



# THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CLEVELAND

MARCH 8, 2026  
THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT  
10AM Sanctuary Worship

## WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE	<i>Shimmering Reflections</i>	Michael Joy
WELCOME		Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams
MINUTE FOR EDUCATION		Ted Evans
INTROIT	<i>Create In Me</i>	John Purifoy

Create in me a clean heart, O God and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from Thy presence, O Lord and take not thy Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation and renew a right spirit within me.

\* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, people of God, to know again who you are,  
return to the One who gives you life.

**We come as children of God,  
longing for a closer walk with our Creator.**

Come, all who are thirsty for living water.

Open yourselves to the One who supplies it.

**We would drink this day from the spiritual depths,  
seeking to know and experience life's meaning.**

Gather as people of faith, embracing renewal  
eager for reconciliation with God and humankind.

**We have assembled to hear for ourselves  
the good news Christ brings to all people.**

God meets and accepts us where we are,  
helping us to know ourselves as we are known.

**We will worship with enthusiastic expectation,  
anticipating salvation in our lives and relationships.**

\* INVOCATION PRAYER

Let us pray together:

**God, whom we revere and in whom we hope,  
awaken all our senses to the meaning of Christ's coming.**

**Baptize us with the Holy Spirit  
and with fire that we may be alert to opportunities  
for faithful witness and deeds of service.**

**We would welcome one another  
in this service of worship as Christ has welcomed us.**

**Grant us your joy and peace as we learn and serve together.  
Amen.**

\* HYMN #182

*I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

KINGSFOLD

1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;  
2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give  
3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;



lay down, O wea-ry one, lay down your head up-on my breast."  
 the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."  
 look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."

I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad; I  
 I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life-giv - ing stream; my  
 I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun; and

found in him a rest - ing place, and he has made me glad.  
 thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.  
 in that light of life I'll walk till trav-eling days are done.

\* CALL TO CONFESSION

Pete Maffia

In the Bible we encounter persons whose memories were short when it came to remembering all God's blessings or recalling their own unfaithfulness. These same people could recount every moment of suffering, every time when God seemed to fail them, all those situations in which life seemed unfair. We are a lot like our biblical ancestors. Like them, we need a broader view of divine majesty and our own place in creation. Let us come to God, recognizing how unworthy we are to approach the One who embraces the universe, yet believing we are known and welcomed in this Awesome Presence. Let us confess our sin. 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 majesty and power,  
we bring to you all our complaints and our hopes,  
our sadness and our joys, our fears and our faith.  
We have deplored your absence when we have needed help,  
your unresponsiveness when our hearts cried out for assurance,  
your unfairness when we have suffered losses and disappointments.  
How can we believe in you, O God?  
And how can you love us?  
We have been quick to excuse our own faithlessness  
and slow to acknowledge your continuing patience and generosity.  
We have used religion to divert attention from our waywardness,  
and pretensions of righteousness  
as a substitute for genuine commitment.  
Have mercy on us, O God,  
as we bare our souls before your throne of grace.  
Grant us the capacity to change for the better  
and the will to do our part to accomplish that change, in Jesus' name.**  
*(moment of silent confession)*

\* KYRIE

*Return to God  
(Cantor)*

Return to God with all your heart, the source of grace and mercy;  
come seek the tender faithfulness of God.

*(Congregation)*

**Return to God with all your heart, the source of grace and mercy;  
come seek the tender faithfulness of God.**

\* ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear God's word of forgiveness  
as it comes to us through the experience of our religious forebears:  
"While we were still weak, at the right time,  
Christ died for the ungodly...  
while we were enemies we were reconciled to God  
by the death of God's Own Child . . .  
through Jesus Christ, we have now received reconciliation with God."  
Believe these words! Live by them!  
God, in Christ, is empowering you for a new life of faithfulness and service.  
**Thanks be to God.**

\* 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 #204

*Stay with Me*  
(Cantor)

STAY WITH ME

Stay with me; remain here with me; watch and pray. Watch and pray.

(Congregation)

**Stay with me; remain here with me; watch and pray. Watch and pray.**

#### OFFERTORY INVITATION

Please be seated.

When we stop to consider the amazing riches

God has provided on this planet, how thankful we should be.

Good soil and water give us food in abundance.

Gifts of the Spirit grant life with eternity in it.

Let us express our wonder and gratitude

through our offering of tithes and lives.

The offering will now be received.

#### OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Give Me Jesus*

arr. L.L Flemming

Oh, when I am alone, oh, when I am alone, oh, when I am alone, Give me Jesus.

Oh, when I come to die, oh, when I come to die, oh, when I come to die, Give me Jesus.

