



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CLEVELAND

MAY 10, 2026
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
10AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

Préambule

Lois Vierne

WELCOME

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

INTROIT

If Ye Love Me

Thomas Tallis

If ye love me keep my commandments
And I will pray the Father and he shall give you another comforter
That he may 'bide with you forever e'en the spirit of truth.

* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Come to the source of all truth,
to the author of life.

**We dare to approach our Creator
in humility and thanksgiving.**

God calls us away from worship of things,
from idols that block our view of God.

**God is unknown to us
only when we have shut off the contact.**

In Christ, God comes to us again, saying,
"I will not leave you desolate."

**We need the Counselor who will listen to us,
who will hear our evil and not turn away.**

Let us open our lives to the Spirit of Truth,
as we seek new life in Christ.

* INVOCATION PRAYER

Let us pray together:

**Loving God,
in whom we live and move and have our being,
dwell with us here,
transforming the landscape of our souls
and granting the nourishment we need.
We are hungry for your truth and thirsty for real peace.
Hear our prayer and praise.
Turn us away from evil.
Prepare us for life.
Amen.**

* HYMN

Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth

JULIAN

1. Moth-er - ing God, you gave me birth in the bright
2. Moth-er - ing Christ, you took my form, of - fer - ing
3. Moth-er - ing Spir - it, nur - t'ring one, in arms of

morn - ing of this world. Cre - a - tor, Source of
 me your food of light, grain of life, and
 pa - tience hold me close, so that in faith I

ev - 'ry breath, you are my rain, my wind, my
 grape of love, your ver - y bod - y for my
 root and grow un - til I flow'r, un - til I

sun; you are my rain, my wind, my sun.
 peace; your ver - y bod - y for my peace.
 know; un - til I flow'r, un - til I know.

WORDS: Jean Janzen, 1991, based on the writings of Julian of Norwich (14th century)
 MUSIC: Brent Stratten, 1994

JULIAN
 LM w. repeat

Words © 1991 Jean Janzen; music © 1995 Chalice Press

♩=52-58

* CALL TO CONFESSION

Don Urban

We have been baptized and claimed
 in the name of Jesus Christ for a lifetime of service.
 Yet we are often intimidated by our fears and seduced by our fantasies.
 We worship autonomy and deny community.
 We ignore the commandments God has given us.
 We need to face our guilt. God demands our repentance.
 Let us join our voices in the corporate prayer of confession,
 followed by time for silent personal confession.
 Thus, we pray:

* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God,
we confess that we have loved our own way more than we love you.
The Spirit of truth does not abide in us,
for our actions belie the words of praise we utter in worship.
We neglect the spiritual disciplines that would draw us close to you
and the caring outreach that would link us with sisters and brothers
who need to know of your love.
We have not witnessed to our faith
in ways powerful enough to evoke opposition or cause us to suffer.
O God, it is hard to follow Jesus!
Forgive us, teach us, help us!**

(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

You are not left to struggle alone.
You have an Advocate who is always with you.
You are not rejected.
God hears your prayers and offers you steadfast love in all circumstances.
Do not be afraid to hope, and to share that hope with others around you.
Claim God's gifts of reverence and gentleness
as you testify to the resurrection.
Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good?

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 #582 *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me.*

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Please be seated.

Our spiritual ancestors brought sacrifices as offerings to God.

We are invited to join them in bringing our best
to proclaim God's rule over all things.

God claims our labors and the fruit of our labors.

In response we offer them gladly.

The offering will now be received.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *All That Hath Life and Breath Praise Ye the Lord!*

René Clausen

All that hath life and breath praise ye the Lord, shout to the Lord, alleluia!
Praise the Lord with joyful song, sing to the Lord with thanksgiving, alleluia, praise Him!

All that hath life and breath praise ye the Lord, sing to the Lord a new-made song,
praise His name, alleluia!

