



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CLEVELAND

APRIL 26, 2026
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
10AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

Seek Ye First

arr. Lynne Hollander

WELCOME

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

INTROIT

The King of Love My Shepherd Is arr. Mack Wilberg

The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his, and he is mine for ever.

Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed soul he leadeth,
and where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.

And so through all the length of days thy goodness faileth never:
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house for ever.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Our shepherd invites us to this time of worship;
our God leads us by refreshing waters.

**As we share our lives with one another
our souls are restored.**

God leads us in paths of righteousness
and adds to our company day by day.

**We would devote ourselves to the gospel
and remember one another in our prayers.**

God supplies our daily bread
for both body and soul.

**We will partake of physical and spiritual food
with glad and generous hearts.**

Remember the One in whose name we worship,
Jesus Christ, who died amidst the world's suffering.

**Christ came that all might have an abundant life;
we acknowledge and rejoice in this gift.**

* INVOCATION PRAYER

Let us pray together:

**Lead us now, O God,
through the maze of our existence,
as you led your people long ago.
Keep us from resisting your word of judgment
or shrinking from the challenges of discipleship.
Call us by name
and show us the pathways you would have us travel.
In Jesus' name.
Amen.**

* HYMN #803

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

RESIGNATION

1 My shep-herd will sup - ply my need; Je - ho - vah is his name.
2 When I walk through the shades of death your pres-ence is my stay;
3 The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at - tend me all my days;

In pas - tures fresh he makes me feed, be - side the liv - ing stream.
 one word of your sup - port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way.
 O may your house be my a - bode, and all my work be praise.

He brings my wan - dering spir - it back when I for - sake his ways,
 Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my ta - ble spread;
 There would I find a set - tled rest, while oth - ers go and come;

and leads me, for his mer - cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.
 my cup with bless - ings o - ver - flows; your oil a - noints my head.
 no more a strang - er, or a guest, but like a child at home.

The effectiveness of this beloved paraphrase of Psalm 23 owes much to the flowing shape note melody that serves as a "living stream" to carry the text, which in turn has been given a remarkable clarity and lightness through the poet's masterful use of single-syllable words.

TEXT: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.

MUSIC: U.S.A. folk melody; Lewis's *Beauties of Harmony*, 1828; harm. Dale Grotenhuis, 1986
Music Harm. © 1990 Dale Grotenhuis

RESIGNATION

CMD

(alternate harmonization, 74)

* CALL TO CONFESSION

Elie Medie

The Scriptures compare us to sheep who have gone astray.
 As sheep seem not to see beyond the next tuft of grass,
 we seem to be attracted to the immediate temptation.
 We become ravenous consumers
 rather than good stewards of God's abundance.
 Christ calls us to respond to the Shepherd's voice.
 Let us join our voices in the corporate prayer of confession,
 followed by time for personal silent confession.
 Thus, we pray:

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God,
we do not want to admit that our possessions possess us.
Yet we do seem captive to all the things we have acquired
and all the things we want.
We are reluctant to share too much,
lest we be deprived of the comforts we cherish.
We do not want to suffer for our faith.
There are limits to our willingness to follow Jesus.
O God, help us trust you beyond these limits.**

(moment of silent confession)

* KYRIE

Choir

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord have mercy upon us.

Congregation

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord have mercy upon us.

* ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God provides for us as a good shepherd provides for a flock of sheep,
seeking green pastures and still waters for us
even in periods of famine and drought.
In fearful times, amid loss,
the Shepherd's care is always available.
Surely God's goodness and mercy will restore all
who give up their own pretensions in order to live in community,
with glad and generous hearts.