And when I want to sing, and when I want to sing, and when I want to sing, Give me Jesus.

Give me Jesus, give me Jesus you can have all the rest, Give me Jesus.

\* DOXOLOGY #215

*What Wondrous Love Is This*

WONDROUS LOVE

**To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing, to God and to the Lamb, I will sing.**

**To God and to the Lamb who is the great I am, while millions join the theme,**

**I will sing, I will sing; while millions join the theme, I will sing!**

\* OFFERTORY PRAYER

Pete Maffia

Let us join our voices in prayer:

**These gifts express our gratitude**

**for your lavish outpouring of love in Jesus Christ**

**and your generous provision for all our needs.**

**We dedicate our tithes and offerings**

**for use in the fields that are ripe for harvest.**

**May this money, along with our words and deeds,**

**make an effective witness to Jesus Christ as the Savior of the World.**

**Amen.**

\* OFFERTORY RESPONSE

*We Give Thee But Thine Own*

J.S. Bach

We give Thee but Thine own, whate'er the gift may be.

All that we have is Thine alone, a trust, O Lord from Thee. Amen.

# WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Living God, through the reading of the Scriptures  
and by the power of your Spirit,  
may we hear for ourselves the good news,  
and believe, because of your Word,  
that Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world. Amen.**

## THE READINGS

Psalm 95 (*Congregation sings the refrain*)

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of three systems of music. The first system is a single melodic line with the lyrics: "If to-day you hear his voice, hard-en not your hearts." The second system includes three verses of lyrics with guitar chords: E, Bm7/D, A/C#, and B7ADD2. The third system includes three verses of lyrics with guitar chords: Amaj7, E/G#, F#m/B, and B. The lyrics for the second system are: "1. Come, let us ring out our joy to the LORD; hail the rock who saves us. 2. O come; let us bow and bend low. Let us kneel before the God who made us, 3. O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,". The lyrics for the third system are: "1. Let us come into his presence, giv-ing thanks; let us hail him with a song of praise. 2. for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture, the flock that is led by his hand. 3. as on that day at Massah in the desert {when your forebears put me to the test; } {when they tried me, though they saw my work.'"

Torah

Exodus 17:1-7 (Inclusive Bible)

The Israelites left the desert of Syn to travel by stages, as YHWH had directed them. They camped at Rephidim, but found no drinking water. Again they turned on Moses, saying, "Give us drinking water." Moses replied, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test YHWH?" But the people were thirsty, and complained even more to Moses. "Why did you bring us out of Egypt only to make us and our children and our livestock die of thirst?" Moses appealed to YHWH. "What am I to do with these people? They are ready to stone me!"

YHWH answered Moses, "Take some of the elders and move to the front of the people. Take with you the staff with which you struck the Nile. Go! I will wait for you there by the rock of Horeb.

Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink.”  
And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders. Moses named the place Massah,  
“Testing,” and Meribah, “Quarreling,” for the Israelites tested YHWH when they said,  
“Is YHWH with us or not?”

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

**With God’s help we are listening.**

Gospel

John 4:5-42 (Inclusive Bible)

Jesus stopped at Sychar, a town in Samaria, near the tract of land Jacob had given to his son Joseph, and Jacob’s Well was there. Jesus, weary from the journey, came and sat by the well. It was around noon.

When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” The disciples had gone off to the town to buy provisions.

The Samaritan woman replied, “You’re a Jew. How can you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?”—since Jews had nothing to do with Samaritans.

Jesus answered, “If only you recognized God’s gift, and who it is that is asking you for a drink, you would ask him for a drink instead, and he would have given you living water.”

“If you please,” she challenged Jesus, “you don’t have a bucket and this well is deep. Where do you expect to get this ‘living water’? Surely you don’t pretend to be greater than our ancestors Leah and Rachel and Jacob, who gave us this well and drank from it with their descendants and flocks?”

Jesus replied, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again.

But those who drink the water I give them will never be thirsty; no, the water I give will become fountains within them, springing up to provide eternal life.”

The woman said to Jesus, “Give me this water, so that I won’t grow thirsty and have to keep coming all the way here to draw water.”

Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband and then come back here.”

“I don’t have a husband,” replied the woman. “You’re right—you don’t have a husband!” Jesus exclaimed. “The fact is, you’ve had five, and the man you’re living with now is not your husband. So what you’ve said is quite true.”

“I can see you’re a prophet,” answered the woman. “Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but your people claim that Jerusalem is the place where God ought to be worshiped.”

Jesus told her, “Believe me, the hour is coming when you’ll worship Abba God neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. Your people worship what you don’t understand; we worship what we do understand—after all, salvation is from the Jewish people.

