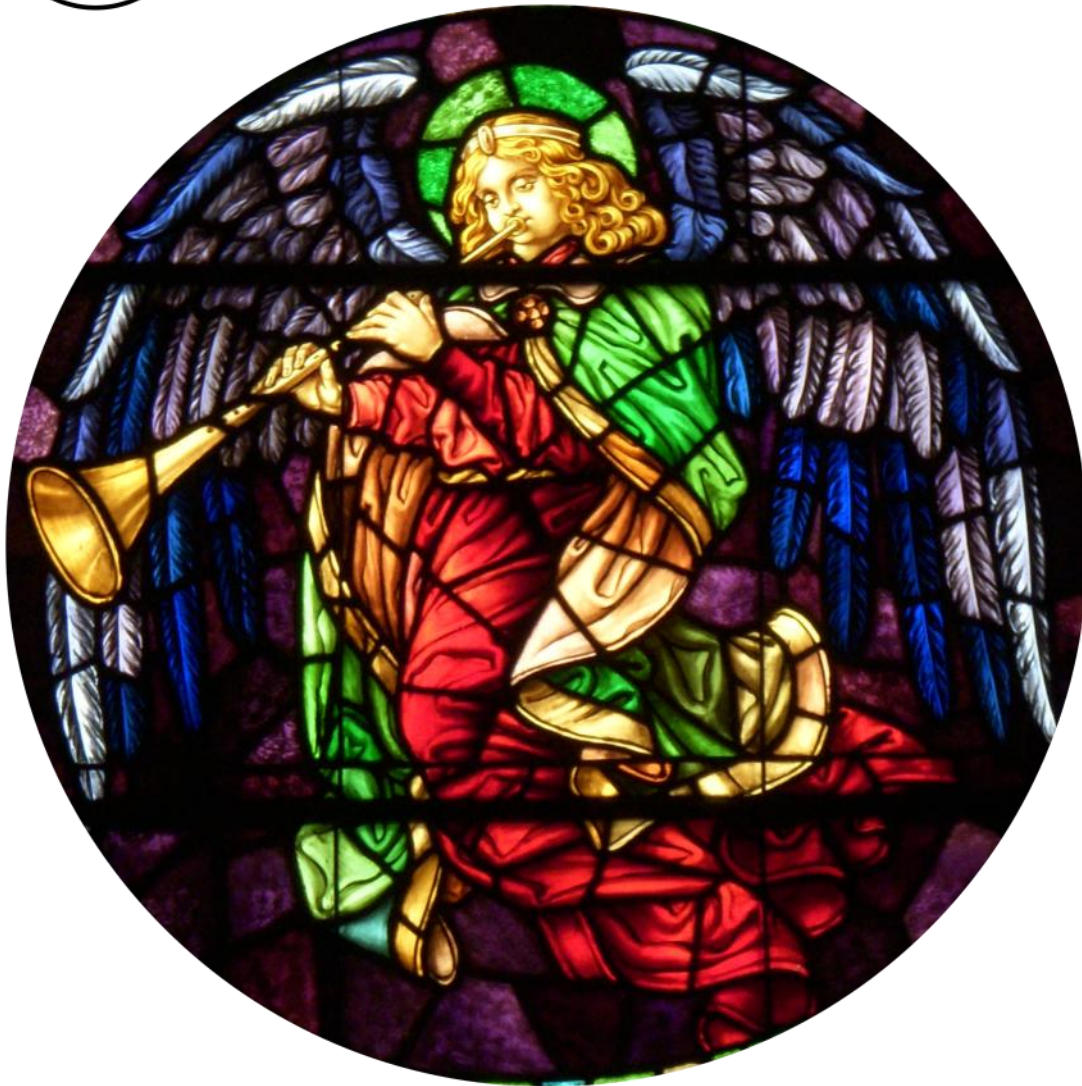




# Covenant-First Presbyterian Church

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



December 14, 2025 • 10:30 AM Worship

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Covenant-First Presbyterian Church • 717 Elm Street • Cincinnati, OH 45202  
[covfirstchurch.org](http://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.

## **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](http://covfirstchurch.org).

# Service for the Lord's Day

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## Pre-Service Music

Andrew Hackett, organist

Come Now, Savior of the Nations

Johann Pachelbel

## Concerns of the Congregation

Rev. Dr. Dan Turis

## Advent Candle Lighting

### The Candle of Joy

The Millhaem Family

Advent is God stepping into the neighborhood — grace crossing every border we built. Mission starts here: Not with our going, but with his arriving.

