



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CLEVELAND

JULY 12, 2026
SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
10AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

Adoration

Florence Price

WELCOME

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

INTROIT

Let Us Make A Joyful Noise

Douglas Wagner

Let us make a joyful noise unto the Lord. Let us make a joyful noise.
Praise, O praise the Lord! And make a joyful noise evermore!

* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Welcome, strangers and sojourners, to God's realm,
where there are no aliens or visitors.

**When we are with Christ we know we belong
and our lives have a sense of direction.**

Come, all who seek to live by the Spirit,
who look beyond the needs of the flesh.

**When we are slaves to our egos we die;
when temporal powers rule us we have no life.**

All who are led by the Spirit are God's children,
heirs through Christ of life with God.

**Christ, who was raised from the dead,
dwells in us and enlivens our spirits.**

When we are in Christ we cannot escape the world,
nor be limited by its narrow understanding of life.

**In our zeal to share the wide horizons of God,
we can bear insult, reproach, and scorn.**

* INVOCATION PRAYER

Let us pray together:

**We come to you, O God, an uncertain people.
Sometimes we feel like strangers in a foreign land
even in our own homes, our jobs, among acquaintances and friends.
We are in the world and often of the world.
Yet we sense a part of us reaching for another realm
quite unlike our present space.
We do not want to escape from the world,
nor do we wish to be labeled unbalanced or hysterical.
But we long for spiritual depths
that will make some sense out of the meaningless mire
in which we sometimes lose ourselves.
O God, bring all our worlds together
and free us to let your Spirit reign in us
so we can face life with renewed confidence.
Amen.**

* HYMN #65

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

CWM RHONDDA

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah'. It is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The score consists of two staves: a treble staff and a bass staff. The lyrics are written below the staves, with three verses provided. The first verse is '1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this', the second is '2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing', and the third is '3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious'. The music is a simple, hymn-like melody with a steady rhythm.

⁴Hearing loop installed. Switch hearing aid to T-coil

bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might - y. Hold me
stream doth flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion, land me

with thy power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,
safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es

feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.
be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.
I will ev - er give to thee; I will ev - er give to thee.

Few Welsh hymns are as well known or loved as this 18th-century text that did not gain its popular tune until the early 20th century. In both its original text and in English translation, it is a stirring hymn of pilgrimage filled with vivid imagery from Hebrew Scripture.

TEXT: William Williams, 1762; stanza 1, trans. Peter Williams, 1771; stanzas 2–3, trans. William Williams, 1772
MUSIC: John Hughes, 1907

CWM RHONDDA
8.7.8.7.8.7.7

* CALL TO CONFESSION

Valorie Hempstead

Our lives are often fragmented by known evils,
by jealousy, selfishness, rebellion, cover-up of past deeds.
We are not truly free to worship
or to live until our relationship with God and others is restored.
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

**All-knowing God, there is much inside us,
and much we have done, that we would like to hide from you.
Sometimes we think no one knows the dark secrets of our hearts.
But we know, and you know,
the malignant poisons that lurk within,
destroying us and undermining our relationships.
We cannot live with the fear of being found out.
Help us to confess our guilt, face it, make restitution,
and go on to live with new freedom and spontaneity,
guided by your Spirit.**

(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

Is this not an assurance that can hearten us?

"If by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live....

You have received the spirit of adoption as heirs."

We are freed of our past burdens

to respond creatively to our membership in God's family.

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 #583

Choir

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!

Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia.

Congregation

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!

Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia.

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Please be seated.

We are debtors to God, who has given us the precious gift of life.

We were created of good seed in God's own image
that we might bear fruit for God's realm.

We have the capacity to dream and envision a better world,
free of the sin that so often seems to choke out the good.

Through our offerings we give support to our common mission.

The offering will now be received.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

You Shall Go Out with Joy

Lloyd Larson

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;
and the mountains and the hills will break forth before you;
there'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the fields
will clap, will clap their hands!
And you'll go out with joy.

* DOXOLOGY #608

PRAISE GOD

Choir

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

Congregation

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

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

Valorie Hempstead

Let us join our voices in prayer:

**We are in debt to you, O God,
for the food and water that grace our tables
and for the spiritual nourishment you offer us day by day.
With these gifts we express our gratitude
for your abundant provision.
Thank you for this opportunity to show our thanks.
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

**God of life,
by the power of your Spirit come to us now.
Plow our hearts with your living Word
until we who are broken become fertile with your love,
for we long to bear fruit in a world that is wasting.
We pray in the name of Jesus, whose charge we bear.
Amen.**

THE READINGS

Tanach

Isaiah 55:10-13 (Inclusive Bible)

“For just as from the heavens the rain and snow come down and do not return there till they have watered the earth, making it fertile and fruitful, giving seed to the sower and bread for food, so will my word be that goes forth from my mouth: it will not return to me empty, but will carry out my will, achieving the end for which I sent it.

