarnate Word illuminate our understanding. In your mercy, draw us closer to your unchanging, eternal truth. Amen.

***Prayer of Confession:**

Rev. Dan Turis

All: Heavenly Father, in humility, we confess our sin. We acknowledge our tendency to distort the image of your Son and rely on human understanding instead of embracing your boundless grace. Forgive our attempts to earn salvation through our efforts, neglecting the finished work of Christ. We repent for compartmentalizing our faith and failing to see your presence in every aspect of life. Lord, forgive our lack of love and unity within the body of Christ where we don't forgive each other. May your reconciling love mend broken relationships. In Jesus' name, we offer this confession, trusting in your abundant mercy and grace.

***Moments of Silent Confession**

***Assurance of Pardon**

One: Beloved in Christ, let me remind us of the immeasurable grace we find in our Triune God. As we humbly confess our shortcomings, let it be known that forgiveness is not earned but freely given through the finished work of Christ. In the shadow of the cross, where God's justice and love converged, we find assurance. The blood of Jesus Christ, God incarnate, cleanses us from all sin. Therefore, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I declare to you that your sins are forgiven and made new in him.

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

Lamb of Glory

Arr. Don Marsh

Covenant Choir

Hear the story from God's Word, that kings and priests and prophets heard.

There would be a sacrifice, and love would grow to pay sin's price.

Precious Lamb of glory, love's most wondrous story.

Heart of God's redemption of man, I worship the Lamb of glory.

On the cross, God loved the world, while all the powers of hell were hurled.

No one there could understand, the one they saw was Christ the Lamb.

Precious Lamb of glory, love's most wondrous story.

Heart of God's redemption of man, I worship the Lamb of glory.

With all saints we will spend eternity, singing praise to the Lamb of glory,

Precious Lamb of glory, love's most wondrous story.

Heart of God's redemption of man, I worship the Lamb of glory.

Glory to the Lamb, pure as snow I stand worshiping the Lamb, Lamb of glory.

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

Loving Shepherd of Thy Sheep

Jane E. Leeson

Covenant Choir

Loving Shepherd of thy sheep, keep thy lamb, in safety keep;
Nothing can Thy pow'r withstand, none can pluck me from thy hand.
Loving Savior thou didst give Thine own life that we might live;
And the hands outstretched to bless bear the cruel nails' impress.

I would bless thee every day, gladly all thy will obey,
Like the blessed ones above, happy in thy precious love.
Loving Shepherd, ever near, teach thy lamb thy voice to hear;
Suffer not my steps to stray from the straight and narrow way.

*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

Scripture Lesson

Matthew 18:21-35

Rev. Dan Turis

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?"

Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient

(Continued on page 6)

with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

"But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded.

"His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.'

"But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

"Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

"This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

How can we forgive the unforgivable?

Rev. Dan Turis

***Apostles Creed**

All: 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.

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Sacrament of The Lord's Supper

The Invitation

The Thanksgiving

The Words of Institution

The Communion

We will share in the body together. You may drink of the cup when desired.

The Prayer of Blessing

***Hymn #37**

Great is Thy Faithfulness

***Benediction**

Postlude

Sonata VI, mvt. v

Felix Mendelssohn

Andrew Hackett, Organist

*Those who are able, please stand.

* * * * *

Prayers for Healing and Wholeness

Following worship this morning, and after the postlude, you are welcome to join in a prayer circle with elders and Pastor Dan. Anyone who wishes prayer for healing is welcome to join the group. The group will gather by the baptismal font at the end of worship.

We Three Kings of Orient Are

1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a -
 2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a -
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri -

far, field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 gain; king for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.
 nigh; prayer and prais - ing, glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
 gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 fice; heav'n sings al - le - lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.

Refrain

Oh, star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty

bright; west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

Text: John Henry Hopkins, Jr., 1820-1891, alt.
 Music: John Henry Hopkins, Jr., 1820-1891

THREE KINGS OF ORIENT
 8 8 4 4 6 and refrain

37 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

His compassions fail not. They are new every morning. Lam. 3:22,23

FAITHFULNESS 11 10 11 10 Ref.

Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923

William M. Runyan, 1923



1. Great is Thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther, There is no shad-ow of
2. Sum-mer and win-ter, and springtime and har-vest, Sun, moon and stars in their
3. Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, Thy own dear pres-ence to



turn-ing with Thee; Thou chang-est not, Thy com-pas-sions they fail not;
cours-es a-bove Join with all na-ture in man-i-fold wit-ness
cheer and to guide; Strength for to-day and bright hope for to-mor-row,



Refrain

As Thou hast been Thou for-ev-er wilt be.
To Thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy and love. Great is Thy faith-ful-ness!
Bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!



Great is Thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by morn-ing new mer-cies I see; All I have



need-ed Thy hand hath pro-vid-ed—Great is Thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me!



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GOD THE FATHER