



Covenant-First Presbyterian Church

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



May 10, 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.

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.

Service for the Lord's Day

Pre-Service Music
Christie Lee, Organ Scholar

Symphonie Gothique op. 70, IV.
Moderato-Allegro- Moderato

Charles-Marie Widor

Concerns of the Congregation

Rev. Dr. Dan Turis

Call to Worship

Karen Stine

One: Come, insiders and outsiders alike; the God who rewired Peter's categories still tears down fences and sets a longer, wider table.

Handbell Prelude

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Becky Bell, Director

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 #1

Holy, Holy, Holy

*Invocation

Karen Stine

All: Lord of every nation, you heard Cornelius praying and Peter pondering. Hear us now. Where our hearts draw lines you have erased, confront us. Where shame has built walls, comfort us. Let this gathering be a small rehearsal of your future feast: Many peoples, one Christ, one table of grace.

*Prayer of Confession

Rev. Dr. Dan Turis

All: Holy God, we confess that prejudice still prowls our hearts. We baptize our preferences and call them convictions. We confuse "our kind of people" with "your kind of people." Like Peter, we have things we instinctively label unclean — cultures, neighborhoods, backgrounds, even parts of our own story. We ignore that, as Tim Keller liked to say, "The gospel is this: We are more sinful and flawed... yet more loved and accepted in Christ than we ever dared hope." Forgive our proud comparisons, our fearful distance, and our resistance to your boundary-breaking love.

*Moments of Silent Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

Rev. Dr. Dan Turis

One: Hear the good news: In Christ, God has already crossed the deepest boundary—holy God to sinful humanity. At the cross, Jew and Gentile, near and far, religious and secular, all meet at the same level ground. Your access to God is not earned by fitting in but given by Jesus' blood. In him, your alienation is answered, your shame is covered, and your welcome is secure. The dividing wall of hostility has been demolished. You are forgiven, brought near, and made part of a new humanity whose banner is not ethnicity, but Emmanuel.

*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.

Anthem

The Gift of Love

Arr. Hal Hopson

Covenant Choir

1 Corinthians 13

Thou I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire, and have not love; my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess, but not be giv'n by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, spirit come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole. Let inward love guide every deed. By this we worship, we are freed. Amen.

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

Virgam Virtutis Tueae (The Rod of Your Strength)

Marianna Martines

Lea Nayak, Soprano

from *Dixit Dominus*

Natalie Sheppard, Mezzo Soprano

Virgam virtutis tueae emittet Dominus ex
Sion: dominare in medio inimicorum
tuorum.

The Lord shall send the rod of your power
out of Zion: Be thou ruler, even in the midst
among thine enemies. Psalm 110:2

***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 #498**

Come, All Christians, Be Committed

Scripture Lesson

Acts 10:1-23

At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion in what was known as the Italian Regiment. ² He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly. ³ One day at about three in the afternoon he had a vision. He distinctly saw an angel of God, who came to him and said, "Cornelius!" ⁴ Cornelius stared at him in fear. "What is it, Lord?" he asked. The angel answered, "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God. ⁵ Now send men to Joppa to bring back a man named Simon who is called Peter. ⁶ He is staying with Simon the tanner, whose house is by the sea." ⁷ When the angel who spoke to him had gone, Cornelius called two of his servants and a devout soldier who was one of his attendants. ⁸ He told them everything that had happened and sent them to Joppa. ⁹ About noon the following day as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. ¹⁰ He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. ¹¹ He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. ¹² It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles and birds. ¹³ Then a voice told him, "Get up, Peter. Kill and eat." ¹⁴ "Surely not, Lord!" Peter replied. "I have never eaten anything impure or unclean." ¹⁵ The voice spoke to him a second time, "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean." ¹⁶ This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven. ¹⁷ While Peter was wondering about the meaning of the vision, the men sent by Cornelius found out where Simon's house was and stopped at the gate. ¹⁸ They called out, asking if Simon who was known as Peter was staying there. ¹⁹ While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Simon, three men are looking for you. ²⁰ So get up and go downstairs. Do not hesitate to go with them, for I have sent them." ²¹ Peter went down and said to the men, "I'm the one you're looking for. Why have you come?" ²² The men replied, "We have come from Cornelius the centurion. He is a righteous and God-fearing man, who is respected by all the Jewish people. A holy angel told him to ask you to come to his house so that he could hear what you have to say." ²³ Then Peter invited the men into the house to be his guests. The next day Peter started out with them, and some of the believers from Joppa went along.

