



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 7, 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.

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

Pre-Service Music

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Michael D. Costello

Christie Lee, Organ Scholar

Concerns of the Congregation

Rev. Dr. Dan Turis

Advent Candle Lighting

The Candle of Peace

Nina Jackson and Eri

Advent teaches us to look again — slowly, carefully — because Christ often waits in faces we pass by. In the hungry, the tired, the forgotten, he stands unrecognized.

“As you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.” (Matthew 25:45)

We seek his presence among “the least,” where his love is already at work. This candle flickers beside the first, reminding us that mercy moves toward need, the way light moves toward shadows.

One: We light the Candle of Peace

All: May Christ teach us to see him where love is needed most.

Prelude

Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen

Johannes Brahms

Christie Lee, Organ Scholar

Children's Handbells

Away in a Manager

Becky Bell, Director

Ringling of the Revere Tower Bell

Let the ringing of the Revere bell call our attention away from ourselves
and onto the living Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

*Hymn #100

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

*Invocation

Rev. Dr. Turis

One: God of mercy, send your Spirit to open our eyes. May we see Christ in the least and serve with your love.

*Prayer of Confession

All: Lord, we confess our neglect of the hungry, our hardness toward the poor, our blindness to the lonely. Forgive us. By your Spirit, make us your hands of mercy and hearts of compassion.

***Moments of Silent Confession**

***Assurance of Pardon**

One: Hear the promise: The King of glory became poor for our sake, that through his poverty we might become rich in grace. In Christ, the hungry are fed, the lost are found, the broken are restored. As you trust in him, know this: You are forgiven, reconciled, and beloved. Go, then, and serve others as Christ has served you, for his mercy endures forever and his love never fails.

***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

Our Hope Is In Emmanuel

Arr. Victor Johnson and

Covenant Choir

Lloyd Larson

The time has come, as the prophets foretold, to prepare for the soon coming King. He will bring us new love, and will fill our hearts with light, and will vanquish the darkness from night.

Our hope is in Emmanuel, the promised one, God's holy Son.

Our hope is in Emmanuel, the one who has come to save.

We have patiently waited for the King to appear and bring us hope, joy and peace. Now we wipe away our tears and no longer stand in fear, for we know that salvation draws near!

O come, O come, Emmanuel, our Messiah, Emmanuel.

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.

Call for the Offering

(If you would like to give online see the back of the bulletin.)

Offertory

O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion

G.F. Handel

Kayla Sconiers, Mezzo Soprano

Isaiah 40:9

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain; O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, behold your God! Arise shine for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

***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*Scripture Lesson**

Matthew 25:45

Rev. Dr. Turis

He will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me."

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

All: Thanks be to God.**Sermon**

Outreach in Advent

Rev. Dr. Turis

***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.

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, church elders will distribute the elements, while the congregation remains seated.

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 #113**

Angels We Have Heard on High

***Benediction**

Postlude

Prelude in C major, BWV 547

J.S. Bach

Andrew Hackett, Organist

*Those who are able, please stand.

100 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Behold a virgin shall . . . bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel. Isa. 7:14

Latin hymn.

Trans. by John M. Neale, 1851

St. 5 Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916

VENI EMMANUEL 8 8 8 8 8 8

Thomas Helmore, 1854

Based on plainsong phrases

Unison

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
 2. O come, Thou Rod of Jes - se, free Thine own from Sa - tan's
 3. O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer Our spir - its by Thine
 4. O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen wide our
 5. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind All peo - ples in one

Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 tyr - an - ny; From depths of hell Thy peo - ple save
 ad - vent here; And drive a - way the shades of night,
 heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that leads on high,
 heart and mind; Bid en - vy, strife and quar - rels cease;

Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.
 And pierce the clouds and bring us light! Re - joice! re - joice! Em -
 And close the path to mis - er - y.
 Fill all the world with heav - en's peace.

man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el! A - men.

JESUS CHRIST

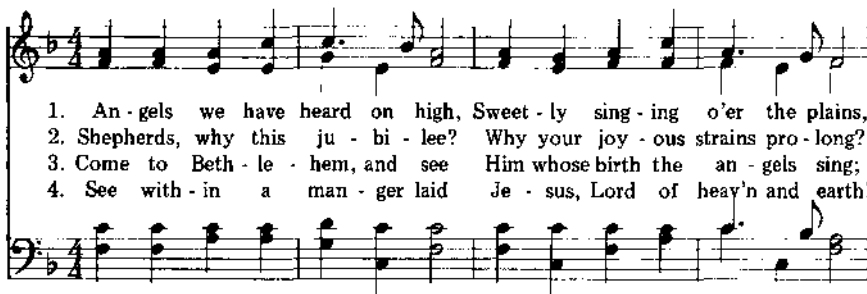
113 Angels We Have Heard on High

Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace . . . Luke 2:14

GLORIA 7 7 7 7 Ref.

Traditional French carol

Traditional French melody



1. An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2. Shepherds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3. Come to Beth - le - hem, and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;
 4. See with - in a man - ger laid Je - sus, Lord of heav'n and earth!

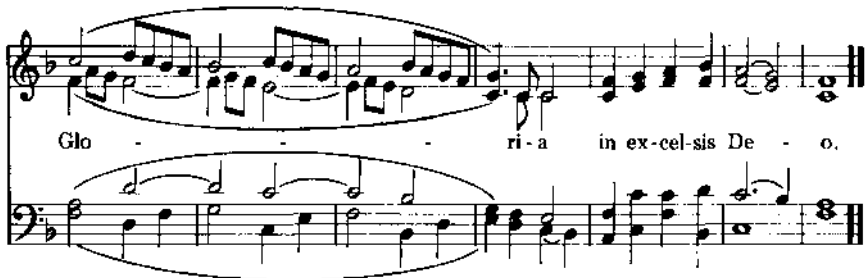


And the moun-tains in re - ply Ech - o back their joy - ous strains.
 Say what may the ti - dings be, Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.
 Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, With us sing our Sav - ior's birth.

Refrain



Glo - ri - a in ex-cel-sis De - o,



Glo - ri - a in ex-cel-sis De - o.

JESUS CHRIST