

# Covenant-First Presbyterian Church

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Sunday, March 31, 2024 • 10:30 AM

**EASTER**



Covenant-First's mission is to praise the Father, proclaim the Son and submit to the perfecting power of the Holy Spirit.

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Covenant-First Presbyterian Church • 717 Elm Street • Cincinnati, OH 45202  
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## **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

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## Pre-Service Music

Christie Lee, Organ Scholar

Easter Joy

Elmer Samuel Hosmer

## Concerns of the Congregation

### Call to Worship

Brian Calfano

*One: Brothers and sisters, on this glorious Easter morning, we gather with joy in our hearts to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ! He has triumphed over the grave, defeated sin and death, and invites us into new life. Let us come together with songs of praise and gratitude, for the stone is rolled away, the tomb is empty, and our Savior lives. Rejoice, for today marks our victory in Christ, the dawn of everlasting hope.*

**All: Hallelujah. Christ is risen!**

### Prelude

Andrew Hackett, Organist

Improvisation on *Crucifer*

### 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 #173

Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise

### \*Invocation

Brian Calfano

*One: Almighty and Everlasting God, on this radiant Easter morning, we gather as a community of believers, united in joy and awe at the resurrection of your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. From the depths of despair in the tomb, you have brought forth the unfading light of hope and the promise of eternal life. We stand in wonder at the miracle of the empty tomb, a testament to your power over death and your boundless love for us.*

**All: Lord, we invite your presence among us today. Fill our hearts with the peace that comes from knowing Christ is risen indeed. Strengthen our faith, embolden our spirits, and renew our minds, that we may live in the fullness of the resurrection life now and always. Let the joy of this day permeate our being, transforming us into bearers of your light and love in a world that yearns for hope. As we worship, celebrate, and proclaim the risen Christ, may our songs, prayers, and actions reflect the glory of your kingdom. Through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior, we pray. Amen.**

### **\*Prayer of Confession**

Rev. Dan Turis

**All:** Heavenly Father, on this blessed Easter day, we come before you, acknowledging our frailties and the ways we have fallen short of your glory. Despite the promise of new life through the resurrection of your Son, we confess that we often cling to old patterns, allowing fear, doubt, and sin to hinder our walk with you. Forgive us for not fully embracing the freedom won through Christ's victory over death. Renew our hearts and minds, that we may live in the light of your grace, fully experiencing the joy and peace of the resurrected life. Help us to reflect your love and serve as witnesses to the hope found in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### **\*Moments of Silent Confession**

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

Rev. Dan Turis

*One: Hear this, the best news you can possibly hear. Our Lord has resurrected. Jesus has risen. The curse of your sin has lost its sting. The empty tomb proves that new life is possible. In Jesus' resurrected body we find the complete pardon for our sin. Jesus comes to make his blessing flow as far as the curse is found.*

**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**

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Arr. Anna Laura Page

Covenant Choir, Covenant Ringers and Congregation

See pg. 8

*The congregation will join in this festive hymn by singing along with the choir on verses 1 and 3.*

*The congregation will stand when directed.*

### **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**

Thine Be Thy Glory

George Frederic Handel

Arr. Brandon Hicks

Brass Quartet: Jeremy Fry, Russel Johnsonbaugh, Sarah Johnsonbaugh, Jared Webster

**\*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** See pg. 9

Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing

**Scripture Lesson**

Exodus 12:1-13, 21-23

Rev. Dan Turis

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, "This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the members of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. Do not eat the meat raw or boiled in water, but roast it over a fire—with the head, legs and internal organs. Do not leave any of it till morning; if some is left till morning, you must burn it. This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the Lord's Passover.

"On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn of both people and animals, and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt."

*(Continued on page 6)*

Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, “Go at once and select the animals for your families and slaughter the Passover lamb. Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the doorframe. None of you shall go out of the door of your house until morning. When the Lord goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down.

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

**All: Thanks be to God**

**Sermon**

Paschal Lamb

Rev. Dan Turis

**\*Hymn #141**

Lift High the Cross

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**

Toccata, *from Symphonie No. V*

Charles-Marie Widor

Andrew Hackett, Organist

\*Those who are able, please stand.



Welcome to Easter Sunday worship! If you are visiting today, we especially welcome you to this vibrant, growing, historic church, and are happy you have joined us on this special Sunday. If you have questions about our church, need help finding a restroom, need a parking validation sticker, or would like directions to Metzger Hall for Fellowship Time, ask any of the greeters who welcomed you this morning at the entry doors.

