

# Covenant-First Presbyterian Church

---

Sunday, January 28, 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](http://www.covfirstchurch.org) • [office@covfirstchurch.org](mailto: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, 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](http://www.covfirstchurch.org).

# Service for the Lord's Day

---

## Pre-Service Music

An Wasserflüssen Babylon

J.S. Bach

Christie Lee, Organ Scholar

## Concerns of the Congregation

### Call to Worship

Randy Page

*One: Beloved, gather in reverence and awe. Remember and stand firm, for our God is sovereign, declaring the end from the beginning. His purpose stands, bringing to pass all he pleases. In his unfailing wisdom and power, let us worship him who is unchanging, our Creator and Sustainer, whose steadfast love guides us from eternity to eternity to enjoy him and his creation. Amen.*

### Prelude

Schmücke dich, O liebe Seele

Johannes Brahms

Christie Lee, Organ Scholar

### 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 #527

God the Omnipotent

### \*Invocation

Randy Page

**All: Almighty God, as we gather, we recall your sovereignty and faithfulness. You, who ordain all from beginning to end, guide us in your perfect will. We acknowledge our need for your grace and wisdom. Teach us, Lord, to trust in your unchanging nature and to find peace in your eternal plan. In humility and reverence, we dedicate this time to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### \*Prayer of Confession

Rev. Dan Turis

**All: Gracious Heavenly Father, in humility, we pray, recognizing our frailty and sinfulness. We confess that we often forget your sovereignty and fail to trust in your perfect plan. We acknowledge our tendency to rely on our own understanding, neglecting your wisdom and guidance. Forgive us for our transgressions, our doubts, and our wandering hearts. Lord, in your mercy, cleanse us and renew our spirits. Help us to remember your faithfulness and to rest in the assurance of your unchanging nature. Teach us to submit to your will, understanding that you work all things for our good and your glory. Through the sacrifice of your Son, Jesus Christ, grant us the grace to live lives that reflect your love and righteousness. In his holy name, we pray. Amen.**

## \*Moments of Silent Confession

### \*Assurance of Pardon

Rev. Dan Turis

*One: Hear this, the best news you could possibly bear. God's plan is not to play with you and then forget you. No, he has had a plan, will engage in that plan, and see the plan through. The good news rests in the fact that within that plan God plans to save you. He plans to spend the rest of eternity with you. His plan will happen, there is no doubt about it. The good news is, you are a part of that plan, and that part has to do with restoring you to his side. He will not leave you alone. He is right there with you.*

**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

It Is Well With My Soul

Mary McDonald

Covenant Choir

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll;  
whatever my lot, you have taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, let this blest assurance control;  
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate, and has shed his own blood for my soul!

My sin, O, the bliss of this glorious thought; my sin, not in part, but the whole,  
is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more, praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

And, Lord haste the day when my faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,  
The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend, even so, it is well with my soul!

It is well, it is well, with my soul, with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul!

## 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**

I Love You, Lord

Laurie Klein and Jack Schrader

Men's Chorus

I love you, Lord, and I lift my voice to worship you; O my soul, rejoice!  
Take joy, my King, in what you hear; may it be a sweet, sweet sound in your ear.  
Amen!

**\*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 #35**

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

**Scripture Lesson**

Isaiah 46:8-11

Rev. Dan Turis

Remember this, keep it in mind, take it to heart, you rebels. Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, "My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please." From the east I summon a bird of prey; from a far-off land, a man to fulfill my purpose. What I have said, that I will bring about; what I have planned, that I will do.

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

**All: Thanks be to God**

**Sermon**

How do we live our lives knowing God knows  
what will happen before it happens?

Rev. Dan Turis

**New Member Reception**

See Page 6

**\*Hymn #11**

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

**\*Benediction****Postlude**Improvisation on *Ein Feste Burg*

Andrew Hackett, Organist

\*Those who are able, please stand.

This morning we will receive new members into the Covenant-First family!

## **Covenant-First Presbyterian Membership Vows**

### **Questions for the new members:**

- Do you confess that Jesus Christ is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead? Through Jesus do you know God as your Heavenly Father and the Holy Spirit as your Teacher, and Provider of spiritual gifts?
  
- Do you promise to live as a follower of Jesus Christ in this church by participating in worship, bearing witness to your faith, studying God's Word, sharing in the life of the church, serving others, and exercising good stewardship of God's gifts to you?
  
- Will you come under the spiritual direction of the leadership of this congregation?