Yet the hour is coming—and is already here—when real worshipers will worship Abba God in Spirit and truth. Indeed, it is just such worshipers whom Abba God seeks. God is Spirit, and those who worship God must worship in spirit and truth.”

The woman said to Jesus, “I know that the Messiah—the Anointed One—is coming and will tell us everything.” Jesus replied, “I who speak to you am the Messiah.” The disciples, returning at this point, were shocked to find Jesus having a private conversation with a woman. But no one dared to ask, “What do you want of him?” or “Why are you talking with her?”

The woman then left her water jar and went off into the town. She said to people, “Come and see someone who told me everything I have ever done! Could this be the Messiah?” At that, everyone set out from town to meet Jesus.

Meanwhile, the disciples were urging Jesus, “Rabbi, eat something.” But Jesus told them, “I have food to eat that you know nothing about.” At this, the disciples said to one another, “Do you think someone has brought him something to eat?” Jesus replied to them, “Doing the will of the One who sent me and bringing this work to completion is my food. Don’t you have a saying, ‘Four months more and it will be harvest time’?”

I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields—they’re ripe and ready for harvest! Reapers are already collecting their wages; they’re gathering fruit for eternal life, and sower and reaper will rejoice together.

So the saying is true: ‘One person sows, another reaps.’ I have sent you to reap what you haven’t worked for. Others have done the work, and you’ve come upon the fruits of their labors.”

Many Samaritans from that town believed in Jesus on the strength of the woman’s testimony—that “he told me everything I ever did.” The result was that, when these Samaritans came to Jesus, they begged him to stay with them awhile. So Jesus stayed there two days, and through his own spoken word many more came to faith.

They told the woman, “No longer does our faith depend on your story. We’ve heard for ourselves, and we know that this really is the savior of the world.”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

PASTOR’S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams  
“Living God, Living Water”

\* THE NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son  
is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. 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.**

1 I've got peace like a riv - er; I've got peace like a  
2 I've got joy like a foun-tain; I've got joy like a  
3 I've got love like an o - cean; I've got love like an

1  
riv - er; I've got peace like a riv - er, in my  
foun-tain; I've got joy like a foun-tain, in my  
o - cean; I've got love like an o - cean, in my

2  
soul. I've got riv - er, in my soul.  
soul. I've got foun-tain, in my soul.  
soul. I've got o - cean, in my soul.



\* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

We have been together to worship God,  
in spirit and truth, to find refreshing water and nourishing food.

**We have received "springs of living water,"  
and "our food is to do the will of God."**

In our separate places at home and at work,  
God continues to supply our every need.

**We will take time to be nourished by God  
and will seek to share God's gifts with others.**

"Rejoice in your suffering,  
knowing that suffering produces endurance.

**Endurance produces character, character produces hope,  
and hope does not disappoint us.**

God's love has been poured into our hearts  
through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us."

**We receive God's Spirit to empower our living,  
one day at a time, through the coming week.**

\* CHORAL RESPONSE

*Polyphonic Amen*

Russell Wichmann

POSTLUDE

*Carillon*

Louis Vierne

*"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:**

Balavaju, Victor Georgiev, Clarence Niles, Linda Marsh, Rosa Buccino,  
Doris and Gus Ellis, Bruce Arnoff, Todd St. Clair, George, Tralaina, Patricia Gerard,  
Dorland, Barbara Maloney, John Davis, Gail Harris, Fletcher Hattis, Addie Singleton,  
Sandy Colombo, Jayne Zborowsky, Charles Rabb, Tony and Annie Carlos,  
Courtney Knapp, Bruce Baunach, JoAnn Hood,  
Gwen and Bob Baus, Judy and Frank Macuga, the Welton family

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](http://firstprescle.org/giving)



Mail to:

The First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland  
Attn: Financial Office  
1380 Ontario Street  
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*

91 Public Square, Cleveland, Ohio 44113-2058

**Phone:** 216-241-6145    **Fax:** 216-241-6149

**Website:** [www.OldStoneChurch.org](http://www.OldStoneChurch.org)    **E-Mail:** [info@OldStoneChurch.org](mailto:info@OldStoneChurch.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

Leah Jennings Brown, *soprano*

Kaya Sparks, *soprano*

Val Sibila, *soprano*

Christian Bush, *tenor*

Noah Whitaker, *tenor*

Rayna Brooks, *alto*

Reese Henrick, *alto*

Morgan Potts, *alto*

R. Dominic Aragon, *bass*

Christopher Clark, *bass*

Albert Donze, *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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