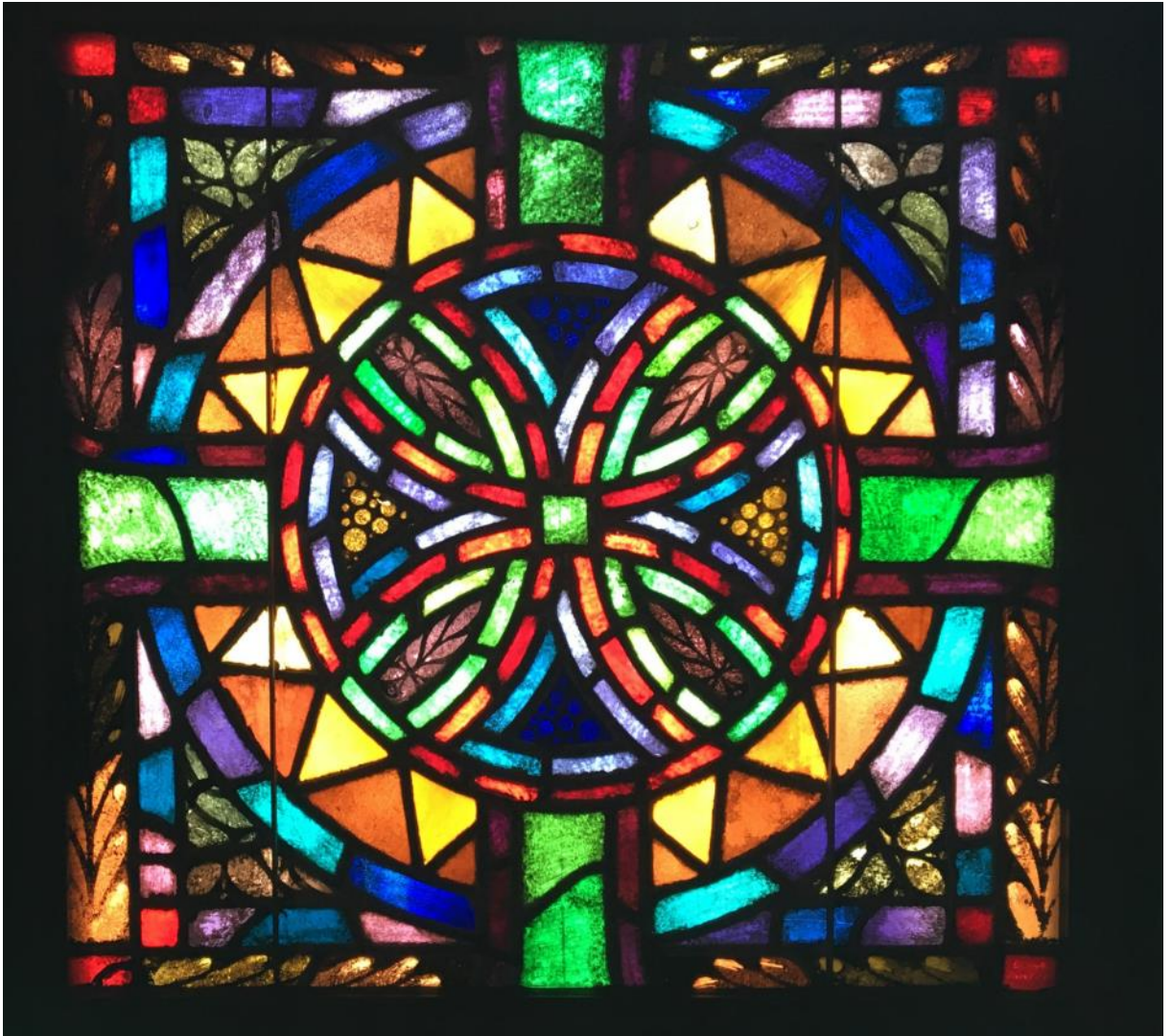


Covenant-First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, February 11, 2024 • 10:30 AM



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

Covenant-First Presbyterian Church • 717 Elm Street • Cincinnati, OH 45202
www.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.

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.

Service for the Lord's Day

Pre-Service Music
Christie Lee, Piano

Improvisation on *As the Deer*

Concerns of the Congregation

Call to Worship

Brian Calfano

One: Gather around beloved in this sacred assembly, hearts open to the Christ. As we cry amidst the turmoil, let us, too, seek clarity and peace. In the worship of Jesus, may we find the strength to face injustice, trusting in God's eternal promise of redemption. Let us open our mouths and trust the Spirit to bring the praise.

Prelude

Alleluia

Randall Thompson

Covenant Choir

*Hymn #401

When Peace Like a River

*Invocation

Brian Calfano

One: In the midst of our questions and cries for justice,

All: we turn to you, O God, for you hear our pleas.

