

The First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland

October 18, 2026
Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost
10AM Sanctuary Worship

We Gather in the Grace of God

PRELUDE *Cromorne sur la Taille* Francois Couperin

WELCOME Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

INTROIT *Nada Te Turbe* TAIZE

Nada te turbe	Nothing can trouble.
Nada te espanta	Nothing can frighten.
Quien a Dios tiene	Those who seek God
Nada le falta	will never go wanting.
Solo Dios basta	God alone, fills us.

* CALL TO WORSHIP
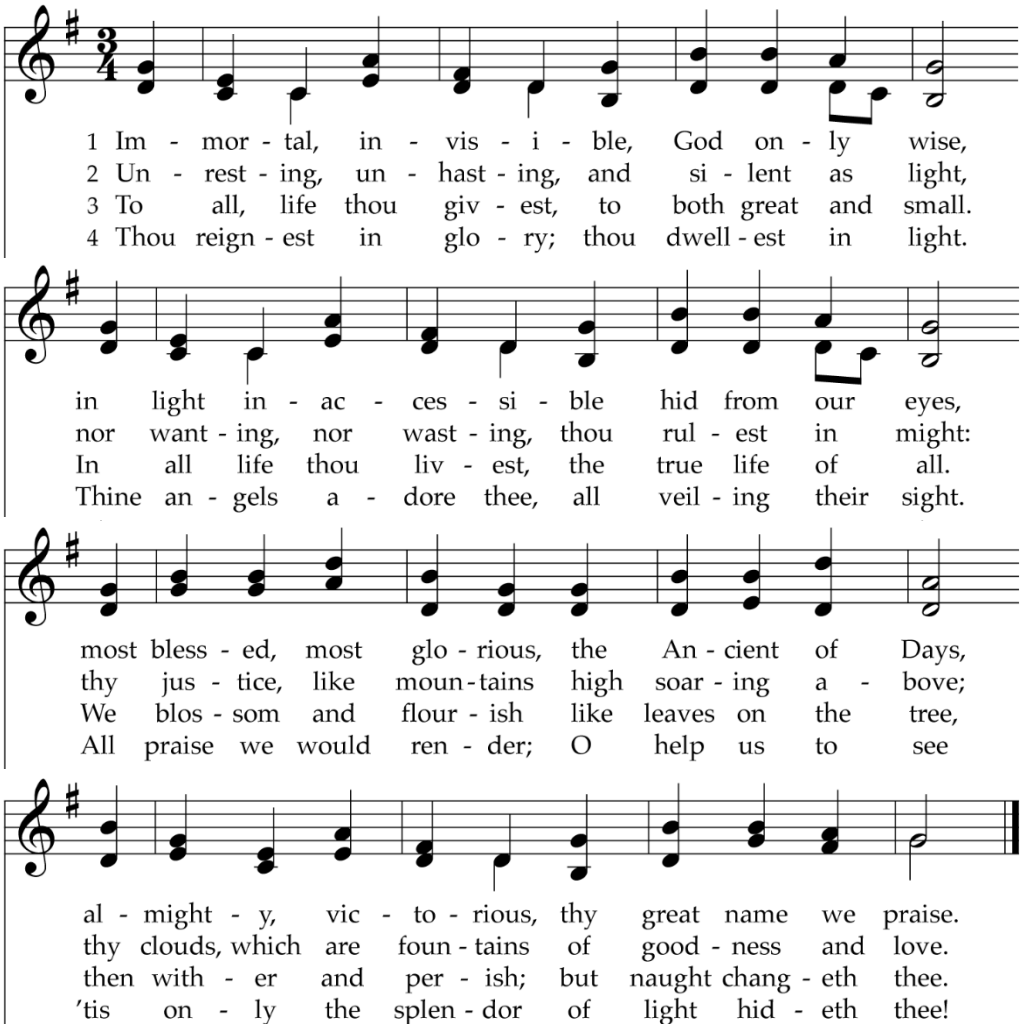
God has chosen us and called us by name,
grasped us by the hands and opened doors for us.
It is flattering to be recognized by name
and to have opportunities open up before us.
But we are fearful of a God who acts decisively
to touch us and lead us in God's own way.
Where will God have us go,
and how can we make our way in unknown places?
"I am God, and beside me there is no other;
I gird you though you do not know me."
We hear God declaring sovereignty over all things
and offering to prepare us for life's encounters.
From the rising of the sun, God will be known,
in both light and gloom, weal and woe.
We worship a God who reigns over all things
and offers support to us, who are God's creation.

