



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CLEVELAND

OCTOBER 4, 2026

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST WITH COMMUNION

10 AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

Lamb of God

arr. Mark Hayes

WELCOME

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Yvette Nosal/Cleveland APL

INTROIT

Be Joyful In The Lord

K. L. Gunlicks

Be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands and serve the Lord with gladness.

Be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands and come before God's presence with a song.

* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Sing to the God who loves us,
who blesses us with unlimited possibilities.

**Praise God, the source of all good gifts,
who provides for us beyond all expectations.**

God clears away the debris from our lives,
making us good soil for God's word.

**God removes the obstructing stones
and prepares us to live God's truth.**

The church is God's vineyard,
and each of us, God's pleasant planting.

**The rich harvest God expects
is a community of justice and peace.**

We are to bear good fruit befitting God's realm,
to offer nourishment, lest any faint of hunger.

**How can we meet the high expectations
of a God beyond the reach of our imagination?**

* INVOCATION PRAYER

**Gracious God,
you have invited and welcomed us to this place of worship.
You draw us away from the idols we create to take your place.
When we come together,
we sense that there is nothing in life
that can substitute for a vital relationship with you.
Yet we are only dimly aware of who you are.
All the mysteries of the universe are in your hands,
yet you have made yourself known among the people of this earth.
We catch glimpses of your work among us and are amazed.
We want to meet you again today, as for the first time.
Touch us.
Remake us.
Help us to stand firm in the faith.
Amen.**

(VERSES 1,2 & 4)

1 The King of love my shep-herd is, whose good - ness
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow my ran - somed
 3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in
 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill with thee, dear

fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
 soul he lead - eth, and where the ver - dant
 love he sought me, and on his shoul - der
 Lord, be - side me; thy rod and staff my

I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.
 pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
 gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
 com - fort still, thy cross be - fore to guide me.

* CALL TO CONFESSION

Don Urban

Come to the God who meets us in our failures,
 as well as our successes,
 who is ready to hear us when we confess our guilt,
 who judges our hypocrisy but forgives the sincerely penitent.
 Let us pray, individually and then together,
 using word-symbols to utter the inexpressible.
 Let us join our voices in the corporate prayer of confession,
 followed by time for silent personal confession.
 Thus, we pray:

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of all life's vineyards,
we have claimed what is yours as our own,
to be used for our selfish benefit.
Your good seed has, in us, yielded wild grapes.
Where there should be enough for all your children,
we have hoarded your gifts until they have turned sour
for us and too rotten to be shared.
Our bellies have become our gods,
and our minds are set on earthly things.
We find no glory in the cross of Christ,
for we have lived as its enemies.
Who can save us from this body of death,
for we have rejected and murdered the heir you sent among us?**
(Moment of silent confession)

* KYRIE

GUARANI KYRIE

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

* ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

To the unfaithful keepers of the vineyard, Jesus said,
"The realm of God will be taken away from you
and given to a nation producing the fruits of it."
We can move so far away from God's purposes
that we bring that judgment on ourselves.
But to all who, in serious penitence,
turn to the commonwealth of heaven as their home,
God issues a Parent's welcome.
We are forgiven!
Let us forget what lies behind and strain forward to what lies ahead.
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.

God invites us to invest our time and resources
in ways that build rather than destroy,
in work of lasting value rather than temporary distraction.

Through the church,
we seek to offer a quality of life focused on the worth of every individual,
on justice for all and excellence in all things.

May our offerings and our lives praise God.

The offering will now be received.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Behold Now, the House of God

Richard Proulx

Behold, the house of God; the Spirit of God dwells within you all.

The house of God is holy, a temple not built with stone, this temple you are!

Sing joyfully to the Lord, all you lands; serve the Lord with gladness.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving; enter his courts with praise!

Behold, the house of God; the Spirit of God dwells within you all.

The house of God is holy, a temple not built with stone; this temple you are!

* 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

Don Urban

Let us join our voices in prayer:

O God, you are owner of all we possess.

We open our mouths and you fill them.

Life itself is your gift to us.

**We would return to you now the fruits of our labor,
in joyous thanksgiving for the privilege of managing
a small portion of your vineyard.**

May we and our offerings be subject to Christ in all things.