One: When the world around us seems to falter,

All: we seek your strength and guidance, unwavering and true.

One: For in our seeking and in our doubting,

All: you are our rock, our shelter, and our hope.

One: Together, we call upon your name,

All: trusting in your promise to renew and restore.

*Prayer of Confession

Rev. Dan Turis

All: Gracious and merciful God, we come before you, recognizing our sin and the ways we have not lived up to your call for justice and love. We confess that too often, we have turned away from the world's suffering, choosing comfort over compassion, silence over advocacy. We acknowledge our part in systems that oppress and our reluctance to challenge the status quo. In humility, we admit our impatience for change and our quickness to doubt your presence in the midst of strife. Forgive us, O God, for the moments we have not reflected your love, for the times our actions and inactions have contributed to injustice. Renew in us a steadfast spirit that we may live as bearers of your peace and agents of your transformative love. Amen.

*Moments of Silent Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

Rev. Dan Turis

One: Hear this the best news you could possibly hear. In Jesus, the turmoil of this world is set within its proper perspective. What is time when you are guaranteed eternity? Our God has set eternity in our minds and sealed the assurance of that eternity in our hearts through the Spirit. You were able to confess because he first confessed for you. He then took the punishment for that confession. He takes your life and gives you his. If you are in Jesus Christ, he will be with you for eternity.

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

Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling

Will Thompson

Covenant Choir

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me;
see, on the portals he's waiting and watching, watching for you and for me.

Refrain: Come home, come home, ye who are weary, come home;
earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, O sinner, come home!

Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies, mercies for you and for me? (Refrain)

Time is now fleeting, the moments are passing, passing from you and from me;
shadows are gathering, death's night is coming, coming for you and for me. (Refrain)

O for the wonderful love he has promised, promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me. (Refrain)

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 Aria, from the Goldberg Variations, BWV 988
Andrew Hackett, piano

J.S. Bach

***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 #442** Lead Kindly Light

Scripture Lesson Habakkuk 1:1-4 Rev. Dan Turis
The prophecy that Habakkuk the prophet received. How long, Lord, must I call for help, but you do not listen? Or cry out to you, "Violence!" but you do not save? Why do you make me look at injustice? Why do you tolerate wrongdoing? Destruction and violence are before me; there is strife, and conflict abounds. Therefore the law is paralyzed, and justice never prevails. The wicked hem in the righteous, so that justice is perverted.

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

All: Thanks be to God

Sermon Why do bad things happen to good people? Rev. Dan Turis

***Hymn #439** He Leadeth Me

***Benediction**

Postlude Voluntary Léon Boëllmann
Andrew Hackett, piano

*Those who are able, please stand.

When Peace Like a River Attendeth 401

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits . . . Psa. 103:2

VILLE DU HAVRE 11 8 11 9 Ref.

Philip P. Bliss, 1876

Horatio G. Spafford, 1873

1. When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, When sor - rows like
2. Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, tho' tri - als should come, Let this blest as -
3. My sin— O, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought, My sin— not in
4. And, Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight, The clouds be rolled

sea - bil - lows roll; What - ev - er my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
sur - ance con - trol, That Christ has re - gard - ed my help - less es - tate,
part but the whole, Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more,
back as a scroll, The trump shall re - sound and the Lord shall de - scend,

Refrain
"It is well, it is well with my soul."
And hath shed His own blood for my soul. It is well with my
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! It is well
"E - ven so"— it is well with my soul.

soul, It is well, it is well with my soul.
with my soul,

PEACE AND JOY

442 Lead, Kindly Light

Thou wilt show me the path of life: at Thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore. Psa. 10:1

LUX BENIGNA 10 4 10 4 10 10

John B. Dykes, 1865

John H. Newman, 1833

1. Lead, kind-ly Light, a - mid th' en-cir-ling gloom, Lead Thou me on;
2. I was not ev - er thus, nor prayed that Thou Shouldst lead me on;
3. So long Thy pow'r hath blest me, sure it still Will lead me on,

The night is dark, and I am far from home; Lead Thou me on:
I loved to choose and see my path; but now Lead Thou me on.
O'er moor and fen, o'er crag and tor-rent, till The night is gone;

Keep Thou my feet; I do not ask to see
I loved the gar - ish day, and, spite of fears,
And with the morn those an - gel fac - es smile,

The dis - tant scene—one step e - nough for me.
Pride ruled my will: re - mem-ber not past years.
Which I have loved long since, and lost a - while. A - men.