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

Sing of One Who Walks Beside Us

HOLY MANNA

**Sing of one who walks beside us and this day is living still,
One who now is closer to us than the thoughts our hearts distill,
One who once upon a hilltop raised against the power of sin,
Died in love as his own creatures crucified their God and King.**

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Please be seated.
Our cups overflow with the abundance of God's mercy.
There is more than enough for all when we who break bread together
are willing to share ourselves and our possessions.
We offer Christ's healing example to a world shattered by selfishness,
strangers to God and one another.
The offering will now be received.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Thou Visitest the Earth

Maurice Greene

Thou visitest the earth
And blessest it
And crownest the year
The year with thy goodness

* DOXOLOGY #609

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise, God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures high and low.
Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Praise God, in Jesus fully known; Creator, Word, and Spirit one.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

Elie Medie

Let us join our voices in prayer:

**Remembering Jesus Christ, who bore our sins,
we bring these tokens of our gratitude.
We would die to sin and live righteously,
in thanksgiving for Christ's sacrifice for us.
May we as a church of generous and joyful people
use these offerings in ways that reflect renewed discipleship.
Amen.**

* OFFERTORY RESPONSE

I Will Always Give Thanks

Eric Thiman

I will always give thanks, give thanks unto the Lord,
His praises will ever be in my mouth!

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Loving God,
we pray that your Holy Spirit will strengthen us
to be devoted to the teachings of your Word,
that through it we may hear your voice
and follow it into eternal life.
Amen.**

THE READINGS

Epistle The Acts of the Apostles 2:42-47 (Inclusive Bible)

They devoted themselves to the apostles' instructions and the communal life, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. A reverent fear overtook them all, for many wonders and signs were being performed by the apostles. Those who believed lived together, shared all things in common; they would sell their property and goods, sharing the proceeds with one another as each had need. They met in the Temple and they broke bread together in their homes every day. With joyful and sincere hearts they took their meals in common, praising God and winning the approval of all the people. Day by day, God added to their number those who were being saved.

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

With God's help we are listening.

“The truth of the matter is, whoever doesn’t enter the sheepfold through the gate but climbs in some other way is a thief and a robber. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep, the one for whom the keeper opens the gate. The sheep know the shepherd’s voice; the shepherd calls them by name and leads them out. Having led them all out of the fold, the shepherd walks in front of them and they follow because they recognize the shepherd’s voice. They simply won’t follow strangers—they’ll flee from them because they don’t recognize the voice of strangers.”

Even though Jesus used this metaphor with them, they didn’t grasp what he was trying to tell them. He therefore said to them again: “The truth of the matter is, I am the sheep gate. All who came before me were thieves and marauders whom the sheep didn’t heed. I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be safe—you’ll go in and out and find pasture.

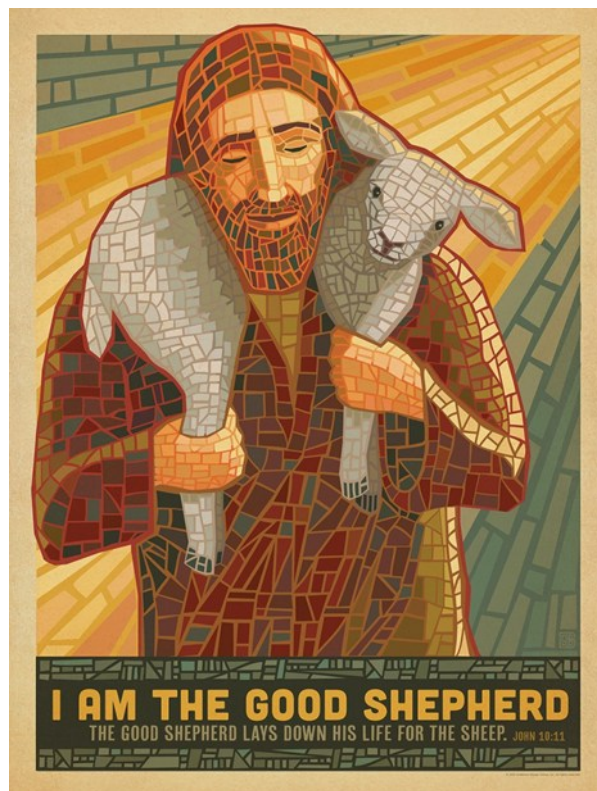
The thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy.
I came that you might have life and have it to the full.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR’S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams
“Shepherd and Flock”



