

Covenant-First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, March 3, 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
Andrew Hackett, Organist

An Wasserflüssen Babylon

Johann Pachelbel

Concerns of the Congregation

Call to Worship

Marney Weis

One: Beloved in Christ, let us gather with grateful hearts, embracing the profound gift of Jesus' humanity. In his atonement, we find our redemption and the restoration of our brokenness. Through his life, death, and resurrection, he has bridged the chasm of sin, inviting us into divine fellowship. Let us worship in spirit and truth, celebrating the sacrificial love that binds us to eternity. Come, let us worship him together.

Prelude

Improvisation on *Hamburg*

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 #148

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Invocation

Marney Weis

One: Let us pray in unity, invoking the spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ: Gracious Father, who through your Son, Jesus Christ, embraced humanity to redeem us,

All: You have given us righteousness found in his humanity.

One: In his suffering, we find our strength; in his resurrection, our hope,

All: In his ascension, communion with God.

One: For the peace that surpasses understanding, through Christ's vicarious humanity,

All: Grant us the benefits of a holy life.

One: As we gather to confess our sins, bind our hearts in the love and sacrifice of your Son,

All: Transform us more into Christ's image, O Father. In humble adoration, we invoke your presence among us. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

All: Almighty and merciful God, we confess our rebellious nature, acknowledging our shortcomings and the ways we have not lived the life given to us by your Son, Jesus Christ. In thought, word, and deed, we have fallen short of your glory, ignoring the call to embody his vicarious humanity in our lives. We confess our selfishness, our pride, and our failure to show your love to those around us. Forgive us for the times we've neglected the needs of our neighbors and turned away from opportunities to serve. In your infinite mercy, cleanse our hearts and renew our spirits, that we may live more fully in the light of your grace. Guide us to embrace the humility and sacrifice of Christ, that we might reflect his love in all we do. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

One: If you search every corner of the world, you will never find a more hopeful message than this. It is in Jesus Christ's life that you are united within your life. When you fail to help the hurting, Christ has done it for you, giving you the benefits of a holy life. If you are united to him, the Father doesn't see your sinful, rebellious life. He sees the holy and sanctified life of his son and bestows the gift of his presence upon you in the form of the Spirit. He gives you a holy life with the hope that you will live into it. If you proclaim Jesus is Lord, you have been given the gift of salvation and hope and the sanctification of a holy man found in Jesus' holiness. You have no sin on you, and it is as far from you as the East is from the West.

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

Ah, Holy Jesus

Johann Crüger

Covenant Choir

Arr. Craig Courtney

Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended, that we to judge thee have in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by thine own rejected, O most afflicted!

Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee? Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee!
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee; I crucified thee.

For me, kind Jesus, was thy incarnation, thy mortal sorrow, and thy life's oblation;
thy death of anguish and thy bitter passion, for my salvation.

Therefore, kind Jesus, since I cannot pay thee, I do adore thee, and will ever pray thee,
think on thy pity and thy love unswerving, not my deserving.

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

Vocalise

Sergei Rachmaninoff

Cristian Fatu, violin

*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 3

Rev. Dan Turis

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: "A voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'"

John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

(Continued on page 6)

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented. As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Vicarious Humanity Atonement

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 #251**

My Song Shall Be of Jesus

***Benediction**

Postlude
Christie Lee, Organ Scholar

Praeludium from *Sonata no.1*

Josef Gabriel Rheinberger

*Those who are able, please stand.

We invite everyone to join in our Annual Meeting of the Congregation directly following the postlude. During this meeting the Nominating Committee will review their work and present nominees, and we will elect elders and deacons. We will also review and approve Pastor Dan's Terms of Call. Those who are not members are invited to attend, although only members are able to vote. The livestream will conclude at the end of the postlude.

Fellowship Time will begin after the conclusion of this short meeting.

Annual Meeting of the Congregation — March 3, 2024

See agenda in the Annual Report pg. 16

148 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

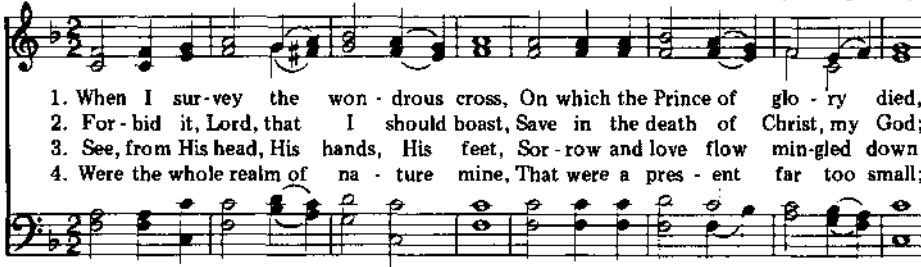
What things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Phil. 3:7

HAMBURG L.M.