### **Welcome!**

Michael Barger

Leslie Turis

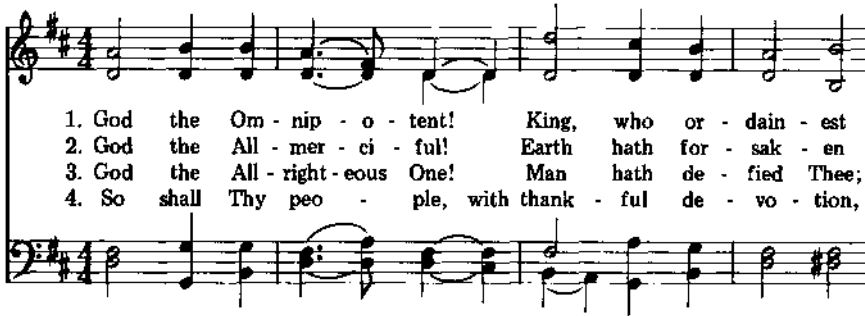
# God the Omnipotent! 527

*He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth . . . Psa. 46:9*

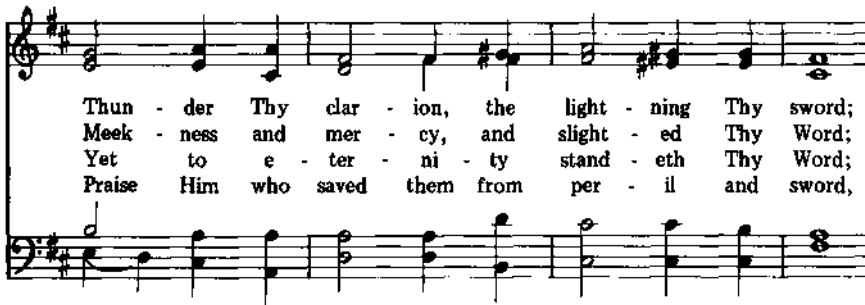
Henry F. Chorley, 1842, and  
John Ellerton, 1870

RUSSIAN HYMN 11 10 11 9

Alexis F. Lvov, 1833



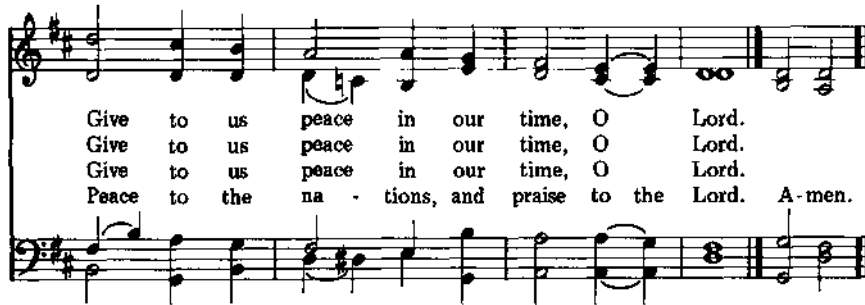
1. God the Om - nip - o - tent! King, who or - dain - est  
2. God the All - mer - ci - ful! Earth hath for - sak - en  
3. God the All - right - eous One! Man hath de - fied Thee;  
4. So shall Thy peo - ple, with thank - ful de - vo - tion,



Thun - der Thy clar - ion, the light - ning Thy sword;  
Meek - ness and mer - cy, and slight - ed Thy Word;  
Yet to e - ter - ni - ty stand - eth Thy Word;  
Praise Him who saved them from per - il and sword,



Show forth Thy pit - y on high where Thou reign - est;  
Let not Thy wrath in its ter - rors a - wak - en;  
False - hood and wrong shall not tar - ry be - side Thee;  
Sing - ing in cho - rus from o - cean to o - cean,



Give to us peace in our time, O Lord.  
Give to us peace in our time, O Lord.  
Give to us peace in our time, O Lord.  
Peace to the na - tions, and praise to the Lord. A - men.

THE CHRISTIAN CITIZEN

# 35 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

*Unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory . . .* 1 Tim. 1:17

ST. DENIO 11 11 11 11

Walter C. Smith, 1867

Traditional Welsh hymn melody

1. Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
2. Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
3. To all, life Thou giv - est, to both great and small,  
4. Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light,

In light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
Nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, Thou rul - est in might;  
In all life Thou liv - est, the true life of all.  
Thine an - gels a - dore Thee, all veil - ing their sight;

Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
Thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove  
We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree,  
All praise we would ren - der; O help us to see

Al - might - y, vic - to - rious, Thy great name we praise.  
Thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
And with - er and per - ish - but naught chang - eth Thee.  
'Tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth Thee! A - men.

