



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 2, 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.

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.

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. Validation must be done each Sunday you park in the garage.

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

** indicates please stand if you are able*

Pre-Service Music Prelude and Fugue in C major, BWV 846 J. S. Bach
Andrew Hackett, Organist

Concerns of the Congregation Rob Heidenreich

Call to Worship from Psalm 100:1-2 Kelly Millhaem
One: Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.
All: Worship the Lord with gladness, come into God's presence with singing!

Prelude Improvisation on Break Thou the Bread of Life
Andrew Hackett, Organist

Ringling of the Revere Tower Bell
*Let the ringling of the bell call our attention away from ourselves and
onto the living Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

*Hymn #581 There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit in this Place

*Invocation Kelly Millhaem
All: With you, gracious God, we move into this time of worship, grateful that you are never farther than the reach of our need and our prayer. You who tower over the universe are yet intimately present, always renewing the face of the earth, always renewing the faith of your children. Now, in your mercy, make your way past all that worries the faith of your children. Now, in your mercy, make your way past all that worries and distracts us to lodge in us anew and to center our small worship on your great glory. Amen.

*Prayer of Confession Rev. Chris Torrey
All: God of mercy, you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves pure when we are stained, and great when we are small. We have failed in love, neglected justice, and ignored your truth. Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin. Return us to paths of righteousness through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

*Moments of Silent Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

Rev. Chris Torrey

One: The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Amen.

*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.

*Hymn #210

Here, O My Lord, I See Thee

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

Amazing Grace/I Stand All Amazed

Jeanni Gould

Zach Burnham, Tenor; Yolanda Parker, Alto

Amazing Grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see. I stand all amazed at the love Jesus offers me, confused at the grace that so fully he proffers me. I tremble to know that for me he was crucified. It is wonderful that he should care for me enough to die for me. O, it's so wonderful to me.

The Lord has promised good to me. His word my hope secures. He will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures. I stand all amazed at his suffering to pay the debt. Such mercy, such love, and devotion can I forget? And so, I will praise and adore at the mercy seat. It is wonderful that he should care for me enough to die for me. O, it's so wonderful to me.

I marvel that he would descend from his throne above, to rescue a soul so rebellious and proud as mine. That he should extend his great love unto such as I, sufficient to own to redeem and to justify. Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come, 'tis grace has brought me safe thus far and grace will lead me home.

*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

Scripture Lesson

1 Corinthians 11:23–26

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁵ In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” ²⁶ For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

Matthew 26:26–30

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body.” ²⁷ Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you.” ²⁸ This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.” ³⁰ When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The Joyful Feast

Rev. Chris Torrey

*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 #220

Break Thou the Bread of Life

*Benediction

Postlude

Christie Lee, Organ Scholar

Organ Sonata No. 4, Op. 65

I. Allegro con brio

Felix Mendelssohn

* * * * *

Today we welcome Rev. Chris Torrey to the pulpit. Rev. Torrey has been retired for nine years. His wife, Dawn, joined him in retirement two years ago and they are enjoying being retired together. They own a lovely home in New Richmond, Ohio, on a bluff looking over the village to the river and Kentucky beyond. Their 13 acres of land keep them busy for the most part! Chris has two children. His son and wife welcomed their first child earlier this year. Also, Chris' daughter and her husband and two children live in Loveland. In retirement Chris has time for some aspects of the church which most interest him. Presbyterian worship is a focus as is the effort to help those new to our tradition make sense of Presbyterian Christianity.

* * * * *

Today we say farewell to Zach Burnham, our tenor choral scholar for the past five years. Zach is moving to Texas to begin a Master of Music degree program at the University of Houston. Thank you, Zach, for all the great music and for your commitment to our congregation these past years; you will be missed! We hope we'll see you back in Cincinnati sometime in the future. May God bless you richly as you move forward with your studies and in all that lies ahead.

581 There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! Psal. 133:1

SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT. Irreg.

Doris Akers, 1965

Doris Akers, 1965

Unison

1. There's a sweet, sweet Spir - it in this place, And I
2. There are bless - ings you can - not re - ceive Till you

know that it's the Spir - it of the Lord; There are
know Him in His full - ness, and be - lieve. You're the

sweet ex - pres - sions on each face, And I
one to pro - fit when you say, "I am

know they feel the pres - ence of the Lord.
going to walk with Je - sus all the way."

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SERVICE MUSIC: CALLS TO WORSHIP



Refrain

Sweet Ho - ly Spir - it, Sweet heav-en-ly Dove, Stay right here

with us, Fill - ing us with your love, And for these

bless - ings we lift our hearts in praise; With-out a

doubt we'll know that we have been re - vived When we shall leave this place.