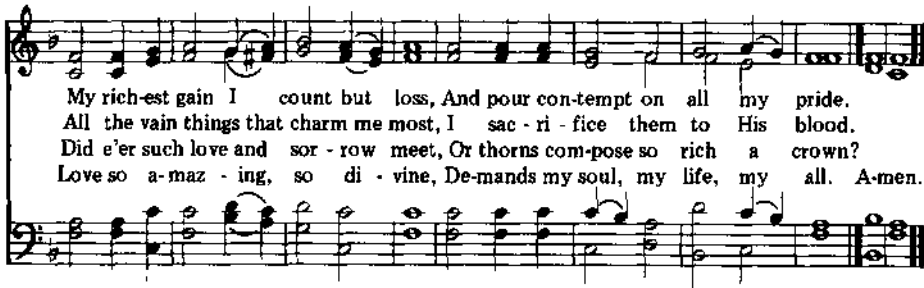
Lowell Mason, 1824

Based on plainsong melody

Isaac Watts, 1707



1. When I sur-vey the won-drous cross, On which the Prince of glo-ry died,
2. For-bid it, Lord, that I should boast, Save in the death of Christ, my God;
3. See, from His head, His hands, His feet, Sor-row and love flow min-gled down;
4. Were the whole realm of na-ture mine, That were a pres-ent far too small;



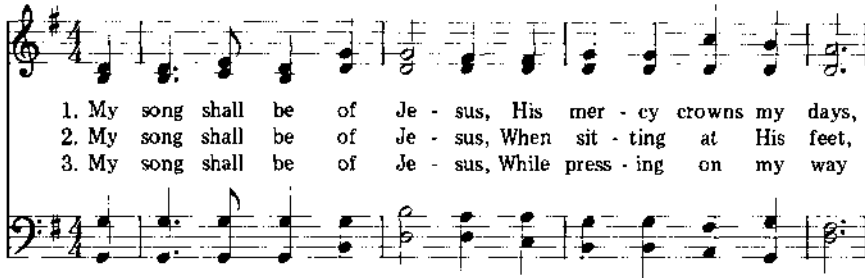
My rich-est gain I count but loss, And pour con-tempt on all my pride.
All the vain things that charm me most, I sac-ri-fice them to His blood.
Did e'er such love and sor-row meet, Or thorns com-pose so rich a crown?
Love so a-maz-ing, so di-vine, De-mands my soul, my life, my all. A-men.

My Song Shall Be of Jesus 251

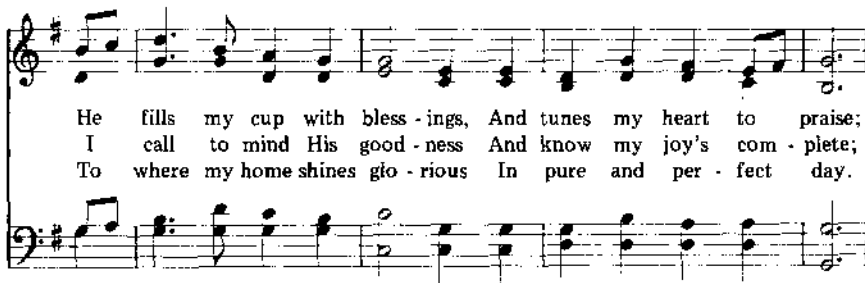
My servants shall sing for joy of heart. Isa. 65:14

Fanny J. Crosby, 1875
Adapt. by E. Margaret Clarkson, 1973

ALSTYNE 7676D.
William H. Doane, 1875



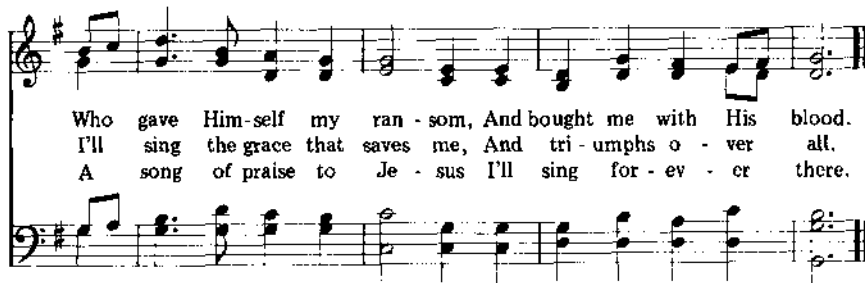
1. My song shall be of Je - sus, His mer - cy crowns my days,
2. My song shall be of Je - sus, When sit - ting at His feet,
3. My song shall be of Je - sus, While press - ing on my way



He fills my cup with bless - ings, And tunes my heart to praise;
I call to mind His good - ness And know my joy's com - plete;
To where my home shines gio - rious In pure and per - fect day.



My song shall be of Je - sus, The pre - cious Lamb of God,
My song shall be of Je - sus, What - ev - er ills be - fall,
And when my soul shall en - ter The man - y man - sions fair,



Who gave Him - self my ran - som, And bought me with His blood.
I'll sing the grace that saves me, And tri - umphs o - ver all.
A song of praise to Je - sus I'll sing for - ev - er there.

THE WORK OF CHRIST