GOD THE FATHER

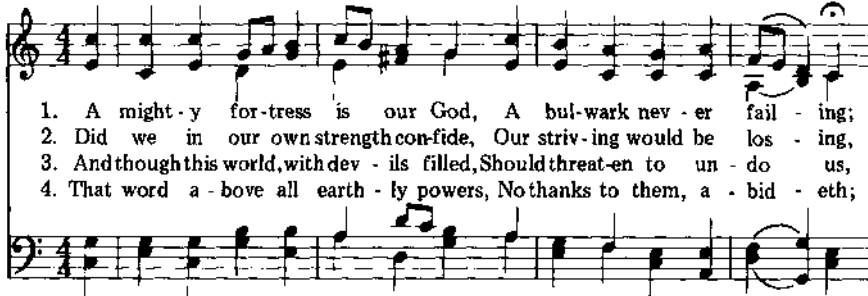


# A Mighty Fortress Is Our God 11

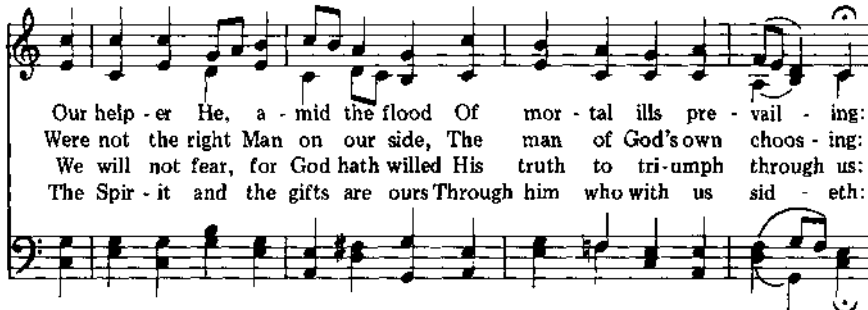
*God is our refuge and strength. Ps. 46:1*

Psalm 46  
Martin Luther, 1529  
Trans. by Frederick H. Hedge, 1852

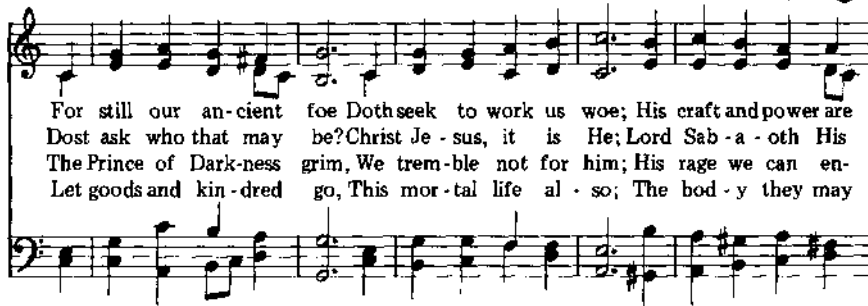
EIN' FESTE BURG 878766667  
Martin Luther, 1529



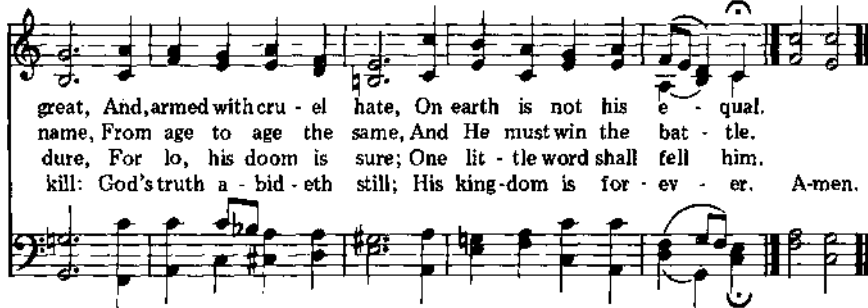
1. A might - y for - tress is our God, A bul - wark nev - er fail - ing;  
2. Did we in our own strength con - fide, Our striv - ing would be los - ing,  
3. And though this world, with dev - ils filled, Should threat - en to un - do us,  
4. That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, No thanks to them, a - bid - eth;



Our help - er He, a - mid the flood Of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing:  
Were not the right Man on our side, The man of God's own choos - ing:  
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to tri - umph through us:  
The Spir - it and the gifts are ours Through him who with us sid - eth:



For still our an - cient foe Doth seek to work us woe; His craft and power are  
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Je - sus, it is He; Lord Sab - a - oth His  
The Prince of Dark - ness grim, We trem - ble not for him; His rage we can en -  
Let goods and kin - dred go, This mor - tal life al - so; The bod - y they may



great, And, armed with cru - el hate, On earth is not his e - qual.  
name, From age to age the same, And He must win the bat - tle.  
dure, For lo, his doom is sure; One lit - tle word shall fell him.  
kill: God's truth a - bid - eth still; His king - dom is for - ev - er. A - men.

GOD THE FATHER: HIS PRAISE