



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CLEVELAND

JULY 19, 2026
EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
10AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE

Reverie

William Grant Still

WELCOME

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

INTROIT

Lead me, Lord

Samuel S. Wesley

Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness
Make thy way plain before my face
Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness
Make thy way plain before my face
For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord only
That makest me dwell in safety

* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Bless the Lord, O my soul;
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name!

**Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all God's benefits.**

God forgives iniquity and heals disease
and crowns us with steadfast love and mercy.

**God satisfies us with good as long as we live,
so our youth is renewed like the eagle's.**

God is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**As the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is God's steadfast love toward us.**

As parents pity their children,
so the Lord pities those who revere God.

**Bless the Lord, O my soul;
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name!**

* INVOCATION PRAYER

Let us pray together:

**Meet us here, holy God,
to search our hearts and strengthen our spirits.
Plant your Word among us that it may spring up in nurturing,
inviting ways for the sake of all your creatures.
May we find in these moments of worship
the assurance we need to live triumphantly in the face of loss,
discouragement, and suffering.
Lead us, by the teaching and example of Jesus Christ,
to trust you and your will for us.
We believe that whatever happens, you can bring some good from it.
Show us, O God, the good you intend.
Amen.**

* HYMN #714

God of the Fertile Fields

ITALIAN HYMN

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves, a treble staff on top and a bass staff on the bottom. The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 3/4. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a simple harmonic accompaniment. Below the staves, there are four lines of lyrics, each corresponding to a measure of the melody. The lyrics are: 1 God of the fer - tile fields, shap - er of; 2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in; 3 As grows the hid - den seed to fruit that; 4 God of the coun - try - side, dear to the.

earth that yields our dai - ly bread: forth from your
trust from you all that you give; help us in
serves our need, so your reign grows. Let all our
Christ who died to make us one: we pledge our

boun - teous hand come gifts your love has planned,
love to share, teach us like you to care
toil be used, no gift of yours a - busied,
lives a - new in faith - ful love to you.

that all in ev - ery land be clothed and fed.
for peo - ple ev - ery - where, that all may live.
no hum - ble task re - fused your love be - stows.
Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

Greater awareness has enlarged Christian stewardship to develop new dimensions of concern for people in all parts of the world. Because we believe that it is God's will that the gifts we have received should be shared, this hymn concludes with that phrase from the Lord's Prayer.

TEXT: Georgia Harkness, 1955, alt.
MUSIC: Felice de Giardini, 1769, alt.
Text © 1955, ren. 1983 The Hymn Society (admin. Hope Publishing Company)

ITALIAN HYMN
6.6.4.6.6.6.4

* CALL TO CONFESSION

Ted Sawicki

With the whole creation,
we bow in awe before the Originator of life,
to confess our misuse of the time allotted us,
to experience the redemption that is ours in Christ,
and to find that freedom in which we can live fully in the present moment.
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

**O God of burning bushes,
we have chosen to live with dulled eyes and spirits,
forgetting your gifts and ignoring your challenges.
The cries of your people seldom reach our ears
because we insulate ourselves from others' pain.
In our insensitivity we miss the flames on your holy ground,
for the deeply spiritual experience comes not in splendid isolation,
but to those who also care about people.
We do not ask for escape from life's difficulties,
but for awareness and courage to tackle the tasks you assign us.
Help us, today, to produce fruits of the 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

God does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.
As far as the east is from the west,
God removes our transgressions from us.
Forgiveness and healing are God's gifts to the truly contrite
who enter into God's longing for full realization
of creation's intended harmony.
We hope for what we have not seen and work for the best we know,
with God's blessing.

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 gather an offering,
not so much to support an institution
as to follow our passion to share the good news
of the realm of God with one another with many who have never heard it.
Amid an atmosphere of deceit and distrust in the world,
where community is so seldom realized in our day,
we aspire to discover and live God's will for us.
Let us give generously.
The offering will now be received.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *O For a Closer Walk with God* arr. Anthony Baldwin

O! for a closer walk with God, a calm and heav'nly frame;
A light to shine upon the road that leads me to the Lamb!

Return, O holy Dove, return, sweet messenger of rest;
I hate the sins that made thee mourn, and drove thee from my breast.

So shall my walk be close with God, calm and serene my frame;
So purer light shall mark the road that leads me to the Lamb.