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

Let us pray together:

**God who speaks,
your law is perfect,
reviving the soul;
your commandment is clear,
enlightening the eyes.
May your Spirit illumine this Word
that our eyes may be opened
and our souls revived.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

THE READINGS

Torah

Exodus 20:1-4,7-9,12-20 (Inclusive Bible)

Then God spoke all these words, and said, "I am YHWH who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Do not worship any gods except me! Do not make yourselves any carved images or likenesses of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters under the earth. Do not utter the Name of YHWH to misuse it, for YHWH will not acquit anyone who utters God's Name to misuse it! Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy! For six days you will labor and do all your work. Honor your mother and father, so that you may have a long life in the land that YHWH has given to you! No murdering! No adultery! No stealing! No giving false testimony against your neighbor! No desiring your neighbors' house! No desiring your neighbors' spouse, or worker—female or male—or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor!" When the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, and heard the sound like blaring trumpets, and saw the smoking mountain, they shook in fear. Keeping their distance, they said to Moses, "Speak to us and we will listen, but do not let God speak to us, or it will surely be our death." But Moses said, "Don't be afraid. God's coming this way was simply a test for you, to give you a sense of awe and reverence, and to keep you from sinning."

The Holy Spirit has a word for each of us today.

With God's help we are listening.

“Listen to another parable. There was a property owner who planted a vineyard, put a hedge around it, installed a winepress and erected a tower. Then the owner leased it out to tenant farmers and went on a journey. When the vintage time arrived, the owner sent aides to the tenants to divide the shares of the grapes. The tenants responded by seizing the aides. They beat one, killed another and stoned a third. A second time the owner sent even more aides than before, but they treated them the same way. Finally, the owner sent the family heir to them, thinking, ‘They will respect my heir.’ When the vine growers saw the heir, they said to one another, ‘Here’s the one who stands in the way of our having everything. With a single act of murder we could seize the inheritance.’ With that, they grabbed and killed the heir outside the vineyard. What do you suppose the owner of the vineyard will do to those tenants?” They replied, “The owner will bring that wicked crowd to a horrible death and lease the vineyard out to others, who will see to it that there are grapes for the proprietor at vintage time.” Jesus said to them, “Did you ever read in the scriptures, ‘The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone; it was our God’s doing and we find it marvelous to behold?’ That’s why I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to people who will bear its fruit. Those who fall on this stone will be dashed to pieces, and those on whom it falls will be smashed.” When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard these parables, they realized that Jesus was speaking about them. Although they sought to arrest him, they feared the crowds, who regarded Jesus as a prophet.

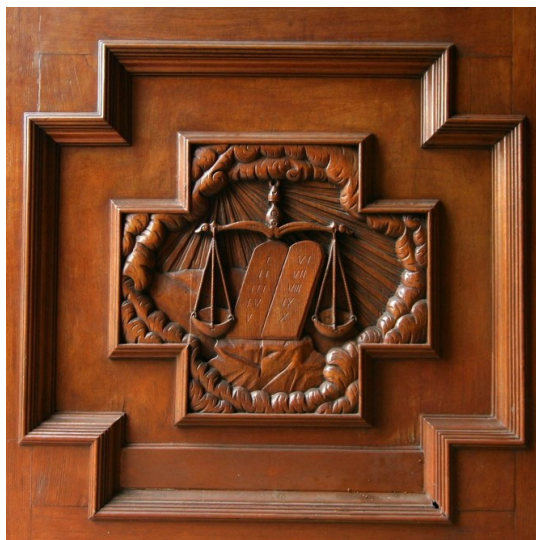
The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR’S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

“The Measure of the Law”



WE RESPOND IN LOVE AND FAITH

* HYMN #530

One Bread, One Body

ONE BREAD, ONE BODY

Refrain

One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of
all, one cup of bless - ing which we bless.
And we, though man-y, through-out the
earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.
1 Gen - tile or Jew, ser - vant or
2 Man - y the gifts, man - y the
3 Grain for the fields, scat - tered and
free, wom - an or man, no more.
works, one in the Lord of all.
grown, gath - ered to one, for all.

