



Covenant-First Presbyterian Church

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



July 20, 2025 • 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.

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, 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

Andrew Hackett, Organist

Improvisation on *Rest*

Concerns of the Congregation

Jamie Jewell

Call to Worship

Jamie Jewell

One: Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty.

All: Just and true are your ways, King of the nations.

One: Who will not fear you, Lord, and bring glory to your name?

All: For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you.

Prelude

Fugue in E-flat Major, BWV 552 (excerpt)

J. S. Bach

Andrew Hackett, Organist

Ringling 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

Jamie Jewell

All: God of grace, you have given us minds to know you, hearts to love you, and voices to sing your praise. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may celebrate your glory and worship you in spirit and in truth through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*Prayer of Confession

Rev. Chris Torrey

All: Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image. Through Jesus Christ, the light of the world, Amen.

*Moments of Silent Confession

***Assurance of Pardon**

One: The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Amen.

***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.

Special Music

I Waited for the Lord

Felix Mendelssohn

Lauren Albano, Soprano; Kayla Sconiers, Mezzo Soprano

I waited for the Lord, he inclined unto me, he heard my complaint.

O blest are they that hope and trust in him.

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

Beautiful Savior

Arr. Donald E Sellew

Lauren Albano, Soprano; Kayla Sconiers, Mezzo Soprano

Beautiful Savior! King of creation, son of God and son of man! Truly I'd love thee, truly I'd serve thee, light of my soul, my joy, my crown!

Fair are the meadows, fairer the woodlands, robed in the flowers of blooming Spring: Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fairer the moonlight and the sparkling stars on high; Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer, than all the angels in the sky.

***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 13:24-30, 36-43

Matthew 13:24–30

Jesus told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. ²⁵ But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. ²⁶ When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. ²⁷ “The owner’s servants came to him and said, ‘Sir, didn’t you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?’ ²⁸ “ ‘An enemy did this,’ he replied. “The servants asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’ ²⁹ “ ‘No,’ he answered, ‘because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. ³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.’ ”

Matthew 13:36–43

Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field.” ³⁷ He answered, “The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸ The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. The weeds are the people of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. ⁴⁰ “As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. ⁴² They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Where Then Did the Weeds Come From?

Rev. Chris Torrey

***Hymn #500**

Go, Labor On

***Benediction**

Postlude

Improvisation on *Truro*

Andrew Hackett, Organist

*Those who are able, please stand.

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

Dear Lord and Father of Mankind 407

... Sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and in His right mind. Luke 8:35

John G. Whittier, 1872

REST 8 6 8 8 6

Frederick C. Maker, 1887

1. Dear Lord and Fa - ther of man - kind, For - give our fool - ish
 2. In sim - ple trust like theirs who heard, Be - side the Syr - ian
 3. Drop Thy still dews of qui - et - ness, Till all our striv - ings
 4. Breathe through the heats of our de - sire Thy cool - ness and Thy

ways! Re - clothe us in our right - ful mind; In pur - er
 Sea, The gra - cious call - ing of the Lord, Let us, like
 cease; Take from our souls the strain and stress, And let our
 balm; Let sense be dumb, let flesh re - tire; Speak through the

lives Thy serv - ice find, In deep - er rev - 'rence, praise.
 them, with - out a word, Rise up and fol - low Thee.
 or - dered lives con - fess The beau - ty of Thy peace.
 earth - quake, wind, and fire, O still small voice of calm! A-men.

Music by courtesy of the Psalms & Hymns Trust, London.

PEACE AND JOY

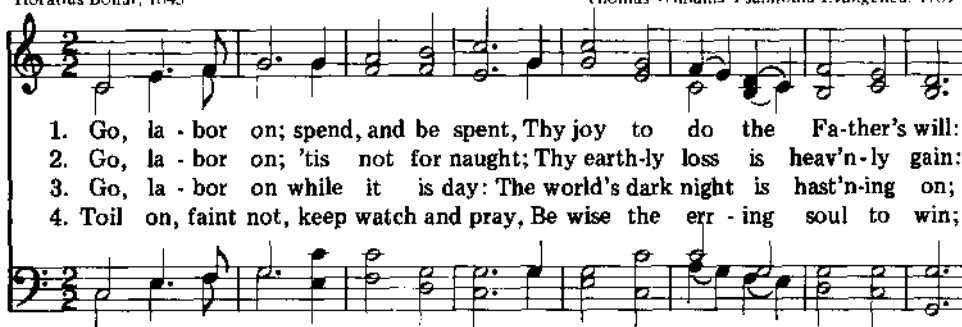
Go, Labor On; Spend, and Be Spent 500

Go out into the highways . . . and compel them to come in. Luke 14:23

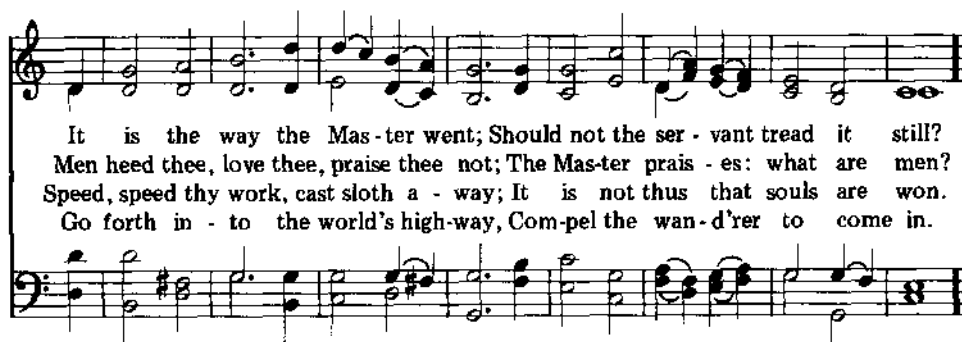
TRURO L.M.

Horatius Bonar, 1843

Thomas Williams' *Psalmody Evangelica*. 1789



1. Go, la - bor on; spend, and be spent, Thy joy to do the Fa - ther's will:
2. Go, la - bor on; 'tis not for naught; Thy earth-ly loss is heav'n-ly gain:
3. Go, la - bor on while it is day: The world's dark night is hast'n-ing on;
4. Toil on, faint not, keep watch and pray, Be wise the err - ing soul to win;



It is the way the Mas - ter went; Should not the ser - vant tread it still?
Men heed thee, love thee, praise thee not; The Mas - ter prais - es: what are men?
Speed, speed thy work, cast sloth a - way; It is not thus that souls are won.
Go forth in - to the world's high-way, Com - pel the wan - d'rer to come in.

STEWARDSHIP AND SERVICE