* 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 evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore**

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

Ted Sawicki

Let us join our voices in prayer:

**May these offerings assist in delivering your people from bondage,
rescue us from slavery to tradition, and ease and liberate the hungry,
abused, and neglected from their oppression.
Open our eyes to see the nearby opportunities
and practical action we can take to help you start answering our prayer.
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

**Harvesting God,
as we listen to your Word,
by your Holy Spirit
lead our hearts in the way everlasting.
Amen.**

THE READINGS

Tanach

Wisdom of Solomon 12:13, 16-19 (Inclusive Bible)

For there is no other god but you; you care for the whole world and you need not justify your decisions to anyone.

For your power is the source of your justice, and it is because you are the Maker of all that you are merciful to all. You demonstrate your strength when people question whether your power is absolute—it is only when they know your power and still rebel that you punish them. But even with all your great power, you judge us with mercy and guide us with great kindness, for you exercise your strength as you choose. By acting in this way, you taught your people that those who are just must also be kind, and you have given your children hope by offering them repentance for their sins.

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

With God's help we are listening.



Jesus presented another parable to those gathered: “The kingdom of heaven is like a farmer who sowed good seed in a field. While everyone was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then made off. When the crop began to mature and yield grain, the weeds became evident as well.

The farmer’s workers came and asked, ‘Did you not sow good seed in your field? Where are the weeds coming from?’

The farmer replied, ‘I see an enemy’s hand in this.’

They in turn asked, ‘Do you want us to go out and pull them up?’

‘No,’ replied the farmer, ‘if you pull up the weeds, you might take the wheat along with them. Let them grow together until the harvest, then at harvest time I will order the harvesters first to collect the weeds and bundle them up to burn, then to gather the wheat into my barn.’”

Then Jesus left the crowd and went into the house. The disciples also came in and said, “Explain the parable about the weeds in the field.”

Jesus answered, “The farmer sowing the good seed is the Chosen One, the field is the world, and the good seed, the citizens of the kingdom.

The weeds are the followers of the Evil One, and the enemy who sowed them is the Devil. The harvest is the end of the world, while the harvesters are the angels. Just as weeds are collected and burned, so it will be at the end of the age.

The Chosen One will send the angels who will weed out the kingdom of everything that causes sin and all who act lawlessly. The angels will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

But those who are just will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Abba God. Let those who have ears to hear, hear this!”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR’S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams
“The Just Must Also be Kind”

* 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 "Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing, nev-er a-lone.
 2 "Go, my chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, at peace and pure.
 3 "Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, clos-er to me.

Wak-ing, sleep-ing, I am with you, you are my own.
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
 Grow in love and love by serv-ing, joy-ful and free.

In my love's bap-tis-mal riv-er I have made you mine for-
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto-ry; here you touched him, saw his
 Here my Spir-it's pow-er filled you; here my ten-der com-fort

ev-er. Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing, you are my own."
 glo-ry. Go, my chil-dren, sins for-giv-en, at peace and pure."
 stilled you. Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, joy-ful and free."

Because this Welsh melody usually sets evening texts, the author was asked to create one for use in daytime. His recasting of the Aaronic blessing in Numbers 6:22-27 imagines that passage as a benediction that might be spoken by God at the conclusion of a worship service.

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

God sends us out into the world
to bring people to the mountaintop.

**But we're not ready to explain burning bushes
or discuss the groaning of creation.**

God promises to be with us every step of the way
to crown us with steadfast love and mercy.

**But we want to stay with the sheep, God,
while you send someone else off to Egypt.**

The place where we are standing is holy ground,
God's tasks for us may be very close at hand.

**Sometimes it's hardest to witness among friends,
to speak a word for God to those who know us best.**

Use the gifts God has entrusted to you:
your eyes, ears, hands, and feet.

**We want to be sensitive to God's hurting ones
and patient in our hope and our service.**

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Amen

Anonymous

POSTLUDE

Introduction and Toccata

Alfred Fedak

*"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:

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 the repose of the soul of Joan Sebastian Guerrero,
may her 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.



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 19

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

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

12:00PM Psalm Bible Study/Gallery

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 Jazz Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

12:00PM Stated Session Meeting/Cuyahoga Room

Monday July 27

6:30 PM Stated Meeting of the PWR/ZOOM

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

Sunday August 2

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary with Communion

11:30AM Deacons Meeting/Conference Room

11:30AM Handbell Practice/Gallery

1:40PM Guardians/Diamondbacks/Progressive Field

Tuesday August 4

12:15PM Tuesday AA Meeting/Cuyahoga Room

Wednesday August 5

11:00AM Stirring Up Hope Soup Pantry

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

6:00PM Welcome and Fellowship Meeting/ZOOM

Last Sunday Attendance In-Person:112 Online:236

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

Kaya Sparks, *soprano*

Anthony Steward, *tenor*

Val Sibila, *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

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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
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Class of 2027

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Class of 2027

Mike Musson

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