* INVITATION TO THE MEAL

The Holy One be with you

And also with you

Open your hearts to the One who is Love

We open our hearts to you, O God

Let us give thanks to God, our life-breath

To the One who sustains us,

we rejoice in your presence!

With gratitude, O God, we remember
that it is through you we are made truly alive.
Every creature and creation –
the tiny ones, the scaley ones,
the human ones, the leafy ones –
all that is has been shaped by you.
There is nothing on this earth
that has not been touched by your Sacred hand.
In your love for us, you claim us –
individually and as a whole – as your beloveds.
You will for us life abundant
and you invite us into co-working with you
towards a world where harmony among all life is restored.
And yet, daily, we turn away from you and one another.
Destructive and divisive powers
lure us away from connection and relationship.
We forget that we need each other.
We pretend that our lives are not deeply entangled.
When injustice threatens our neighbors,
we too easily cower or hide.

Like those who turned on Jesus
when things became too difficult,
we too are tempted to desert those most vulnerable.
But you do not abandon us to our fear or sin.
In the life of Jesus, Love enfleshed,
we are shown that the invitation
to join in your work of transforming and healing
and restoring is always open. No matter our past.
No matter our regrets. No matter the wrong done to us
or the wrong we have done to others,
you keep calling us back to you.
This relentless invitation of yours
that entices with freedom and joy and forgiveness
is such a threat to empire that it still attempts
to crucify every incarnation of your love today.

Great is the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died, Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

We pray for all in need of healing,
whether it be in body, mind, or spirit...

Terry Burch, Jerry Capassp, Maida Page, Gavin Morkel, Richard Lee,
Jacob Daly, Jean Rundlett, Scheem, Linda, Kenny, Emma, Dorland,
Addie Singleton, Rajvinder Kaur, Cheryl Eifert, Mary and Dave Eifert

We pray for the repose of the soul of Joan Sterling,
may her memory be a blessing.

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
let us pray as our Savior has taught us:

**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.**
(Please be seated)

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

And so, we are reminded of the example given to us in the person of Jesus.

On the night of his arrest,
he gathered around table with his companions.
He took bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to his disciples and said,

Barukh ata Adonai Eloheinu melek ha'olam
hamotzi lekhem min ha'aretz.

Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe,
who brings forth bread from the earth.

"This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

He did the same with the cup after the supper, saying,

Barukh ata Adonai Eloheinu melek ha'olam
borei p'ri hagafen.

Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe,
who creates the fruit of the vine.

"This cup that is poured out is the new covenant."

PRAYER FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

And so, in remembrance of the One
who never gave up on love, we pray that the Spirit
would make us one in our commitment
to the liberation of all your creatures and creations.

Pour out your Spirit on this bread and this cup,
that through these ordinary gifts,
we might taste a glimpse of your Kindom.
May they be for us a reminder
of what we are capable of becoming
and what we are capable of accomplishing together.
Amen.

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Please partake of the elements as you receive them,
and then place the cup back into the tray.
You may then light a candle in petition of prayer
or in remembrance.

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

Starting from the back of the sanctuary
you are invited to come forward at this time.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

Psalm 23

arr. Douglas Wagner

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want.
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; He leadeth me
The quiet waters by.
He leadeth me, He leadeth me,
the quiet waters by.

My soul He doth restore again;
And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness,
Ee'n for His own Name's sake.
Within the paths of righteousness,
Ee'n for His own Name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through shadows death,
Yet will I fear no ill;
For Thou art with me; and Thy rod
And staff me comfort still.
Thy rod and staff they comfort still

My table Thou hast furnished
In presence of my foes;
My head with oil thou dost anoint,
And my cup overflows.
My head thou dost with oil anoint

Goodness and mercy all my days
Will surely follow me;
And in my father's heart always
My dwelling place shall be.

* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

**God, we give you thanks for this meal
that nourishes us, body and soul.
May it sustain us as we confront evil
that keeps us from living the lives
you intended for us
and for all your creatures and creations.
Until every life can be lived abundantly,
be our guide, be our hope, be our comforter.
Amen.**

Verses 1 and 5

Em Am7 Bm7 Esus Em



1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for
 2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for
 3 Long-ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long-ing for
 4 Long-ing for shel - ter, man - y are home-less. Long-ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the

Am7 Bm7 Esus Em Am7



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants

D G C Am Dsus D



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has power to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, mak - ing your king - dom come.

