



Covenant-First Presbyterian Church

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



Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 24, 2025 • 7 PM

Music begins at 6:30 PM

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Pre-Service Music

Two French Carols
Carl Colvin, Oboe

Arr. Brant Adams

Mary Did You Know?
Hugh Ralston, Tenor

Mark Lawry and Larry Greene

Organ Symphony No. 9, Op. 70, Gothique
Christie Lee, Organ Scholar

Charles-Marie Widor

In the Bleak Midwinter
Jarrett Hazelton, Tenor

Gustav Holst

O Holy Night
Natalie Shepherd, Soprano

Adolphe Adam

Lovely Child, Holy Child
Covenant Choir

Arr. David N. Johnson

Fantasia on Greensleeves
Andrew Hackett, Organist

Ralph Vaughan Williams

* * * * *

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Dan Turis

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Pearl Allen, Darlene Nored &
Pat Whiting

Tonight, we stand at the edge of eternity, where time bent low and glory touched dirt. In a backwater town called Bethlehem, long foretold and long forgotten, heaven was born in a barn. We have lit candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love—flickers of God's flame lighting our path. Now we light the Christ Candle, the center of the circle, the center of history.

(As the Christ Candle is lit, please join responsively)

One: The Light has come into the world.

All: And the darkness cannot overcome it.

One: He came not in royal robes but swaddled in simplicity.

All: Not to be served, but to serve, and to save.

One: His peace is not the pause of war, but the presence of God.

All: And his kingdom is from everlasting to everlasting.

One: From Bethlehem's stable to every burdened street, this Light still walks. He sends us—
lamplighters in a world shadowed by fear. We do not keep this light. We carry it.

**All: Glory to God in the highest! Peace on earth, and a mission in our hearts. Christ
is born. Christ is here. Christ is coming again. Amen.**

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.

***Carol #103**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

See bulletin page 7

***Invocation**

Rev. Dr. Turis

One: God of hidden glory and manger mission, we gather beneath Bethlehem's star where
heaven kissed earth and peace was born. Make our worship womb-space for wonder
and a launchpad for love, sent in Christ's name.

***Prayer of Confession**

**All: Prince of Peace, we confess: We chase comfort, not calling; we hear good news
but hoard it in silence. While you came low to lift us high, we often rise in pride
and sink others in fear. Forgive us. Disrupt our distractions—rebirth our hearts
with mission-shaped mercy and Bethlehem-bold obedience.**

***Moments of Silent Confession**

***Assurance of Pardon**

One: Hear the glad tidings from Micah's mouth and the manger's cry: From the least of towns
came the Lord of all. He did not come to condemn but to deliver—to bring peace, not in
pieces, but in whole. In him, the war within us ends. Your sins are forgiven. You are not
forsaken. Now rise, radiant with redemption, and walk the road of peace, for Christ has
come and calls you still.

***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

A Christmas Lullaby

Arr. Don Hustad

Covenant Choir

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed. The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay. The little Lord Jesus, asleep in the
hay. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes. But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky, and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh. Be
near me, Lord Jesus. I ask thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

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.**

Christmas Offering

*This year, our annual Christmas Mission Offering will support the City Gospel Mission. Simply mark a pew
envelope or your check memo line, "Christmas". Undesignated offerings will support the mission and ministry of
this congregation. If you would like to give online see the back of this bulletin. Thank you for being generous!*

Offertory

Night of Silence

Daniel Kantor and Marilyn Biery

Covenant Choir

Cold are the people, winter of life, we tremble in shadows this cold endless night.
Frozen in the snow lie roses sleeping flowers that will echo the sunrise, fire of hope is our only
warmth, weary, its flame will be dying soon.

Voice in the distance, call in the night, on wind you enfold us you speak of the light. Gentle on
the ear you whisper softly, rumors of a dawn so embracing, breathless love awaits darkened
souls, soon will we know of the morning.

Spirit among us, shine like the star, your light that guides shepherds and kings from afar.
Shimmer in the sky so empty, lonely, rising in the warmth of the Son's love, star unknowing
of night and day, spirit we wait for your loving Son.

***Doxology #572**

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

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**

***Carol #106**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

See bulletin page 8

Scripture Lesson

Micah 5:1-5

Marshal your troops now, city of troops, for a siege is laid against us. They will strike Israel's ruler on the cheek with a rod. ² "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." ³ Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor bears a son, and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. ⁴ He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. ⁵ And he will be our peace.

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

All: Thanks be to God

Sermon

The King is Before Us

Rev. Dr. Dan Turis

We Welcome the Light of Christ

The ushers will come forward and light the candles for the people seated at the ends of the pews. As your candle is lit, please pass the light to the person seated next to you. Remember the person with the unlit candle should tilt theirs toward the lit candle to prevent the hot wax from dripping. Keep passing the light until all candles are lit.

One: Arise, shine, for your light has come;

All: and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you!

One: Nations will come to your light,

All: and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

One: For unto us a child is born,

All: and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

***Carol #117**

Silent Night, Holy Night

See bulletin page 9

(Raise your candle and join responsively)

One: This is the good news —

All: The light shines in the darkness.

One: At just the right time, Christ was born for us.

All: Thanks be to God!

One: Jesus is Immanuel — God with us.

All: We will walk in the light of the Lord!

***Christmas Blessing**

Please extinguish your candle.

***Carol #120**

Joy to the World

See bulletin page 10

Postlude

In Dulci Jubilo, BWV 729

J. S. Bach

Andrew Hackett, Organist

*Those who are able, please stand.

Thank you to everyone who contributed poinsettias.
A listing of those who contributed poinsettias is on page 11.

