

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 26, 2026 · 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.

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

** indicates please stand if you are able*

Pre-Service Music
Christie Lee, Organ Scholar

Vater unser im Himmelreich I

Heinrich Scheidemann

Concerns of the Congregation

Rev. Dr. Dan Turis

Call to Worship

Robert Sullivan

One: Come, hemmed-in hearts; the Jesus who turned Paul's chains into a pulpit can turn your stuck places into stages for grace.

Prelude
Christie Lee, Organ Scholar

O wie selig seid ihr doch, ihr Frommen

Johannes Brahms

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 #9

Holy God, We Praise Thy Name

*Invocation

Robert Sullivan

All: Christ our champion, arrested yet reigning, you know what it is to stand misunderstood before councils and crowds. As we worship, meet those who feel confined—by illness, responsibilities, failures, or fears. Show us that your Word is never chained, and that our limits are often your launch pads. Fill us with courage to bear clear witness wherever we're "stuck."

*Prayer of Confession

Rev. Dr. Dan Turis

All: God of all seasons, we confess that when life boxes us in, we mostly complain. We assume that impact requires freedom, health, mobility, and choice. We envy others' wide-open lanes and miss the people right in front of us. We forget, as Charles Spurgeon preached, "I have learned to kiss the wave that throws me against the Rock of Ages." Instead, we curse the waves. Our focus narrows to escape, not faithfulness. Forgive our short-sightedness, our self-pity, and our unbelief that you can work in and through limitation.

*Moments of Silent Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

Rev. Dr. Dan Turis

One: Hear the gospel: On the cross, Jesus submitted to ultimate confinement—nailed, mocked, abandoned—so that you might be eternally free from condemnation. His apparent defeat became his greatest victory. In him, your grumbling and envy are forgiven. His Spirit now dwells in you, transforming prisons into pulpits, hospital rooms into houses of prayer, and ordinary workplaces into embassy outposts. You are pardoned and purpose-filled, even when your circumstances feel like handcuffs. The Lord stands near you and says, “Take courage.”

*Gloria Patri

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

O Rest in the Lord

Feliz Mendelssohn

Kayleigh Decker, Mezzo Soprano

O rest in the Lord, wait patiently for him, and he shall give thee thy heart's desires.

O rest in the Lord, wait patiently for him, and he shall give thee thy heart's desires.

Commit thy way unto him, and trust in him; and fret not thyself because of evil-doers.

O rest in the Lord, wait patiently for him.

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

Fugue on Ora Labora

Andrew Hackett

Andrew Hackett, Organist

*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 blessing 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 #266

Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling

Paul looked straight at the Sanhedrin and said, “My brothers, I have fulfilled my duty to God in all good conscience to this day.”² At this the high priest Ananias ordered those standing near Paul to strike him on the mouth.³ Then Paul said to him, “God will strike you, you whitewashed wall! You sit there to judge me according to the law, yet you yourself violate the law by commanding that I be struck!”⁴ Those who were standing near Paul said, “How dare you insult God’s high priest!”⁵ Paul replied, “Brothers, I did not realize that he was the high priest; for it is written: ‘Do not speak evil about the ruler of your people.’”⁶ Then Paul, knowing that some of them were Sadducees and the others Pharisees, called out in the Sanhedrin, “My brothers, I am a Pharisee, descended from Pharisees. I stand on trial because of the hope of the resurrection of the dead.”⁷ When he said this, a dispute broke out between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and the assembly was divided.⁸ (The Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, and that there are neither angels nor spirits, but the Pharisees believe all these things.)⁹ There was a great uproar, and some of the teachers of the law who were Pharisees stood up and argued vigorously. “We find nothing wrong with this man,” they said. “What if a spirit or an angel has spoken to him?”¹⁰ The dispute became so violent that the commander was afraid Paul would be torn to pieces by them. He ordered the troops to go down and take him away from them by force and bring him into the barracks.¹¹ The following night the Lord stood near Paul and said, “Take courage! As you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in Rome.”¹² The next morning some Jews formed a conspiracy and bound themselves with an oath not to eat or drink until they had killed Paul.¹³ More than forty men were involved in this plot.¹⁴ They went to the chief priests and the elders and said, “We have taken a solemn oath not to eat anything until we have killed Paul.¹⁵ Now then, you and the Sanhedrin petition the commander to bring him before you on the pretext of wanting more accurate information about his case. We are ready to kill him before he gets here.”¹⁶ But when the son of Paul’s sister heard of this plot, he went into the barracks and told Paul.¹⁷ Then Paul called one of the centurions and said, “Take this young man to the commander; he has something to tell him.”¹⁸ So he took him to the commander. The centurion said, “Paul, the prisoner, sent for me and asked me to bring this young man to you because he has something to tell you.”¹⁹ The commander took the young man by the hand, drew him aside and asked, “What is it you want to tell me?”²⁰ He said: “Some Jews have agreed to ask you to bring Paul before the Sanhedrin tomorrow on the pretext of wanting more accurate information about him.²¹ Don’t give in to them, because more than forty of them are waiting in ambush for him. They have taken an oath not to eat or drink until they have killed him. They are ready now, waiting for your consent to their request.”²² The commander dismissed the young man with this warning: “Don’t tell anyone that you have reported this to me.”²³ Then he called two of his centurions and ordered them, “Get ready a detachment of two hundred soldiers, seventy horsemen and two hundred spearmen to go to Caesarea at nine tonight.²⁴ Provide horses for Paul so that he may be taken safely to Governor Felix.”²⁵ He wrote a letter as follows:²⁶ Claudius Lysias, To His Excellency, Governor Felix: Greetings.²⁷ This man was seized by the Jews and they were about to kill him, but I came with my troops and rescued him, for I had learned that he is a Roman citizen.²⁸ I wanted to know why they were accusing him, so I brought him to their Sanhedrin.²⁹ I found that the accusation

had to do with questions about their law, but there was no charge against him that deserved death or imprisonment. ³⁰ When I was informed of a plot to be carried out against the man, I sent him to you at once. I also ordered his accusers to present to you their case against him. ³¹ So the soldiers, carrying out their orders, took Paul with them during the night and brought him as far as Antipatris. ³² The next day they let the cavalry go on with him, while they returned to the barracks.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Bound, but Not Broken

Rev. Dr. Dan Turis

*Hymn #28

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

*Benediction

Postlude

Improvisation on Nettleton

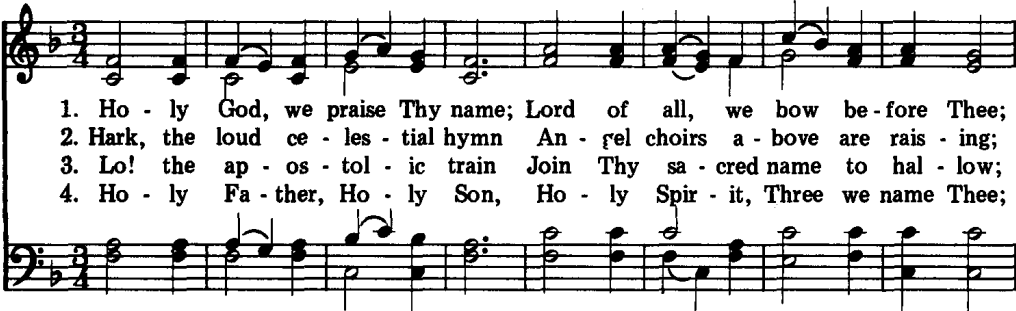
Andrew Hackett, Organist

Holy God, We Praise Thy Name 9

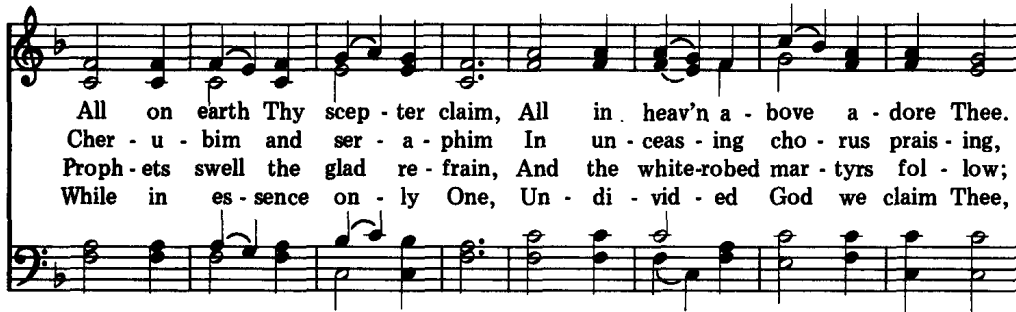
Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of hosts. Isa. 6:3