Here, O My Lord, I See Thee 210

The things which are not seen are eternal. II Cor. 4:18

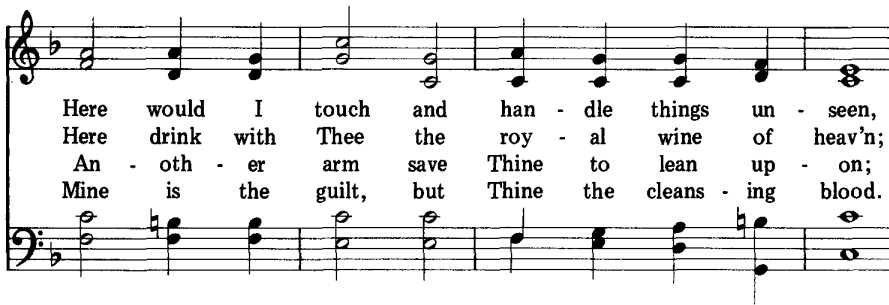
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James Langran, 1861

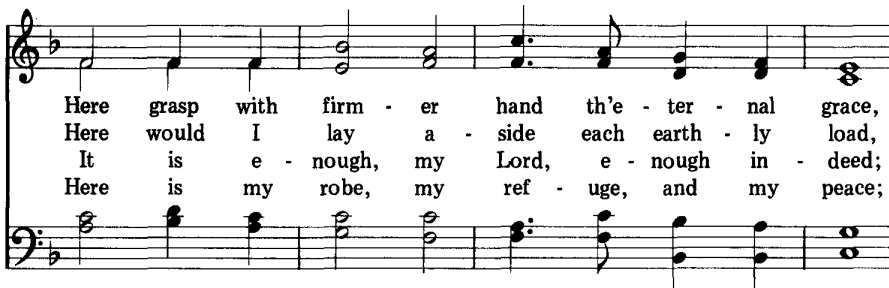
Horatius Bonar, 1855



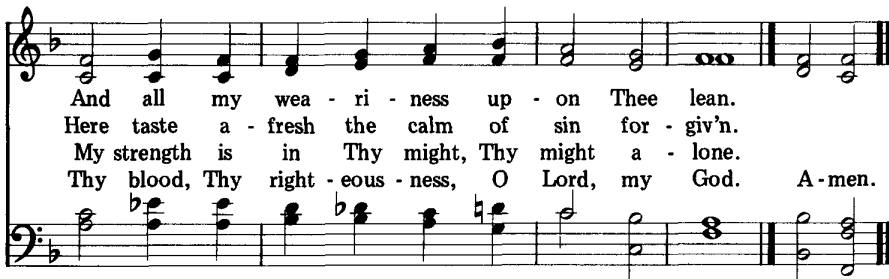
1. Here, O my Lord, I see Thee face to face;
 2. Here would I feed up - on the bread of God;
 3. I have no help but Thine; nor do I need
 4. Mine is the sin, but Thine the right - eous - ness;



Here would I touch and han - dle things un - seen,
 Here drink with Thee the roy - al wine of heav'n;
 An - oth - er arm save Thine to lean up - on;
 Mine is the guilt, but Thine the cleans - ing blood.



Here grasp with firm - er hand th'e - ter - nal grace,
 Here would I lay a - side each earth - ly load,
 It is e - nough, my Lord, e - nough in - deed;
 Here is my robe, my ref - uge, and my peace;



And all my wea - ri - ness up - on Thee lean.
 Here taste a - fresh the calm of sin for - giv'n.
 My strength is in Thy might, Thy might a - lone.
 Thy blood, Thy right - eous - ness, O Lord, my God. A - men.

220 Break Thou the Bread of Life

He looked up to heaven, and blessed, and brake the loaves . . . Mark 6:41

Mary A. Lathbury, 1877

BREAD OF LIFE 6 4 6 4 D.

William F. Sherwin, 1877

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines.

1. Break Thou the bread of life, Dear Lord, to me, As Thou didst
2. Bless Thou the truth, dear Lord, To me, to me, As Thou didst
3. Thou art the bread of life, O Lord, to me, Thy ho - ly
4. O send Thy Spir - it, Lord, Now un - to me, That He may

break the loaves Be - side the sea; Be - yond the sa - cred page
bless the bread By Gal - i - lee; Then shall all bond - age cease,
Word the truth That sav - eth me; Give me to eat and live
touch my eyes And make me see: Show me the truth con - cealed

I seek Thee, Lord, My spir - it pants for Thee, O liv - ing Word.
All fet - ters fall; And I shall find my peace, My All in all.
With Thee a - bove; Teach me to love Thy truth, For Thou art love.
With - in Thy Word, And in Thy Book re - vealed I see the Lord. A-men.