* * * * *

**Please deposit your candles in the metal receptables at the back
of the sanctuary when leaving.**



Merry
CHRISTMAS



O Come, All Ye Faithful 103

Let us now go even unto Bethlehem . . . Luke 2:15

Latin hymn

Attr. to John F. Wade, 1751

Trans. by Frederick Oakeley, 1841, and others

ADESTE FIDELES Irreg. Ref.

John F. Wade's *Cantus Diversi*, 1751

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant,
 2. God of God, and Light of Light be - got - ten,
 3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion!
 4. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this hap - py morn - ing,

O come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem!
 Lo, He ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;
 O sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove;
 Je - sus, to Thee be all glo - ry giv'n;

Come and be - hold Him, born the King of an - gels;
 Ver - y God, be - got - ten, not cre - a - ted;
 Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

Refrain
 O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,
 O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord. A-men.

HIS BIRTH

106 Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

And suddenly there was . . . a multitude of the heavenly host praising God . . . Luke 2:13

MEDELSSOHN 7777 D. Ref.

Felix Mendelssohn, 1840

Arr. by William H. Cummings, 1856

Charles Wesley, 1739

1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King:
 2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
 3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Right-eous-ness!

Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on-ciled!"
 Late in time be - hold Him come, Off-spring of the Vir - gin's womb:
 Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; Hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty,
 Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,

With th'an - gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 Pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
 Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King." A-men.

JESUS CHRIST

117 Silent Night! Holy Night!

And they . . . found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. Luke 2:16

Joseph Mohr, 1818
Trans. by John F. Young, 1863

STILLE NACHT Irreg.
Franz Grüber, 1818



1. Si - lent night! ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright
2. Si - lent night! ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight,
3. Si - lent night! ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light,



'Round yon vir - gin moth - er and Child, Ho - ly In - fant so ten - der and mild,
Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, Heav'n - ly hosts sing Al - le - lu - ia;
Ra - diant beams from Thy ho - ly face, With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,



Sleep in heav - en - ly peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born.
Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth. A - men.



120 Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth . . . Psa. 98:4

Isaac Watts, 1719
Based on Psalm 98

ANTIOCH C.M.
George Frederick Handel, 1742
Arr. by Lowell Mason, 1839

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come; Let earth re -
2. Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns; Let men their
3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, Nor thorns in -
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the

ceive her King; Let ev - ery heart pre - pare Him room,
songs am - ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
fest the ground; He comes to make His bless - ings flow
na - tions prove The glo - ries of His right - eous - ness,

And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His
1. And heav'n and na - ture sing,

1. And
sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.
heav'n and na - ture sing,

JESUS CHRIST

Thank you for your contribution of poinsettias

The poinsettias decorating the sanctuary are given by members and friends of the congregation.

Given by:

Pat Beckman
Genita and Rob Heidenreich
Nancy Hobstetter
Michael and Jennifer Maxwell

Hugh J. Ralston
Margaret Valentine

Given by:

Nancy Atkinson
Pat Beckman
Bell Family
Dan and Ginsel Bell
Tom and Carol Carhart
The Crousey Family
Andy Dechter
Kim Dickerson
Rob and Genita Heidenreich
Marilyn Hyde
Nancy Hobstetter
Al and Addie Landis
Nina Jackson and Family
Jenni McGee
Darlene Nored

Don, Carl, David and Ruth Ross
Hugh Ralston

Robert Sullivan
Margaret Valentine
Jack and Marney Weis
Ann Whitford
Patricia Whiting

Given in honor of:

Children and grandchildren
Al and Lil Richert
Loved Ones
Allen and Darlene Dusek,
Harold and Laura Hutson
Anne Jones & Ken Cogan
The birth of Jesus

Given in Memory of:

Andy Atkinson
Jeff Beckman, Family and friends
Gordon W. and Barbara H. Bell
Ken and Jeanne McCoy
Rev. and Mrs. Paul Larson
Carl and Nancy Magnusson
Angel Dechter
My Mom and Dad
Russ and Edie Heidenreich
Husband, Joseph Hyde
John and Helen Hobstetter
Our loving parents
Mary Meatchem
Christina Bolden
Colonel and Rebecca Nored, Edward Hicks,
Carrie Jones, Gerda Hodge
Parents Donald and Laura Ross, Loved ones
Margaret L. and Laurence W. Fowler, Lt. James Laurence
Fowler (USMC), Jeffery H. Ralston and Thomas F.
Chase, Hugh C. Ralston
Syria Sullivan
Family Members
Leila and Frank Prevost, Virginia and Henry Weis
My Parents, Thomas and Mary Ellen Ward Harden
Husband, Donald E. Whiting Sr.



Thank you for joining us for this special worship service. Covenant-First Presbyterian Church was founded in 1790, and has been a part of downtown Cincinnati ever since. Our 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.

We invite you to join us for worship any Sunday at 10:30 AM.

Validated parking is available in the 222 W. 7th St. Garage for all worship services. 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.

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 an usher, contact the church office at 513-621-4144, or visit our website at covfirstchurch.org.

Give online here



Visit our website



Download our app



Church Staff

Ministers: Every member of the congregation

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Dan Turis

Church Administrator: Genita Heidenreich

Choir Director: Yolanda Ortiz-Parker

Organist: Andrew Hackett

Custodian: Christy Ware-Fields

Sexton: Cory Linman

Organ Scholar: Christie Lee

Choral Scholars: Zach Burnham, Laz Clark,

Andrew Hallam, Jarrett Hazelton,

Madeline Jentsch, Lea Nayak, Kayla Sconiers,

Natalie Sheppard

COVENANT-FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Church Office Hours are Monday through Thursday 10 AM to 2 PM;
other hours are available by appointment