Refrain G C G Em Bm Em



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the

Am7 D G Dsus D Em Em7



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your

C Am7 D G Am7 G



church gath - ered to - day.

By blending biblical images and current vignettes in the present tense, this hymn connects Christ's promise that he is the Light of the world (John 8:12, 9:5) and his charge to his followers to be the light of the world (Matthew 5:14). This is part of the church's servant calling.

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Press on toward the goal for the prize
of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

**We will no longer live for lesser goals
that are unworthy of our efforts.**

God grants greater maturity and daring
as you accept challenges not before considered.

**We are awed by God's trust in us
yet eager to explore the new vistas before us.**

Your Savior greets you from heaven's commonwealth,
welcoming your renewed participation.

**How good it is to labor in God's realm,
to set our minds on eternal values.**

May the Spirit empower you
to live fully, as God's own children.

**We will be true to the best we know
and open to increased understanding.**

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Amen

Gerrit Smith

POSTLUDE

Amazing Grace

arr. Cindy Berry

*"My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever."*

Psalms 73:26



We continue to keep in our prayers:

Terry Burch, Jerry Capassp, Maida Page, Gavin Morkel, Richard Lee, Jacob Daly,
Jean Rundlett, Scheem, Linda, Kenny, Emma, Dorland, Addie Singleton, Rajvinder Kaur,
Cheryl Eifert, Mary and Dave Eifert

We pray for the repose of the soul of Joan Sterling,
may her memory be a blessing.

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.



Wednesdays at 12:15 PM please join us in the Sanctuary for a Mid-Week Communion Service.



@ The First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland

Sunday October 4

10:00AM Worship with Communion/Sanctuary

11:30AM Deacons Meeting/Conference Room

12:00PM-2PM Blessing of the Animals/Front Steps

Tuesday October 6

12:15PM Tuesday AA Meeting/Cuyahoga Room

Wednesday October 7

11AM-2PM Open Doors/Sanctuary

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

6:00PM Welcoming and Fellowship Committee Meeting/ZOOM

Thursday October 8

2:00PM Worship Committee Meeting/ZOOM

Sunday October 11

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

11:30AM Christmon Workshop/Memorial Hall

Tuesday October 13

12:15PM Tuesday AA Meeting/Cuyahoga Room

Wednesday October 14

11:00AM Stirring Up Hope Soup Pantry

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Thursday October 15

7:00PM FPS Directors Meeting/Conference Room/First Floor

Saturday October 17

10:00PM Session-FPS Directors Retreat/Chapel/Gallery

Sunday October 18

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

11:30AM Handbell Rehearsal/Gallery

11:30PM Mission and Urban Wellness Committee Meeting/
Cuyahoga Room

1:00PM Browns/Ravens/Huntington Field

Last Sunday Attendance In-Person:63 Online:196

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
91 Public Square
Cleveland, OH 44113

Scan the QR Code with your phone.



Checks should be made payable to "The First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland."

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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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*

R. Dominic Aragon, *bass*

Job Butcher, *bass*

Adam Whanger, *bass*

Church Elders:

Clerk of Session: Beth Buchanan

Class of 2026

Beth Buchanan

Judy Macuga

Melissa Maffia

Harriet Niles

Marty Vassel

Class of 2027

Michelle Baron

Bernard Medie

Bob Reid

Class of 2028

Dave Finley

Don Urban

Church Deacons:

Class of 2026

Mark Corey

Forrest Diehl

Pam Daly

Ruth Finley

Alyssa Niepokny

Charlene Thornton

Class of 2027

Anand Bandari

Eric Grattan

Sunny Kunche

Amy Wheeler

John Wheeler

Class of 2028

Valorie Hempstead

JoAnn Hood

Elie Medie

Brad Oglesby

Mark Pichler

Lori Montero

Church Trustees:

Class of 2027

Dave Eifert

Class of 2027

Bruce Kranicz

Class of 2027

Mike Musson

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