Unto thee, O Lord, have I made supplication, and cried unto the rock of my salvation;
but thou hast heard my voice, and renewed my weary spirit.

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation.
O my soul praise Him for He is thy health and salvation.

* DOXOLOGY #609 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessing Flow*

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

Don Urban

Let us join our voices in prayer:

**Eternal God,
beyond the limitations of silver and gold,
we bring to your altar what is valuable to us,
that you may bless and multiply our efforts to make faithful response.
We would send our best for the sake of the poor and the needy,
recognizing that we also have need of what others can share with us.
We depend on your love,
received day by day and passed on by each of us
to all who journey through life together.
Thank you for all your gifts.
Amen.**

* OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Grant Us Lord

STUTT GART

Grant us, Lord, the grace of giving with a spirit large and free,
that ourselves and all our living we may offer unto thee. Amen.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Come, Holy Spirit, our helper and advocate:
Open our hearts and minds this day,
entice us with your presence.
Spark us with a word of life—
a message that we may share with others
as we seek to live Christ's love in the world.
All this we ask in the name of God,
who creates, redeems, and sustains us.
Amen.**

THE READINGS

Epistle

Acts of the Apostles 17:22-31 (Inclusive Bible)

Then Paul stood up before the council of the Areopagus and delivered this address: "Citizens of Athens, I note that in every respect you are scrupulously religious. As I walked about looking at your shrines, I even discovered an altar inscribed, 'To an Unknown God.' Now, what you are worshiping in ignorance I intend to make known to you.

For the God who made the world and all that is in it, the Sovereign of heaven and earth, doesn't live in sanctuaries made by human hands, and isn't served by humans, as if in need of anything. No! God is the One who gives everyone life, breath—everything. From one person God created all of humankind to inhabit the entire earth, and set the time for each nation to exist and the exact place where each nation should dwell. God did this so that human beings would seek, reach out for, and perhaps find the One who is not really far from any of us—the One in whom we live and move and have our being.

As one of your poets has put it, 'We too are God's children.'

If we are in fact children of God, then it's inexcusable to think that the Divine Nature is like an image of gold, silver or stone—an image formed by the art and thought of mortals. God, who overlooked such ignorance in the past, now commands all people everywhere to reform their lives. For a day has been set when the whole world will be judged with justice. And this judge, who is a human being, has already been appointed. God has given proof of all this by raising this judge from the dead."

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

With God's help we are listening.

Gospel

John 14:15-21 (Inclusive Bible)

“If you love me and obey the command I give you, I will ask the One who sent me to give you another Paraclete, another Helper to be with you always—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot accept since the world neither sees her nor recognizes her; but you can recognize the Spirit because she remains with you and will be within you. I won’t leave you orphaned; I will come back to you.

A little while now and the world will see me no more; but you’ll see me; because I live, and you will live as well. On that day you’ll know that I am in God, and you are in me, and I am in you. Those who obey the commandments are the ones who love me, and those who love me will be loved by Abba God. I, too, will love them and will reveal myself to them.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR’S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

“The One in Whom We Live and Move and Have Our Being”



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.**

Capo 1: (G) (Am) (C) (G) (Em)
 A^b B^bm D^b A^b Fm

1 Womb of life and source of be - ing, home of ev - ery
 2 Word in flesh, our broth - er Je - sus, born to bring us
 3 Brood - ing Spir - it, move a - mong us; be our part - ner,
 4 Moth - er, Broth - er, ho - ly Part - ner; Fa - ther, Spir - it,

(C) (Dsus)(D) (G) (G7) (C)
 D^b E^bsus E^b A^b A^b7 D^b

rest - less heart, in your arms the worlds a - wak - ened;
 sec - ond birth, you have come to stand be - side us,
 be our friend. When our mem - ory fails, re - mind us
 On - ly Son: we would praise your name for - ev - er,