* INVOCATION PRAYER

Let us pray together:
O God, our Creator and Sustainer and Renewer,
we come before you with humble appreciation
that your power is expressed toward us in a mighty love.
We are grateful for this opportunity to worship,
for the courage and insights of our forebearers
who cared enough to speak up and speak out
for what they believed to be the best ways to return your love,
to act upon it.
We pray for the strength in ourselves
to protest when that is called for
and to keep silence when that, too, serves your will.
We cherish the heritage of our church.
We ask that you alert us to the contemporary meanings
of our history and traditions.

We seek not to live in the past but by your grace
to let the best of the past live through us.
Finally, God, as we enter this time of worship,
we open ourselves to your discipline and guidance.
We who tend to get out of shape spiritually
call upon you to reform us into your image,
into sturdy and energetic children who are decisively your own.
In Spirit and in truth, be present among us,
for we gather and pray in Christ's good name.
Amen.

* HYMN #12 *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* ST. DENIO



* CALL TO CONFESSION Elie Medie

If God were passive or absent, we could ignore God and live to ourselves.
But God acts, and we often respond in fear or rebellion.
In our private retreats from life
we cut ourselves off from God and other people.
God does not force us out of our miserable isolation,
but the hand of assurance and welcome is extended to us,
awaiting our response.
I invite you to pray with me, in words and in silence.
Let us join our voices in the corporate prayer of confession,
followed by time for silent personal confession.
Thus, we pray:

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Where are you leading us, God?
What if we do not want to go?
We do not trust you,
for much in life has not been the way we want it to be.
We hold you responsible for our misery.
Why don't you intervene to make life better for us?
For all people?
Let us tell you a few improvements you could make ...
God, our vision is so limited.
Please do not punish us by giving us all we think we want.
You are so great, so much more than we can imagine.
We have tried to play god and end up feeling more wretched than before. Forgive us, O God.
Turn us around inside.
Help us to cope with the way things are,
so we can follow Christ in working to make a few things
the way you want them to be.

(*moment of silent confession*)

* KYRIE GUARANI KYRIE

Kyrie eleison , Christe eleison,
Kyrie eleison , Christe eleison.

* ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

"I will go before you and level the mountains," says our God.
The Holy One hears our cries,
affirms us even when we are in rebellion or retreat,
leads us away from the idols we create,
and forgives us when we turn from our own ways
to open ourselves to God's purposes.
Receive the new life Christ has brought among us.

Alleluia and Amen!

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us offer a sign of peace to one another.

* GLORIA #581 *Glory Be to the Father* GLORIA PATRI

**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.**

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Please be seated.
We who have been entrusted with the message of the gospel
have the means to make it known to the world.
Our tithes and offerings are dedicated to that purpose.
As we present them,
we also submit ourselves to God's purposes and direction.
The offering will now be received.

<u>OFFERING</u>

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *My Lord, What a Morning* arr. Adam and Matt Podd

My Lord, what a morning / My Lord what a morning /
My Lord, what a morning / When the stars begin to fall
You'll hear the trumpet sound / To wake the nations underground /
Looking to my God's right hand / When the stars begin to fall
You'll hear the people cry / To wake the nations underground /
Looking to my God's right hand / When the stars begin to fall

* DOXOLOGY #606 OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.**

* OFFERTORY PRAYER Elie Medie

Let us join our voices in prayer:

**We have rendered to Caesar
much that we do not care to give, O God.
Now we return to you the gifts that are yours.
All our wealth and possessions belong to you.
Bless our use of these resources,
both what we bring for the church's ministry and outreach
and what we keep to support ourselves
and provide for those we love most.
Amen.**

* OFFERTORY RESPONSE *All Things Come of Thee* C. W. Walton

All things come of Thee, O Lord.
And of Thine own have we given Thee.
Amen.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy One, true and living God,
through the message of the gospel
and the power of your Spirit
make us imitators of the Lord:
Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

THE READINGS

Tanach Psalm 96:1-9 (Inclusive Bible)

Sing to YHWH a new song!
Sing to YHWH, all the earth!
Sing to YHWH bless God's Name!
Proclaim God's salvation day after day;
declare God's glory among the nations,
God's marvels to every people.
YHWH is great, most worthy of praise,
YHWH is to be revered above all gods.
The gods of the nations are nothing,
they don't exist—but YHWH created the universe.
In God's presence are splendor and majesty,
in God's sanctuary power and beauty.
Pay tribute to YHWH, you tribes of the people;
pay tribute to the God of glory and power.
Pay tribute to the glorious Name of YHWH;
bring out offering, and carry it into God's courts.
Worship YHWH, majestic in holiness;
tremble in God's presence, all the earth!