* THE APOSTLE'S 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.**

I Come with Joy
(Verses 1, 4 and 5)

Capo 3: (D) (G) (A) (D) (Bm)
F B^b C F Dm

1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
 2 I come with Chris-tians far and near to find, as all are
 3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has

(Asus) (Am) (G) (F#m) (D)
Csus Cm B^b Am F

free, the life of Je - sus to re - call, in
 fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
 near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
 done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the

(Em) (D/F#) (G) (A) (Am7) (D)
Gm F/A B^b C Cm7 F

love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
 Christ's com-mu - nion bread, in Christ's com-mu - nion bread.
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This text affirms that Christian unity is not achievement but gift, one renewed each time we gather for the Lord's Supper. Each of us enters as an "I" and leaves as part of "we." The unadorned language of this text is well matched to the simple shape note tune that sets it here.

TEXT: Brian Wren, 1968; rev. 1993
 MUSIC: American folk melody; arr. Austin C. Lovelace, 1977
 Text © 1971, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company
 Music Arr. © 1977 Hope Publishing Company

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

In growing obedience to the One whom faith reveals,
take your part in the ministry of Christ Jesus.

**We join with the whole church in prayer,
attention to the Word, and acts of charity.**

Listen for the prompting of the Holy Spirit,
who offers you wisdom and understanding.

**We rejoice in God's gift of the law,
praying for insight and courage to live by it.**

May the Spirit grant you life so abundant
that you will experience new energy for every task.

**In covenant with the Creator of all worlds,
we devote ourselves to the best interests of all people in this world,
in Jesus' name.**

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Amen

anon.

POSTLUDE

Canticle: Meditative based on *He Leadeth Me* Charles Callahan

*“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:

Lulu Myers, Balavaju, Victor Georgiev, Clarence Niles, Linda Marsh,
Anthony Buccino, Rosa Buccino, Tralaina Davis, Dorland, Addie Singleton,
Rachael Adam, Sandy Colombo, Sarah Ritari, Rajvinder Kaur, Mary Orr, Sue Blazek,
JoAnn Hood, Charles Rabb, Tony & Annie Carlos, the Jackson-Dix 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.



Please join us for Communion following the service this morning in the Chapel.

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



@The First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland

Sunday April 26 Fourth Sunday of Easter

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

12:00PM Stated Session Meeting/Cuyahoga Room

12:00PM Deacons Meeting/Conference Room

Tuesday April 28

12:15PM Tuesday AA Meeting/Cuyahoga Room

7:00PM Commentary on the Gospel of John/ZOOM

Wednesday April 29

11:00AM Stirring Up Hope Soup Pantry

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Sunday May 3 Fifth Sunday of Easter

10:00AM Jazz Worship with Communion/Sanctuary

12:00PM Welcome and Fellowship Committee/
Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument Tour

Tuesday May 5 Election Day

12:15PM Tuesday AA Meeting/Cuyahoga Room

7:00PM Commentary on the Gospel of John/ZOOM

Wednesday May 6

11:00AM Stirring Up Hope Soup Pantry

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

6:30PM Welcome and Fellowship Committee Meeting/ZOOM

Sunday May 10 Sixth Sunday of Easter/Mother's Day

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

12:00PM Handbell Rehearsal/Gallery

1:40PM Guardians-Twins/Progressive Field

Tuesday May 12

12:15PM Tuesday AA Meeting/Cuyahoga Room

7:00PM Commentary on the Gospel of John/ZOOM

Wednesday May 13

11:00AM Stirring Up Hope Soup Pantry

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Thursday May 14

2:00PM Worship Committee Meeting/ZOOM

Saturday May 16 Marathon Weekend

All Day Cleveland Marathon

Last Sunday Attendance In-Person:89 Online:251

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

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

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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*

Anthony Steward, *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

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Class of 2027
Dave Eifert

Class of 2027
Bruce Kranicz

Class of 2027
Mike Musson

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