Alternate tune. SANDON, No. 44

LIFE IN CHRIST

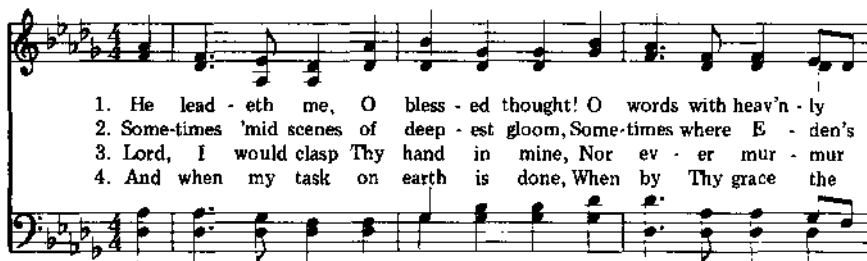
He Leadeth Me, O Blessed Thought 439

I am the Lord thy God . . . which leadeth thee . . . Isa. 48:17

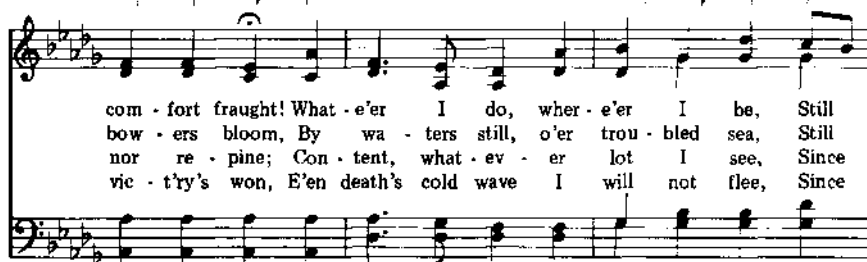
HE LEADETH ME. L.M. Ref.

William B. Bradbury, 1864

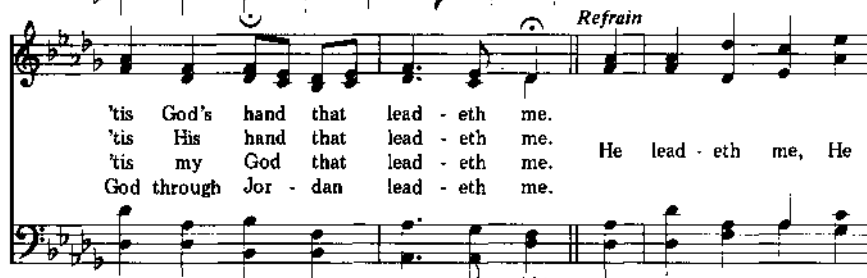
Joseph H. Gilmore, 1862



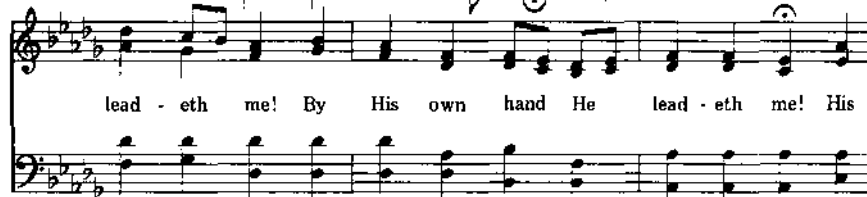
1. He lead - eth me, O bless - ed thought! O words with heav'n - ly
2. Some-times 'mid scenes of deep - est gloom, Some-times where E - den's
3. Lord, I would clasp Thy hand in mine, Nor ev - er mur - mur
4. And when my task on earth is done, When by Thy grace the



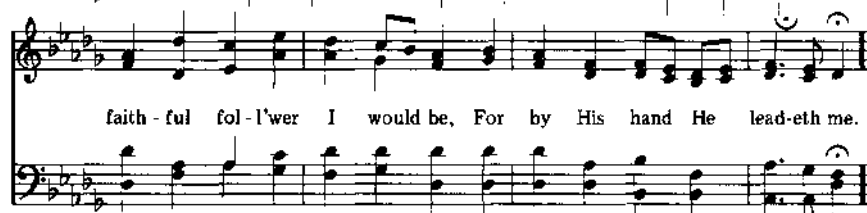
com - fort fraught! What - e'er I do, wher - e'er I be, Still
bow - ers bloom, By wa - ters still, o'er trou - bled sea, Still
nor re - pine; Con - tent, what - ev - er lot I see, Since
vic - t'ry's won, E'en death's cold wave I will not flee, Since



Refrain
'tis God's hand that lead - eth me.
'tis His hand that lead - eth me. He lead - eth me, He
'tis my God that lead - eth me.
God through Jor - dan lead - eth me.



lead - eth me! By His own hand He lead - eth me! His



faith - ful fol - l'wer I would be, For by His hand He lead - eth me.