



Covenant-First Presbyterian Church

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



August 10, 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

The Faithful Shepherd

G. F. Handel

Concerns of the Congregation

Call to Worship

Margaret Heidenreich

One: Come, weary saints and faltering soldiers of Christ: Gather before the Triune God.

Though defeat surrounds us like Gilboa's slopes, the Lord is our deliverer. Lift your eyes to the victor risen from death. Come, and worship in resurrection hope.

Prelude

Andrew Hackett, Organist

Improvisation on *Llanfair*

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 #27

Let the Whole Creation Cry

*Invocation

Margaret Heidenreich

All: O Triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—gather us in Christ, who has descended into our grave and ascended with us in his righteousness. Speak through your Word, and shape our worship in the likeness of the crucified and risen Lord.

*Prayer of Confession

Rev. Dr. Dan Turis

All: Lord God, we confess that like Saul, we often trust in our strength rather than your covenant mercy. In fear, we grasp for control; in shame, we flee from you. Our pride distorts your truth, and our sorrow forgets your grace. Have mercy, O Christ, who bore the anguish of death and the silence of abandonment for us. In you alone our failure is not final. Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and bind our wounds in the victory of your cross. Forgive us, renew us, and lift us again by your Spirit.

*Moments of Silent Confession

***Assurance of Pardon**

One: Hear the gospel: Christ has entered our defeat and overcome. The tomb is not the end, nor is shame the final word. In Jesus Christ, even death has been transfigured by divine mercy. If you are united to him by faith, your sins are forgiven, your failures covered, and your soul secured. Rise, beloved of God, and walk in the light of the risen one—your pardon sealed in heaven.

***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

Thy Secret Place

Felix Mendelssohn

Emily Garcia, Soprano; Zach Burnham, Tenor

Based on Psalm 91

In thy secret place, Lord most high, in the secret place of the Almighty,
I shall dwell in peace and in safety; I shall dwell in safety in his presence.
his wings shall be my refuge, my God, in him I put my trust. No evil shall befall me, no evil shall befall me. In thy secret place there is safety, I shall never fear the noisome pestilence; I have made the Lord my refuge, and is secret place my habitation.

In thy secret place, Lord I come, I shall dwell in safety in thy presence; I will trust in thee, thou my fortress; and thy truth shall be my shield and buckler. Thy wings shall be my refuge, O God, in thee I put my trust. Thy wings shall be my refuge, no evil shall befall me. He shall send his angels to keep me, they shall guard me from the fowler's snare. He hath wet his love upon me, I shall praise and show him my salvation.

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

Abide With Me

Emily Garcia, Soprano; Sonja Vernon, Alto; Zach Burnham, Tenor

Abide with me: fast falls the eventide; the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide!
When other helpers fail, and comforts flee, help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day; earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
change and decay in all around I see. O Thou who changest not, abide with me.

I need thy presence every passing hour; what but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be? Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless; ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? where, grave, thy victory? I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.

Hold thou the cross before my closing eyes; shine through the gloom and point me to the skies:
heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee; in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

*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

*Hymn #321

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Scripture Lesson

1 Samuel 31

Now the Philistines fought against Israel; the Israelites fled before them, and many fell dead on Mount Gilboa. ² The Philistines were in hot pursuit of Saul and his sons, and they killed his sons Jonathan, Abinadab and Malki-Shua. ³ The fighting grew fierce around Saul, and when the archers overtook him, they wounded him critically. ⁴ Saul said to his armor-bearer, "Draw your sword and run me through, or these uncircumcised fellows will come and run me through and abuse me." But his armor-bearer was terrified and would not do it; so Saul took his own sword and fell on it. ⁵ When the armor-bearer saw that Saul was dead, he too fell on his sword and died with him. ⁶ So Saul and his three sons and his armor-bearer and all his men died together that same day. ⁷ When the Israelites along the valley and those across the Jordan saw that the Israelite army had fled and that Saul and his sons had died, they abandoned their towns and fled. And the Philistines came and occupied them. ⁸ The next day, when the Philistines came to strip the dead,

they found Saul and his three sons fallen on Mount Gilboa. ⁹ They cut off his head and stripped off his armor, and they sent messengers throughout the land of the Philistines to proclaim the news in the temple of their idols and among their people. ¹⁰ They put his armor in the temple of the Ashtoreths and fastened his body to the wall of Beth Shan. ¹¹ When the people of Jabesh Gilead heard what the Philistines had done to Saul, ¹² all their valiant men marched through the night to Beth Shan. They took down the bodies of Saul and his sons from the wall of Beth Shan and went to Jabesh, where they burned them. ¹³ Then they took their bones and buried them under a tamarisk tree at Jabesh, and they fasted seven days.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Covered by Covenant Love

Rev. Dr. Dan Turis

***Hymn #28**

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

***Benediction**

Postlude

Fugue in D minor

Felix Mendelssohn

Andrew Hackett, Organist

*Those who are able, please stand.

The flowers today are given by Rev. Dr. Turis to the glory of God and in celebration of Dan & Leslie's 24th wedding anniversary on August 11. Congratulations to Leslie & Dan!