(Am) (Dsus)(D) (Am)
 B^bm E^bsus E^b B^bm

you have loved us from the start. We, your chil - dren,
 know - ing weak - ness, know - ing earth. Priest who shares our
 whose we are, what we in - tend. La - bor with us;
 one - in - three and three - in - one. We would share your

(C) (G) (Am) (G) (D) (Em)
 D^b A^b B^bm A^b E^b Fm

gath - er 'round you, at the ta - ble you pre - pare. Shar - ing
 hu - man strug - gles, Life of Life and Death of Death, ris - en
 aid the birth - ing of the new world yet to be, free of
 life, your pas - sion, share your word of world made new, ev - er

(Bm) (D) (G) (G7) (C) (D7) (G)
 Cm E^b A^b A^b7 D^b E^b7 A^b

sto - ries, tears, and laugh - ter, we are nur - tured by your care.
 Christ, come stand a - mong us, send the Spir - it by your breath.
 ser - vant, lord, and mas - ter, free for love and u - ni - ty.
 sing - ing, ev - er prais - ing, one with all, and one with you.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Old and new metaphors drawn from Psalm 23; John 1:14, 14:26, 20:19–23; Hebrews 5:1–10; and Genesis 1:1–2 combine here to express faith in and praise to the Triune God, identified as Source, Word, and Spirit. The second line of stanza two is adapted from Charles Wesley (see no. 119).

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Go forth, with gentleness and reverence,
to proclaim the hope that is in you.

**We have sensed Mystery no words can explain,
reality that transcends our human limitations.**

All who love life and long to see good days,
keep your tongues from evil deception.

**The Spirit of Truth has come to us;
we would keep faith with the God who loves us.**

You are called to seek peace, to pursue it,
to turn evil away with deeds of kindness.

**God's love for all humankind unites us
as one family and one nation on this planet.**

Do not shrink from sacrifice and suffering
when your cause is right and just.

**Without arrogant pretension, we work for justice
and give ourselves away that others may live.**

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Amen

African American

POSTLUDE

Now the Spring Has Come Again

Robert Elmore

*“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:

Corine and Joseph McCalpine, Laurie Thomson, Tom LaRosa, Reene,
Carlos, Priscella, Anthony Buccino, Rosa Buccino, Sandy Colombo, Tralaina Davis,
Dorland, Addie Singleton, Rajvinder Kaur, Mary Orr, Sue Blazek,
Gwen and Elizabeth Baus, JoAnn Hood, the Jackson-Dix family

We pray for the repose of the soul of Bob Baus,
may his 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.



@ The First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland

Sunday May 10 Sixth Sunday of Easter/Mothers 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

All Day Cleveland Marathon

Sunday May 17/Ascension Sunday/Marathon Sunday

All Day Cleveland Marathon

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

11:30AM Mission and Urban Wellness Committee Meeting/
Cuyahoga Room/Second Floor

Tuesday May 19

12:15PM Tuesday AA Meeting/Cuyahoga Room

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

Wednesday May 20

11:00AM Stirring Up Hope Soup Pantry

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Thursday May 21

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

Friday May 22

2:00PM Wedding Rehearsal/Jacob-Stupica/Sanctuary

Saturday May 23

3:00PM Wedding/Jacob-Stupica/Sanctuary

Sunday May 24/Day of Pentecost

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

12:00PM Stated Session Meeting/Conference Room

Monday May 25/Memorial Day

All Day Building and Offices Closed

Last Sunday Attendance In-Person:84 Online:336

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

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

Music copied under ccli#1638695

onelicense#A-742406

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

Church Trustees:

Class of 2027

Dave Eifert

Class of 2027

Bruce Kranicz

Class of 2027

Mike Musson

By entering The First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland and by your presence here, you consent to be photographed, filmed, livestreamed, and/or otherwise recorded.

Your entry constitutes your consent to such photography, filming, livestreaming, and/or recording and to any use, in any media for The First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland . Thank you.