Attr. to Ignace Franz, c. 1774
Trans. by Clarence A. Walworth, 1853
Based on *Te Deum*, c. 4th century

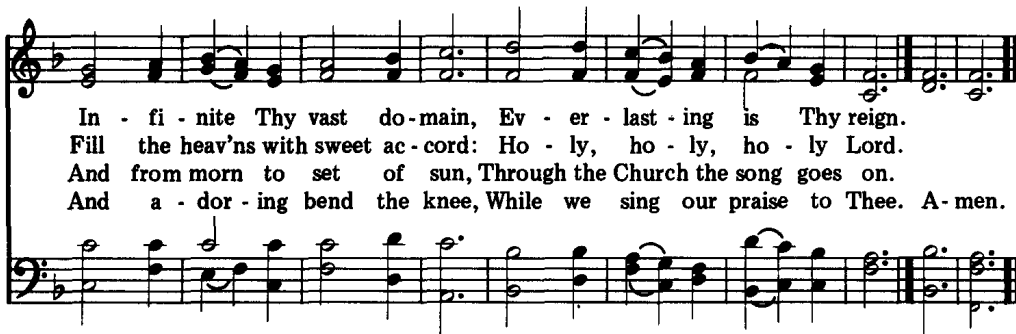
GROSSER GOTT, WIR LOBEN DICH 7 8 7 8 7 7
Katholisches Gesangbuch, Vienna, c. 1774



1. Ho - ly God, we praise Thy name; Lord of all, we bow be - fore Thee;
2. Hark, the loud ce - les - tial hymn An - gel choirs a - bove are rais - ing;
3. Lo! the ap - os - tol - ic train Join Thy sa - cred name to hal - low;
4. Ho - ly Fa - ther, Ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spir - it, Three we name Thee;



All on earth Thy scep - ter claim, All in heav'n a - bove a - dore Thee.
Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim In un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing,
Proph - ets swell the glad re - frain, And the white-robed mar - tyrs fol - low;
While in es - sence on - ly One, Un - di - vid - ed God we claim Thee,



In - fi - nite Thy vast do - main, Ev - er - last - ing is Thy reign.
Fill the heav'ns with sweet ac - cord: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord.
And from morn to set of sun, Through the Church the song goes on.
And a - dor - ing bend the knee, While we sing our praise to Thee. A - men.

THE TRINITY

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling 266

Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden . . . Matt. 11:28

THOMPSON 11 7 11 7 Ref.

Will L. Thompson, 1880

Will L. Thompson, 1880

1. Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, Call - ing for
2. Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, Plead - ing for
3. Time is now fleet - ing, the mo - ments are pass - ing, Pass - ing from
4. O for the won - der - ful love He has prom - ised, Prom - ised for

you and for me; See, on the por - tals He's wait - ing and watch - ing,
you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not His mer - cies,
you and from me; Shad - ows are gath - er - ing, death's night is com - ing,
you and for me! Though we have sinned, He has mer - cy and par - don,

Refrain

Watch - ing for you and for me.
Mer - cies for you and for me? Come home, come home,
Com - ing for you and for me. Come home, come home,
Par - don for you and for me.

Ye who are wea - ry, come home; Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,

Je - sus is call - ing, Call - ing, O sin - ner, come home!

