



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CLEVELAND

JUNE 21, 2026
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
10AM Sanctuary Worship

* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

Psalm 86 1-10 and 16-17



Be with me, Lord, when
I am in trou-ble. Be with me,
Lord, when I am in trou-ble.

1. Bow down your ear, O Lord, and answer me, for I am poor and in misery.
2. Keep watch over my life, for I am faithful; save your servant who trusts in you.
3. Be merciful to me, O Lord, for you are my God; I call upon you all the day long.
4. Gladden the soul of your servant, for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. **Refrain**

5. For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving,
and abundant in mercy to all who call upon you.
6. Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer, and attend to the voice of my supplications.
7. In the time of my trouble I will call upon you, for you will answer me.
8. Among the gods there is none like you, O Lord, nor anything like your works.
9. All the nations, you have made will come and worship you, O Lord,
and glorify your name.
10. For you are great, you do wondrous things; and you alone are God. **Refrain**

16. Turn to me and have mercy on me;
give your strength to your servant, and save the child of your handmaid.
17. Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it
and be put to shame;
because you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me. **Refrain**

WELCOME

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Amanda Powell

INTROIT

Lord, My Petition Heed

William Sherwin

Lead me to do your will, in me your truth be still,
teach me your word. I will give thanks to you, your praise I will pursue,
all glory be to you, O Lord my God!

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Come together, disciples of Jesus,
who dwell in the shadow of the Most High.

God is our refuge and fortress.

We will not fear daytime threats or nighttime terror.

God promises to keep you wherever you go.
There is nowhere you can go that God is not.

Surely God is in this place;

this is the house of God and the gate of heaven.

God continues to value your uniqueness
and sends salvation for your patient endurance.

We have known God's grace as a free gift;

God's love surrounds us and supports us.

Let Christ be your teacher and example
and the Holy Spirit, your inspiration and guide.

When God calls we will answer;

with our whole lives we will serve our God.

* INVOCATION PRAYER

Let us pray together:

Holy God, come to us in our distress.

We are weary of conflict

and long for your healing waters of forgiveness and renewal.

You have sent us a teacher to draw us into discipleship,

and we have found fulfillment when we are faithful to Christ's call.

We long to find peace as we serve,

but more often we encounter a sword.

Our disagreements are many, and our capacity to forgive is strained.

Send your light that we might not falter in our caring

and in the proclamation of your good news.

Amen.

1 Lift ev - ery voice and sing till earth and heav - en
2 Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - tening
3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent

ring, ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er -
rod, felt in the days when hope un - born had the
tears, thou who hast brought us thus far on the

ty. Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - tening
died. Yet, with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry
way; thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the

skies; let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
feet come to the place for which our par - ents sighed?
light, keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.

Initially a poem for a school assembly at which Booker T. Washington spoke on Lincoln's birthday in 1900, this text and tune have gained national recognition and devotion, not only within the African American community, but also among all who seek liberation from oppression.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
 We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;
 Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee;

sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought
 we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh -
 lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get

us. Fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be -
 tered, out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at
 thee; shad - owed be - neath thy hand may we for - ev - er

gun, let us march on, till vic - to - ry is won.
 last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
 stand, true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

* CALL TO CONFESSION

Bob Heath

All of us share in the sin of humankind
that separates us from God, others, and our own best selves.
We also have available to us the free gift of God's grace.
Let us once again seek that gift as we remember and renounce our failure.
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 are afraid our wrongdoing
will be discovered and avenged.
We fear the deep recesses of our own evil and anger,
and we project them on the world around us.
Sometimes our pride gets in the way of growth.
Perhaps we have wanted to be greater than our teacher,
to avoid the taunts and betrayal Jesus endured.
Forgive us, God, for being so wrapped up in ourselves
that we can see neither our sin nor the way you value us.
Keep us from denying you in word or deed, and grant us your salvation.**
(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

By the obedience of one, Jesus Christ, you have been counted righteous.
Your prayers have reached God. You have been delivered from death to life.
Grace abounds.
Those who seem powerfully arrayed against you cannot kill your soul.
Why, even the hairs of your head are numbered.
Therefore, trust God and do not be anxious.

Alleluia and Amen!

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Rory Michael Knapp

Courtney Elizabeth Ward Knapp & Timothy Joseph Knapp (Parents)

Julie Lynn Baron & Ryan Theodore Smith (Godparents)

* 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 ##583

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest! Glory to God, glory to God,
alleluia, alleluia.**

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Please be seated.

We have received God's help and comfort.

Let us express our thanks.

We have been called into the community of disciples.

Let us offer the witness of our sharing.

We have been assured of our own worth and value.

Let us dedicate our offerings to building up others in God's love.

The offering will now be received.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Bow Down Thine Ear Psalm 86

Charles Wood

Bow down thine ear, O Lord, and hear me:
for I am poor, and in misery.

Preserve thou my soul, for I am holy:
my God, save thy servant
that putteth his trust in thee.

Be merciful unto me, O Lord:
for I will call daily upon thee.
Comfort the soul of thy servant: for unto thee,
O Lord, do I lift up my soul. Amen.

* DOXOLOGY #608

PRAISE GOD

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore.**

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

Bob Heath

Let us join our voices in prayer:

Sometimes it is hard to see results from the gifts we share.

Evil continues to thrive.

Needs multiply.

What have we accomplished with all our efforts?

Yet our faith will not be put out, and hope abounds.

We do not know what to say.

But we believe that we are heard, that you care,

and that what we are giving, by your grace,

is making a difference somewhere.

In humility we dedicate these gifts

and renew our commitment to your purposes.

Amen.

* OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Simple Gifts

SHAKER HYMN

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free,
'tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,
and when we find ourselves in the place just right,
'twill be in the valley of love and delight.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**O God, you have the power
to make a desert a place of renewal
and a cross a sign of redemption.
Send your Holy Spirit
so that we can hear you
and entrust ourselves completely to you,
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

THE READINGS

Psalter Psalm 86:1-10 (Inclusive Bible)

Open your ears, YHWH, and answer me,
for I am weak and helpless.

**Save me from death, for I am loyal to you;
protect your faithful one,
for you are my God and I trust in you.**

Have mercy on me, YHWH,
for I pray to you all day long.

**Make your faithful one glad,
for I lift my soul to you, YHWH.**

You are good and forgiving, YHWH,
full of constant love for all who call on you.

**Listen to my prayer, YHWH,
hear my cries for help.**

I call to you in times of trouble
because you answer my prayer.

**There is no god like you, YHWH,
not one who can do what you do.**

When you act, all the nations will come
and bow down before you, YHWH,
and will pay honor to your Name.

**How great you are, Worker of Marvels;
you alone are God!**

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

With God's help we are listening.

The child grew, and on the day of weaning, Sarah and Abraham held a great feast. But Sarah noticed the child that Hagar the Egyptian had borne for Abraham, playing with her child Isaac. She demanded of Abraham, "Send Hagar and her child away! I will not have this child of my attendant share in Isaac's inheritance." Abraham was greatly distressed by this because of his son Ishmael.

But God said to Abraham, "Don't be distressed about the child or about Hagar. Heed Sarah's demands, for it is through Isaac that descendants will bear your name. As for the child of Hagar the Egyptian, I will make a great nation of him as well, since he is also your offspring."

Early the next morning Abraham brought bread and a skin of water and gave it to Hagar. Then, placing the child on her back, he sent her away. She wandered off into the desert of Beersheba. When the skin of water was empty, she set the child under a bush, and sat down opposite him, about a bow-shot away. She said to herself, "Don't let me see the child die!" and she began to wail and weep. God heard the child crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven. "What is wrong, Hagar?" the angel asked. "Do not be afraid, for God has heard the child's cry. Get up, lift up the child and hold his hand; for I will make of him a great nation."

Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. She went to it and filled the skin with water, and she gave the child a drink.

God was with the boy as he grew up. He lived in the desert and became a fine archer. He made his home in the desert of Paran, and his mother found a wife for him in Egypt.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

"A Desert Place of Renewal"



* 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 *Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther;
2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,
3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,

there is no shad - ow of turn - ing with thee.
sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove
thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide,

Thou chang - est not; thy com - pas - sions they fail not.
join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row:

As thou hast been thou for - ev - er wilt be.
to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

*Or "Great is thy faithfulness, O God, Creator."

Written as a meditation on Lamentations 3:22-23, this text is one of the few hymns among the 1200 poems by this Methodist writer and pastor that has gained much currency. The tune that appears here was composed especially for these words, and the pairing has proved enduring.

Refrain

Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness!
오 신 실 하 신 주 오 신 실 하 신 주

Morn - ing by morn - ing, new mer - cies I see.
날 마 다 자 비 를 베 푸 시 며

All I have need - ed thy hand hath pro - vid - ed.
일 용 할 모 든 것 내 려 주 시 니

Great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord un - to me!
오 신 실 하 신 주 나 의 구 주

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

We are sent out as sheep in the midst of wolves,
but God is with us and evil cannot overcome us.

**We want to face evil with quiet confidence
that nothing can separate us from a loving God.**

Do not be anxious about what you will say or do,
for the Spirit will speak and act through you.

**As disciples, we are God's instruments,
channels for God's grace.**

Let us proclaim from the housetops
the love we have seen in Jesus Christ:

**Christ, our Savior and Example,
pleads our case before our Mother and Father in heaven.**

Do not grow weary in well-doing.

A disciple should be like the teacher.

**In waking and dreaming, God adds to our understanding
and enables us to witness to God's truth.**

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Amen

Anonymous

POSTLUDE

This Is My Fathers World

Arr. Michael Hassell

*“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:

Jane Hazen, John Young Jr., Dorland, Philip Sykora, Dawson,
Gabriella Brownfield, Addie Singleton, Rajvinder Kaur,
Jo'Anna Thomson and family, Pat Buchanan and family, Rosa Buccino and family,
Renita and family, Drs. Peter and Rebekah Stafford and 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 June 21

10:00AM Worship with Baptism/Sanctuary

11:15AM Mission and Urban Wellness Committee Meeting/
Cuyahoga Room/Second Floor

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

12:00PM Psalm Bible Study/Chapel

2:00PM Juneteenth Concert/Sanctuary

Wednesday June 24

11:00AM Stirring Up Hope Soup Pantry

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Sunday June 28

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

11:30AM Deacons Meeting/Conference Room

12:00PM Stated Session Meeting/Cuyahoga Room

1:40PM Guardians-Mariners/Progressive Field

Tuesday June 30

12:15PM Tuesday AA Meeting/Cuyahoga Room

Wednesday July 1

11:00AM Stirring Up Hope Soup Pantry

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

1:00PM Baltimore Childres Chorus/Sanctuary

6:00PM Welcoming & Fellowship Meeting/ZOOM

Saturday July 4/Independence Day

Sunday July 5

9:00AM Community Choir Rehearsal/Michigan Room

10:00AM Worship with Communion/Sanctuary

11:30AM Red, White and Blue Luncheon/Memorial Hall

Monday July 6

All Day Building and Offices Closed

Last Sunday Attendance In-Person:63 Online:229

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

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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

Val Sibila, *soprano*

Noah Whitaker, *tenor*

Morgan Potts, *alto*

Dominic Aragon, *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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