



Covenant-First Presbyterian Church

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



July 5, 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.

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

** indicates please stand if you are able*

Pre-Service Music

Fantaisie in C (excerpt)

César Franck

Christie Lee, Organ Scholar

Concerns of the Congregation

Rev. Dr. Dan Turis

Call to Worship

Karen Stine

One: Worshiping church, come; the same Spirit who spoke in Antioch still whispers "Set apart" in gathered praise and scattered obedience.

Prelude

Organ Sonata No. 3, II. Andante Tranquillo

Felix Mendelssohn

Christie Lee, Organ Scholar

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 #526

God of Our Fathers

*Invocation

Karen Stine

All: God of all comfort and clarity, thank you for not leaving your Church in doctrinal fog. As we worship, re-anchor us in the good news: We are saved by grace, not grit; by Christ's work, not ours. Let debates and doubts bow before your finished verdict at the cross.

*Prayer of Confession

Rev. Dr. Dan Turis

All: Righteous Lord, we confess our hearts are natural legalists. We smuggle "Jesus plus" into our thinking—Jesus plus performance, plus politics, plus personality, plus our preferred traditions. We measure others (and ourselves) by yardsticks you never wrote. As Tim Keller noted, we are "functional Pharisees," even when we preach against Pharisaism. We add burdens where you give rest. Forgive our gospel drift, our tendency to turn good things into saving things, and our suspicion that grace alone can really be enough.

*Moments of Silent Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

Rev. Dr. Dan Turis

One: Hear the council's echo across centuries: "We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved." This grace flows from a cross where Christ paid it all and from a tomb he left empty. If you are in him, there is now no condemnation—no spiritual surcharge, no hidden religious fees. His righteousness is yours; your sin was his. You are justified by faith alone, adopted by mercy alone, kept by love alone. Rest: The verdict over you, in Christ, is "forgiven, clean, mine."

*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.

Hymn #67

Fairest Lord Jesus

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

Now Thank We All Our God

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

Christie Lee, Organ Scholar

*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 blessing 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

Acts 15:1-35

Certain people came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the believers: "Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved."² This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them. So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question.³ The church sent them on their way, and as they traveled through Phoenicia and Samaria, they told how the Gentiles had been converted. This news made all the believers very glad.⁴ When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles

and elders, to whom they reported everything God had done through them. ⁵ Then some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said, “The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to keep the law of Moses.” ⁶ The apostles and elders met to consider this question. ⁷ After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: “Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe. ⁸ God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. ⁹ He did not discriminate between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith. ¹⁰ Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of Gentiles a yoke that neither we nor our ancestors have been able to bear? ¹¹ No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are.” ¹² The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them. ¹³ When they finished, James spoke up. “Brothers,” he said, “listen to me. ¹⁴ Simon has described to us how God first intervened to choose a people for his name from the Gentiles. ¹⁵ The words of the prophets are in agreement with this, as it is written: ¹⁶ “‘After this I will return and rebuild David’s fallen tent. Its ruins I will rebuild, and I will restore it, ¹⁷ that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord, even all the Gentiles who bear my name, says the Lord, who does these things’— ¹⁸ things known from long ago. ¹⁹ “‘It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God. ²⁰ Instead we should write to them, telling them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood. ²¹ For the law of Moses has been preached in every city from the earliest times and is read in the synagogues on every Sabbath.” ²² Then the apostles and elders, with the whole church, decided to choose some of their own men and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They chose Judas (called Barsabbas) and Silas, men who were leaders among the believers. ²³ With them they sent the following letter: The apostles and elders, your brothers, To the Gentile believers in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia: Greetings. ²⁴ We have heard that some went out from us without our authorization and disturbed you, troubling your minds by what they said. ²⁵ So we all agreed to choose some men and send them to you with our dear friends Barnabas and Paul—²⁶ men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁷ Therefore we are sending Judas and Silas to confirm by word of mouth what we are writing. ²⁸ It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to burden you with anything beyond the following requirements: ²⁹ You are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality. You will do well to avoid these things. Farewell. ³⁰ So the men were sent off and went down to Antioch, where they gathered the church together and delivered the letter. ³¹ The people read it and were glad for its encouraging message. ³² Judas and Silas, who themselves were prophets, said much to encourage and strengthen the believers. ³³ After spending some time there, they were sent off by the believers with the blessing of peace to return to those who had sent them. ³⁴ ³⁵ But Paul and Barnabas remained in Antioch, where they and many others taught and preached the word of the Lord.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

***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.

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Sacrament of The Lord's Supper

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 #401**

When Peace Like A River

Benediction*Postlude**

Christie Lee, Organ Scholar

Music for the Royal Fireworks

George Frideric Handel/
arrg. Clive So

Today for our Courtyard Café we'll be enjoying homemade ice cream from Bethel Murdoch Presbyterian Church in Loveland, Ohio. Bethel Murdoch Church was founded in 1814; the church building dates to 1872—making the sanctuary three years older than the Covenant-First building! For over 80 years, the congregation has churned delicious homemade ice cream. If you're hungry for more ice cream, you're invited to visit Bethel Murdoch Church next Saturday, July 11, when the Warren County Quilt Guild hosts their show at the church, along with an Ice Cream Social, 12 Noon to 5 PM—homemade ice cream, pulled pork sandwiches, beautiful quilts and more!

526 God of Our Fathers

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Psa. 46:7

NATIONAL HYMN 10 10 10 10

Daniel C. Roberts, 1876

George W. Warren, 1892

1. God of our fa - thers, whose al - might - y
2. Thy love di - vine hath led us in the
3. From war's a - larms, from dead - ly pes - ti
4. Re - fresh Thy peo - ple on their toil - some

hand Leads forth in beau - ty all the star - ry
past; In this free land by Thee our lot is
lence, Be Thy strong arm our ev - er sure de -
way; Lead us from night to nev - er - end - ing

hand Of shin - ing worlds in splen - dor through the
cast; Be Thou our Rul - er, Guard - ian, Guide and
fense; Thy true re - lig - ion in our hearts in
day; Fill all our lives with love and grace di -

skies, Our grate - ful songs be - fore Thy throne a - rise.
Stay, Thy Word our law, Thy paths our cho - sen way.
crease, Thy boun - teous good - ness nour - ish us in peace.
vine; And glo - ry, laud, and praise be ev - er Thine. A - men.

67 Fairest Lord Jesus

Thou art fairer than the children of men . . . Psa. 45:2

Gesangbuch, Münster, 1677
Trans. anonymous, 1850
St. 4, trans. by Joseph A. Seiss, 1873

CRUSADER'S HYMN 5 6 8 5 5 8

H. A. Hoffmann von Fallersleben's
Schlesische Volkslieder, 1842
Arr. by Richard S. Willis, 1850

1. Fair - est Lord Je - sus! Ru - ler of all na - ture,
2. Fair are the mead - ows, Fair - er still the wood - lands,
3. Fair is the sun - shine, Fair - er still the moon - light,
4. Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior! Lord of the na - tions!

O Thou of God and man the Son! Thee will I cher - ish,
Robed in the bloom - ing garb of spring: Je - sus is fair - er,
And all the twink - ling star - ry host: Je - sus shines bright - er,
Son of God and Son of Man! Glo - ry and hon - or,

Thee will I hon - or, Thou, my soul's glo - ry, joy, and crown!
Je - sus is pur - er, Who makes the woe - ful heart to sing.
Je - sus shines pur - er, Than all the an - gels heav'n can boast.
Praise, ad - o - ra - tion, Now and for - ev - er - more be Thine! A - men.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines.

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,