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing 28

Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits. Psa. 68:19

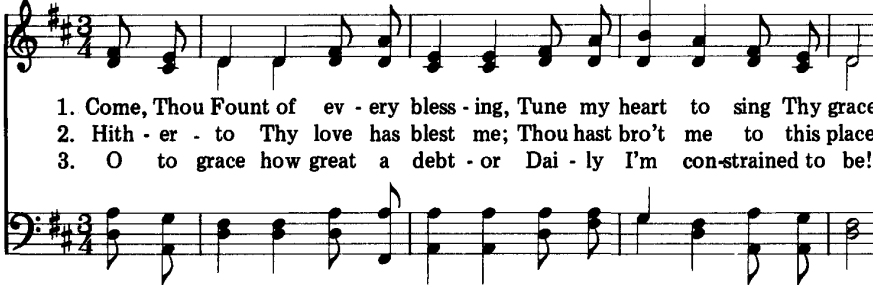
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Robert Robinson, 1758

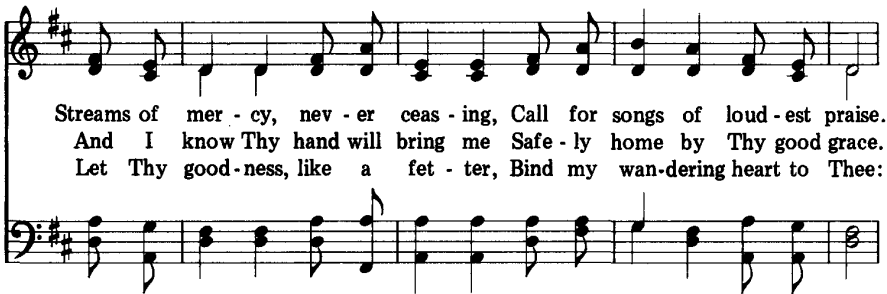
Adapt. by E. Margaret Clarkson, 1973

Traditional American melody

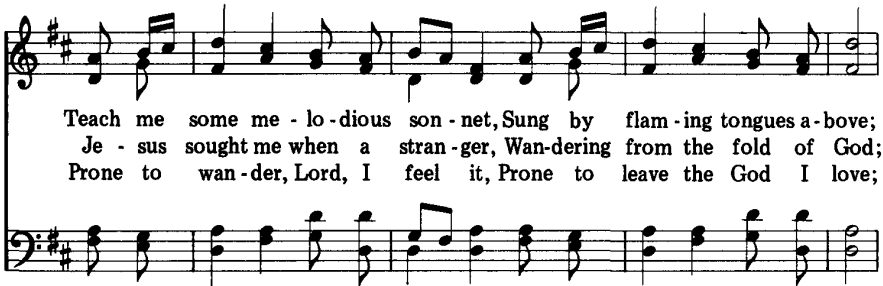
John Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music*, 1813



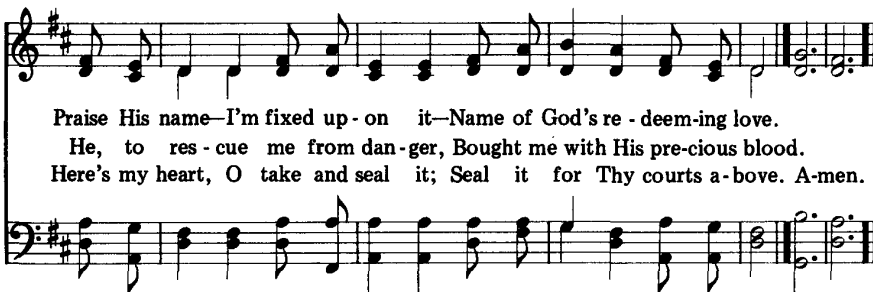
1. Come, Thou Fount of ev - ery bless - ing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
2. Hith - er - to Thy love has blest me; Thou hast bro't me to this place;
3. O to grace how great a debt - or Dai - ly I'm con - strained to be!



Streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, Call for songs of loud - est praise.
And I know Thy hand will bring me Safe - ly home by Thy good grace.
Let Thy good - ness, like a fet - ter, Bind my wan - dering heart to Thee:



Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, Sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove;
Je - sus sought me when a stran - ger, Wan - dering from the fold of God;
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, Prone to leave the God I love;



Praise His name—I'm fixed up - on it—Name of God's re - deem - ing love.
He, to res - cue me from dan - ger, Bought me with His pre - cious blood.
Here's my heart, O take and seal it; Seal it for Thy courts a - bove. A - men.