The Holy Spirit has a word for each of us today.
With God's help we are listening.

Gospel Matthew 22:15-22 (Inclusive Bible)

Then the Pharisees went off and began to plot how they might trap Jesus by his speech. They sent their disciples to Jesus, accompanied by sympathizers of Herod, who said, “Teacher, we know you’re honest and teach God’s way sincerely. You court no one’s favor and don’t act out of respect for important people. Give us your opinion, then, in this case. Is it lawful to pay tax to the Roman emperor, or not?”
Jesus recognized their bad faith and said to them, “Why are you trying to trick me, you hypocrites? Show me the coin which is used to pay the tax.” When they handed Jesus a small Roman coin, Jesus asked them, “Whose head is this, and whose inscription?” “Caesar’s,” they replied.
At that, Jesus said to them, “Then give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, but give to God what is God’s.” When they heard this they were astonished and went away.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR’S MESSAGE Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

“Imitators of Jesus Christ”



THE APOSTLES’ CREED

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.
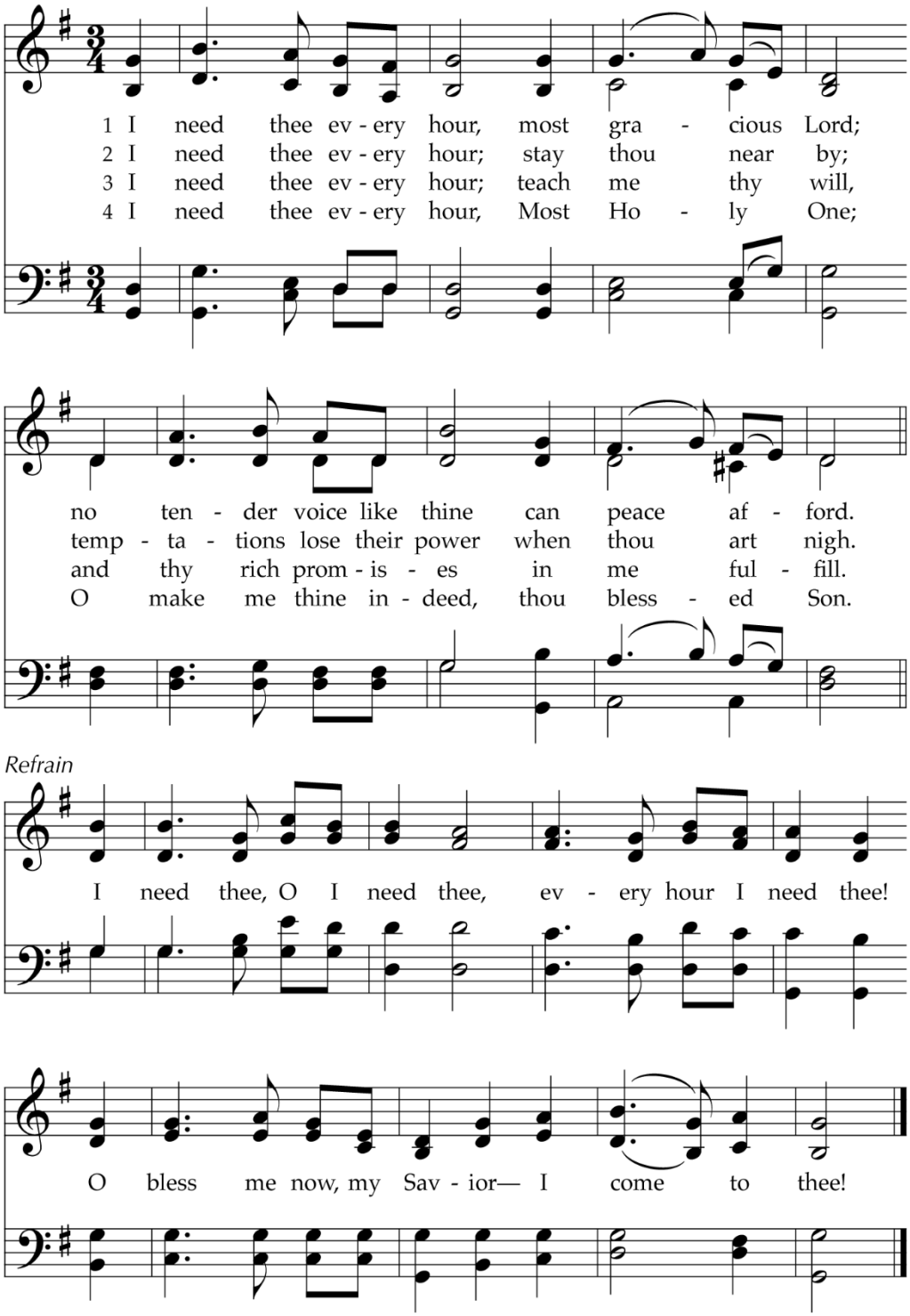
Amen.