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

God Breaks Down the Fence

Rev. Dr. Dan Turis

***Hymn #55**

For the Beauty of the Earth

***Benediction**

Postlude

Sonata No. 1, mvt. iv

Felix Mendelssohn

Andrew Hackett, Organist

*Those who are able, please stand.

The flowers on the communion table are given to the Glory of God
by Nina Jackson and in celebration of Erika Jackson's birthday.
Happy Mother's Day to Erika Jackson and Tiffany Jackson.

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty 1

They rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty. Rev. 4:8

NICAEA 11 12 12 10

John B. Dykes, 1861

Reginald Heber, 1826

1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!
2. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! all the saints a - dore Thee,
3. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! though the dark - ness hide Thee,
4. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to Thee;
Cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
Though the eye of sin - ful man Thy glo - ry may not see,
All Thy works shall praise Thy name, in earth, and sky, and sea;

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y!
Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore Thee,
On - ly Thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side Thee,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y!

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
Which wert and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
Per - fect in pow'r, in love, and pu - ri - ty.
God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty! A - men.

Come, All Christians, Be Committed 498

Present your bodies a living sacrifice . . . be ye transformed. Rom. 12:1, 2

BEACH SPRING 8 7 8 7 D.

Traditional American melody

The Sacred Harp, 1844

Arr. by James H. Wood, 1958

Eva B. Lloyd, 1966

1. Come, all Chris - tians, be com - mit - ted To the ser - vice of the
2. Of your time and tal - ents give ye, They are gifts from God a -
3. God's com - mand to love each oth - er Is re - quired of ev - ery
4. Come in praise and ad - o - ra - tion, All who on Christ's name be -

Lord. Make your lives for Him more fit - ted, Tune your hearts with one ac -
bove, To be used by Chris - tians free - ly To pro - claim His won - drous
man. Show - ing mer - cy to a broth - er Mir - rors His re - demp - tive
lieve. Wor - ship Him with con - se - cra - tion, Grace and love will you re -

cord. Come in - to His courts with glad - ness, Each his sa - cred vows re -
love. Come a - gain to serve the Sav - ior, Tithes and off - 'rings with you
plan. In com - pas - sion He has giv - en Of His love that is di -
ceive. For His grace give Him the glo - ry, For the Spir - it and the

new, Turn a - way from sin and sad - ness, Be transformed with life a - new.
bring. In your work, with Him find fa - vor, And with joy His prais - es sing.
vine; On the cross sins were for - giv - en; Joy and peace are ful - ly thine.
Word, And re - peat the gos - pel sto - ry Till all men His name have heard.

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STEWARDSHIP AND SERVICE

55 For the Beauty of the Earth

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above. James 1:17

DIX 777777

Conrad Kocher, 1838
Arr. by William H. Monk, 1861

Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1864

1. For the beau - ty of the earth, For the glo - ry
2. For the beau - ty of each hour Of the day and
3. For the joy of ear and eye, For the heart and
4. For the joy of hu - man love, Broth - er, sis - ter,
5. For each per - fect gift of Thine To our race so

of the skies, For the love which from our birth
of the night, Hill and vale, and tree, and flow'r,
mind's de - light, For the mys - tic har - mo - ny
par - ent, child, Friends on earth and friends a - bove,
free - ly giv'n, Grac - es hu - man and di - vine,

O - ver and a - round us lies, Lord of all, to
Sun and moon and stars of light, Lord of all, to
Link - ing sense to sound and sight, Lord of all, to
For all gen - tle thoughts and mild, Lord of all, to
Flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n, Lord of all, to

Thee we raise This our hymn of grate - ful praise.
Thee we raise This our hymn of grate - ful praise.
Thee we raise This our hymn of grate - ful praise.
Thee we raise This our hymn of grate - ful praise.
Thee we raise This our hymn of grate - ful praise. A - men.