And you will go out joyfully, and be led out in peace; the mountains and hills before you will break into cries of joy, and all the trees in the countryside will clap their hands. The cypress will grow in place of the thorn bush, the myrtle will replace the briers; and they will stand as a memorial to YHWH, an everlasting sign never to be destroyed.”

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

With God's help we are listening.



Later that day, Jesus left the house and sat down by the lake shore. Such great crowds gathered that he went and took a seat in a boat, while the crowd stood along the shore. He addressed them at length in parables: "One day, a farmer went out sowing seed. Some of the seed landed on a footpath, where birds came and ate it up. Some of the seed fell on rocky ground, where there was little soil. This seed sprouted at once since the soil had no depth, but when the sun rose and scorched it, it withered away for lack of roots. Again, some of the seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it. And some of it landed on good soil, and yielded a crop thirty, sixty, even a hundred times what was sown. Let those who have ears to hear, hear this!"

"Now listen to the parable of the sower.

When people hear the message about the kingdom of God without understanding it, the Evil One comes along and snatches away what was sown in their hearts.

This is the seed sown along the path.

Those who received the seed that fell on rocky ground are the ones who hear the word and at first welcome it with joy. But they have no roots, so they last only for a while. When some setback or persecution comes because of the message, they quickly fall away.

Those who receive the message that fell among the thorns are the ones who hear the word, but then worldly anxieties and the lure of wealth choke it off, and the message produces no fruit.

But those who receive the seed that fell on rich soil are those who hear the message and understand it.

They produce a crop that yields a hundred, or sixty or thirty times what was sown."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

"My Word That Goes Forth from My Mouth"

* 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 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no
 2 In Christ shall true hearts ev - ery - where their high com -
 3 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what - e'er your
 4 In Christ now meet both east and west; in him meet

south or north, but one great fel - low -
 mu - nion find; his ser - vice is the
 race may be. All chil - dren of the
 south and north. All Christ - ly souls are

ship of love through - out the whole wide earth.
 gold - en cord close - bind - ing hu - man - kind.
 liv - ing God are sure - ly kin to me.
 one in him through - out the whole wide earth.

This setting expands and enhances the thematic inclusiveness of an early 20th-century text by adapting the melody of a traditional spiritual to carry these words. This 1940 pairing marked the first use of African American musical material in a mainline North American hymnal.

TEXT: John Oxenham, 1908, alt.

MUSIC: African American spiritual; *Jubilee Songs*, 1884; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1940

MC KEE

CM

(alternate tune: ST. PETER, 318)

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Go forth into the world without fear,
for the Spirit of God dwells in you.

We belong to Christ and our spirits are alive.

We have been raised with Christ to new vitality.

The Spirit bears witness with our spirits
that we are children of God.

**If we are God's children, we are also heirs,
heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ.**

Christ lived as God intends us to live
and suffered because he was true to God.

**We may have to suffer with Christ
if we are to know the meaning of Christianity.**

Suffering for God can be a joy
to those who are faithful.

**All creation waits with eager longing
to see the work God's children do.**

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Amen

Anonymous

POSTLUDE

Veni Creator Spiritu

Dom Paul Benoit

*“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:

Pricicella Fayne, JoAnn Hood, Jane Hazen, John Young Jr., Dorland,
Philip Sykora, Dawson, Sally Columbo, Larry Kroeger, Gabriella Brownfield,
Addie Singleton, Rajvinder Kaur,
Jo'Anna Thomson and family, Renita 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 July 12

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

12:00PM Psalm Bible Study/Gallery

12:30PM Chair Yoga/Chapel

Tuesday July 14

12:15PM Tuesday AA Meeting/Cuyahoga Room

Wednesday July 15

11:00AM Stirring Up Hope Soup Pantry

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Thursday July 16

7:00PM FPS Directors Meeting/Conference Room

Saturday July 18

11:00AM Laurie Thomson Memorial Service/Sanctuary

Sunday July 19

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

11:15 AM Mission & Urban Wellness Committee Meeting/
Cuyahoga Room

12:00PM Psalm Bible Study/Chapel

1:40PM Guardians-Pirates/Progressive Field

4:00PM Celebrity Chef/Eric Wells/Memorial Hall

Tuesday July 21

12:15PM Tuesday AA Meeting/Cuyahoga Room

Wednesday July 22

11:00AM Stirring Up Hope Soup Pantry

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Sunday July 26

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

12:00PM Stated Session Meeting/Cuyahoga Room

Tuesday July 28

12:15PM Tuesday AA Meeting/Cuyahoga Room

Wednesday July 29

11:00AM Stirring Up Hope Soup Pantry

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Last Sunday Attendance In-Person:66 Online:260



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

Guest Organist: Jack Naglick

Choir

Leah Jennings-Brown, *soprano*

Christian Bush, *tenor*

Rayna Brooks, *alto*

Christopher Clark, *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

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Class of 2026

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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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