We invite you to join us any Sunday for worship, for one of our Bible study classes, or any of our occasional special programs. We are glad you are here!

# 173 Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise

*Lift up your heads, O ye gates . . . and the King of glory shall come in. Psa. 24:7*

LLANFAIR 7 7 7 7 Alleluia

Welsh hymn melody

Arr. by John Roberts, 1837

Charles Wesley, 1739

1. Hail the day that sees Him rise, Al - le - lu - ia!  
2. There for Him high tri - umph waits; Al - le - lu - ia!  
3. See, He lifts His hands a - bove! Al - le - lu - ia!  
4. Lord, be - yond our mor - tal sight, Al - le - lu - ia!

To His throne a - bove the skies; Al - le - lu - ia!  
Lift your heads, e - ter - nal gates, Al - le - lu - ia!  
See, He shows the prints of love! Al - le - lu - ia!  
Raise our hearts to reach Thy height, Al - le - lu - ia!

Christ, the Lamb for sin - ners giv'n, Al - le - lu - ia!  
He hath con - quered death and sin, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Hark! His gra - cious lips be - stow, Al - le - lu - ia!  
There Thy face un - cloud - ed see, Al - le - lu - ia!

En - ters now the high - est heav'n. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Take the King of glo - ry in! Al - le - lu - ia!  
Bless - ings on His church be - low. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Find our heav'n of heav'ns in Thee! Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

JESUS CHRIST

# CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY

for congregational singing

Verses 1 and 3 by  
**CHARLES WESLEY** (1707-1788)  
Verse 2 from *LYRA DAVIDICA*

**EASTER HYMN**  
from *LYRA DAVIDICA* (1708)  
Arranged by **ANNA LAURA PAGE**

## VERSE 1: CHOIR AND CONGREGATION



Christ the Lord is ris'n to-day! — Al - le - lu - ia!



All cre - a - tion, join to say: — "Al - le - lu - ia!"



Raise your joys and tri - umphs high; Al - le - lu - ia!



Sing, — ye — heav'ns, and earth re - ply: — "Al - le - lu - ia!"

## Verse 2: (Choir only)

But the pains which He endured, Allelu, alleluia!  
Our salvation have procured; Allelu, alleluia!  
Now above the sky He's King, Alleluia, alleluia!  
Where the angels ever sing, "Alleluia, alleluia!"

## VERSE 3: CHOIR and CONGREGATION

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!  
Foll' wing our exalted Head, Alleluia!  
Made like Him, like Him we rise, Alleluia!  
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies. Alleluia!

## Postlude: (Choir only)

Alleluia!

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# Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!

GELOBT SEI GOTT 8.8.8 with alleluias

Melchior Vulpus, 1609

As in *Pilgrim Hymnal*, 1958

Cyril A. Alington, 1931; alt.

1. Good Chris-tians all, re - joice and sing! Now is the tri - umph  
2. The Lord of life is risen to - day! Bring flowers of song, be -  
3. Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry That love, that life which  
4. Thy name we bless, O ris - en Lord, And sing to - day with

of our King! To all the world glad news we bring:  
deck the way; Let ev - ery tongue re - joice and say:  
can - not die, And sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:  
one ac - cord The life laid down, the life re - stored:

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

# Lift High the Cross 141

*I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto Me. John 12:32*

George W. Kitchin and  
Michael R. Newbolt. 1916

CRUCIFER Irreg. Ref.  
Sydney H. Nicholson. 1916

*Unison*

(Ref.) Lift high the Cross, the love of Christ pro-claim, Till

*Fine*

all the world a - dore His sa - cred name.

1. Come, brethren, fol - low where our Sav - ior trod, Our  
2. Led on their way by this tri - um - phant sign, The  
3. O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious Tree, As  
4. Set up Thy throne, that earth's de - spair may cease Be -  
5. For Thy blest Cross which doth for all a - tone, Cre -

*D.C.*

King vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.  
hosts of God in con - qu'ring ranks com - bine.  
Thou hast prom - ised, draw men un - to Thee.  
neath the shad - ow of its heal - ing peace.  
a - tion's prais - es rise be - fore Thy throne.

Music by permission of the Proprietors of Hymns Ancient & Modern.

*HIS SUFFERING AND DEATH*