“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us... From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.” (John 1:14, 16)

As this third candle joins the others, its light stretches outward — a quiet reminder that Christ goes before us, and wherever we walk, we walk in his footsteps.

One: We light the Candle of Joy.

**All: May Christ lead us across every barrier with his grace.**

## Prelude

Andrew Hackett, Organist

Improvisation on *Besançon*

## 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** See pg. 6

People Look East

## \*Invocation

Rev. Dr. Turis

One: Incarnate Lord, send us by your Spirit. As you crossed into our humanity, empower us to cross barriers with grace, proclaiming Christ among all peoples.

## \*Prayer of Confession

Rev. Turis

**All: Lord, we confess our reluctance to cross barriers, our comfort over calling, our half-hearted mission. Forgive us. By your Spirit, send us with courage, embodying your grace and truth.**

## \*Moments of Silent Confession

### **\*Assurance of Pardon**

One: Hear the Gospel: From his fullness we have all received grace upon grace. In Christ, every barrier of sin has been torn down; every wall dividing us has been broken. The Word became flesh for you, dwelt among you, and gave his life to redeem you. Rejoice and believe: In him you are forgiven, restored, and sent on his mission to the world, until every tongue confesses Jesus Christ as Lord.

### **\*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.

### **Anthem**

Silent Night

Arr. Eric Lane Barnes

Covenant Choir and Covenant Ringers

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright, round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight. Glories stream from heaven afar. Heavenly hosts sing “Alleluia.” Christ, the savior is born, Christ the Savior, is born.

Silent night, holy night, son of God, love’s pure light. Radiant beams from thy holy face. With the dawn of redeeming grace. Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth. Sleep in heavenly peace.

### **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**

He Shall Feed His Flock

G.F. Handel

Natalie Shepherd, Mezzo Soprano Isaiah 40:11, Matthew 11:28-29

He shall feed his flock like a shepherd; and he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

#### **\*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 #105**

What Child is This

## **Scripture Lesson**

John 1:14, 16-18

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

<sup>16</sup> Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. <sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## **Sermon**

Mission in Advent

Rev. Dr. Dan Turis

**\*Hymn #116**

Good Christian Men, Rejoice

## **\*Benediction**

## **Postlude**

Nun Komi, dear Heiden Heilan, BWV 661

J.S. Bach

Christie Lee, Organist

\*Those who are able, please stand.

The flowers today are given to the glory of God by  
Rob and Genita Heidenreich with thanks to  
Becky Bell for her leadership of the bell ringers, of all ages!

# People, Look East

Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965)  
As in *Oxford Book of Carols*, 1964

BESANÇON 8.7.9.8.8.7

French folk melody  
Harm. Martin Shaw (1875-1958)



1. Peo - ple, look east. The time is near Of the crown-ing of the
2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, One more seed is plant-ed
3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build, Guard the nest that must be
4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim One more light the bowl shall



year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble, Trim the  
there: Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish, That in  
filled. E - ven the hour when wings are fro - zen God for  
brim, Shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er, Bright as



Peo-ple, look east and sing to - day:



hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo-ple, look east:  
course the flower may flour - ish.  
fledg - ing time has cho - sen.  
sun and moon to - geth - er.



Peo-ple, look east:



Love the guest is on the way.  
Love the rose is on the way.  
Love the bird is on the way.  
Love the star is on the way.  
Love is on the way.



5. Angels, announce with shouts of mirth With the word, the Lord is coming.  
Christ who brings new life to earth. People, look east and sing today:  
Set every peak and valley humming Love the Lord is on the way.

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Music: Harmonization © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

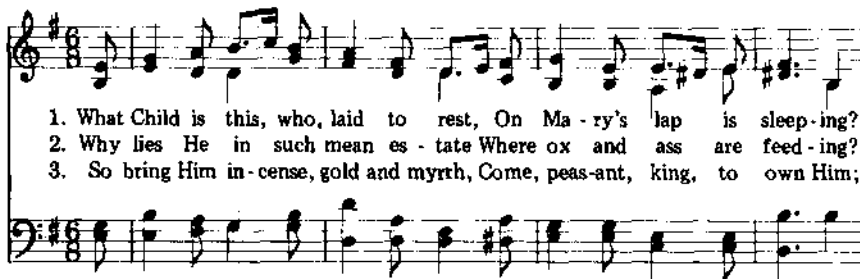
# What Child Is This, Who, Laid to Rest 105