27 Let the Whole Creation Cry

Let them praise . . . for He commanded, and they were created. Psa. 148:5

Psalm 148
Stopford A. Brooke, 1881

LLANFAIR 7 7 7 7 Alleluias
Robert Williams. 1817

1. Let the whole cre - a - tion cry Al - le - lu - ia!
 2. Praise Him, all ye hosts a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3. War - riors fight - ing for the Lord, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4. Men and wom - en, young and old, Al - le - lu - ia!

Glo - ry to the Lord on high! Al - le - lu - ia!
 Ev - er bright and fair in love! Al - le - lu - ia!
 Proph - ets burn - ing with His Word, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Raise the an - them man - i - fold; Al - le - lu - ia!

Heav'n and earth, a - wake and sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Sun and moon, lift up your voice, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Those to whom the arts be - long, Al - le - lu - ia!
 And let chil - dren's hap - py hearts, Al - le - lu - ia!

God is God and there-fore King, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Night and stars in God re - joice, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Add their voic - es to the song, Al - le - lu - ia!
 In this wor-ship bear their parts: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

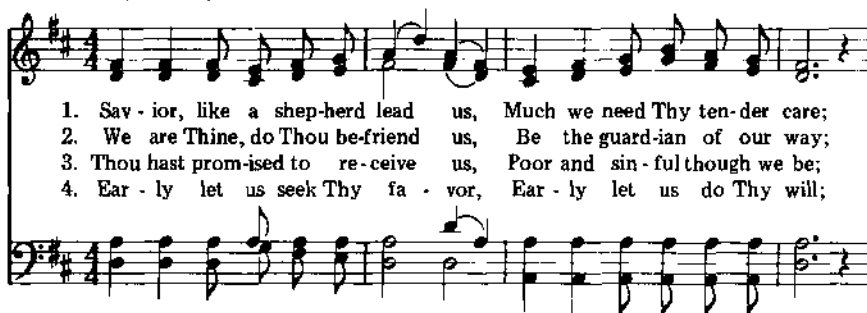
GOD THE FATHER

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us 321

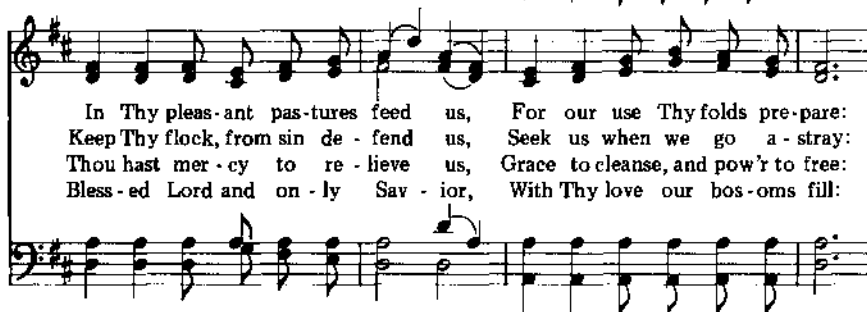
When He putteth forth His own sheep, He goeth before them. John 10:4

Hymns for the Young, 1836
Attr. to Dorothy A. Thripp

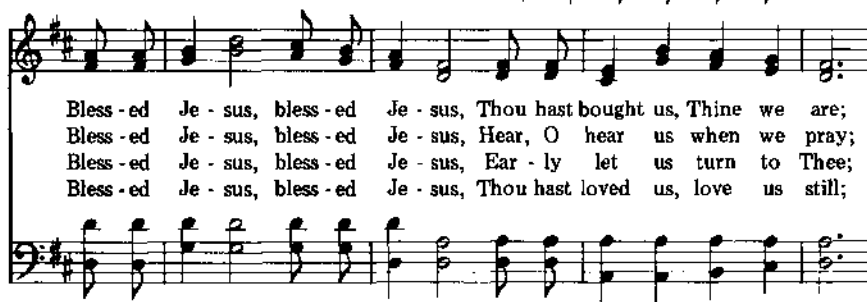
BRADBURY 8787D.
William B. Bradbury, 1859




1. Sav - ior, like a shep-herd lead us, Much we need Thy ten-der care;
2. We are Thine, do Thou be-friend us, Be the guard-ian of our way;
3. Thou hast prom-ised to re-ceive us, Poor and sin-ful though we be;
4. Ear - ly let us seek Thy fa - vor, Ear - ly let us do Thy will;



In Thy pleas-ant pas-tures feed us, For our use Thy folds pre-pare:
Keep Thy flock, from sin de-fend us, Seek us when we go a - stray:
Thou hast mer-cy to re-lieve us, Grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free:
Bless-ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, With Thy love our bos-oms fill:



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, Hear, O hear us when we pray;
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, Ear - ly let us turn to Thee;
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, Thou hast loved us, love us still;



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, Hear, O hear us when we pray.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, Ear - ly let us turn to Thee.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, Thou hast loved us, love us still.

FAITH AND ASSURANCE

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing 28

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


NETTLETON 8787D.

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.

HIS PRAISE