LIGHTING OF CANDLES, PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

We ask all these things in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray…

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.

* HYMN #735 *I Need Thee Every Hour* NEED



Encouraged by her pastor in Brooklyn, New York, the author of this text wrote over four hundred hymn texts. This is the only one to receive wide use, but it has been translated into many languages. Her pastor composed this tune and, with her consent, added the text of the refrain.

TEXT: Annie S. Hawks, 1872; ref., Robert Lowry, 1872
MUSIC: Robert Lowry, 1872

NEED
6.4.6.4 with refrain

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Return to your worlds, guided by the Word
and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Do not leave us, O Living and True God,
or keep us from following after you.

The company of your people will be our people,
and you will always be our God, even in death.

We have heard God call our names,
so we dare to trust God's leading.

Uphold your brothers and sisters in your prayers
and support one another in faith, hope, and love.

We will be channels of God's care
for those we love and all we meet.

Grace to you and peace, from the rising of the sun
to the going down of the same.

We have received and rejoice in God's blessing.
All praise and thanks to the Triune God!

* CHORAL RESPONSE *Amen* Gerrit Smith

POSTLUDE Fugue on the *Jeux d'Anches* Francois Couperin

"My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever."
Psalm 73:26



We continue to keep in our prayers:

Annie and Tony Carlos. Terry Burch, Jerry Capassp, Maida Page, Gavin Morkel, Richard Lee, Jacob Daly, Jean Rundlett, Christa, Dameon, Sonya, Scheem, Linda, Tommy Bollinger, Kenny, Emma, Dorland, Addie Singleton, Rajvinder Kaur, Laken Grames, Richard Szabo, Cheryl Eifert, Mary and Dave Eifert, Ija Jean Folmar-McCain

We pray for those struggling with illness, convalescing, homebound or in need.

Names are generally removed after four weeks unless there is a continuing need.

There are many ways to support The First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland

Online Giving:
firstprescle.org/giving
Mail to:
The First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland
Attn: Financial Office
1380 Ontario Street
Cleveland, OH 44113
Checks should be made payable to "The First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland."

Scan the QR Code with your phone.

All contributions are tax-deductible and will be appropriately acknowledged at year-end.

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CLEVELAND

LOVING CHRIST, SERVING CITY—SPIRITUALLY, SOCIALLY, CULTURALLY—SINCE 1820

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Website: www.firstprescle.org **E-Mail:** info@firstprescle.org

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Senior Pastor: Rev. Stephen C. Blonder Adams

Parish Associate: Rev. Denise Clark-Jones

Minister of Music: Evan M. Collins

Choir

Cali Jacobs, *soprano*
Zara Smith, *soprano*
Kaya Sparks, *soprano*

Christian Bush, *tenor*
Anthony Steward, *tenor*
Noah Whitaker, *tenor*

Rayna Brooks, *alto*
Morgan Potts, *alto*
Val Sibila, *alto*

Dominic Aragon, *bass*
Job Butcher, *bass*
Adam Whanger, *bass*

Church Elders:

Clerk of Session: Beth Buchanan

Class of 2026	Class of 2027	Class of 2028
Beth Buchanan	Michelle Baron	Dave Finley
Judy Macuga	Bernard Medie	Don Urban
Melissa Maffia	Bob Reid	
Harriet Niles		
Marty Vassel		

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Class of 2026	Class of 2027	Class of 2028
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Forrest Diehl	Eric Grattan	JoAnn Hood
Pam Daly	Sunny Kunche	Elie Medie
Ruth Finley	John Wheeler	Brad Oglesby
Alyssa Niepokny		Mark Pichler
Charlene Thornton		Lori Montero

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