*Where is He that is born King of the Jews? Matt. 2:2*

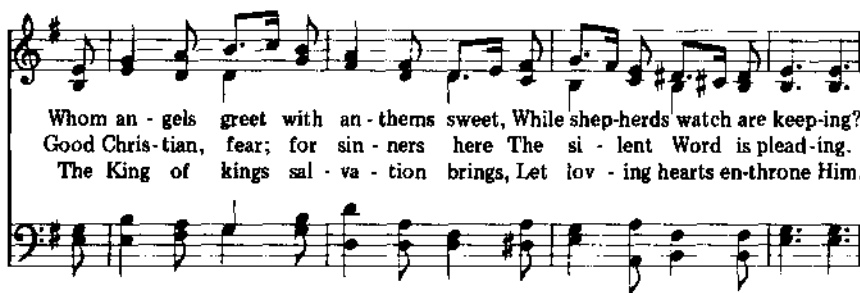
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William C. Dix, c. 1865

Traditional English melody, 16th century

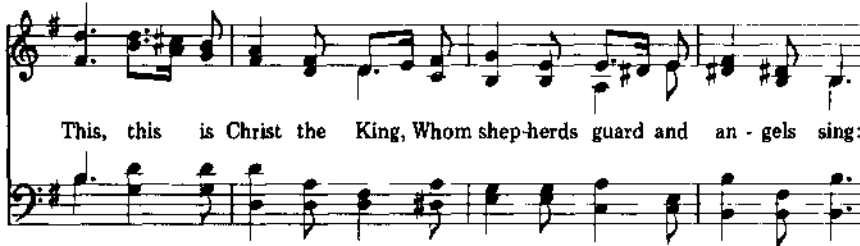


1. What Child is this, who, laid to rest, On Ma - ry's lap is sleep - ing?  
2. Why lies He in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are feed - ing?  
3. So bring Him in - cense, gold and myrth, Come, peas - ant, king, to own Him;



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet, While shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings, Let lov - ing hearts en - throne Him.

## Refrain



This, this is Christ the King, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing:



This, this is Christ the King, The babe, the Son of Ma - ry.

HIS BIRTH

# Good Christian Men, Rejoice 116

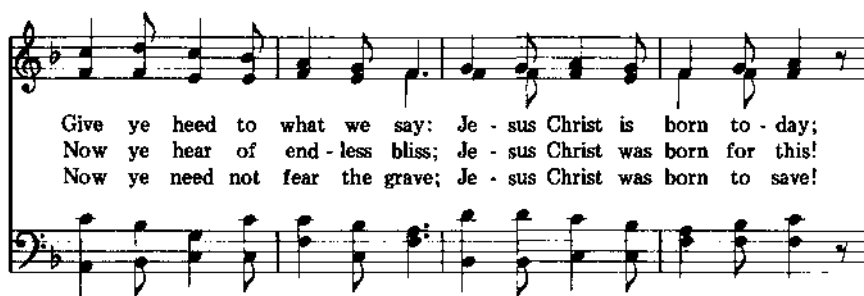
*Unto you is born this day . . . a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:11*

Latin carol, 14th century  
Trans. by John M. Neale, 1853

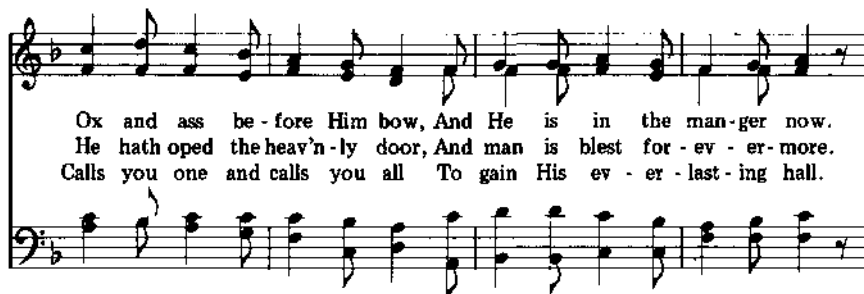
IN DULCI JUBILO Irreg.  
Traditional German melody



1. Good Chris - tian men, re - joice With heart and soul and voice!  
2. Good Chris - tian men, re - joice With heart and soul and voice!  
3. Good Chris - tian men, re - joice With heart and soul and voice!



Give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
Now ye hear of end - less bliss; Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
Now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



Ox and ass be - fore Him bow, And He is in the man - ger now.  
He hath oped the heav'n - ly door, And man is blest for - ev - er - more.  
Calls you one and calls you all To gain His ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

*HIS BIRTH*