



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CLEVELAND

JULY 5, 2026
SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST WITH COMMUNION
10 AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE	<i>America, the Beautiful</i>	arr. Marilyn Ham
WELCOME	Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams	
INTROIT	<i>We Walk in Love</i>	Deanna Witkowski

We walk in love united in purpose.
We join our hands and lift up one voice.
We speak the truth with strength and compassion,
resounding with hope, with courage and joy.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Hear the word of Jesus Christ:

"Come to me, all who labor and carry heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest."

**We seek the rest Christ offers,
for we are often busy and anxious.**

Christ invites us, "Take my yoke upon your shoulders,
and learn from me."

**There is so much we want to learn about living.
We want our lives to count for something.**

Jesus assures us: "I am gentle and humble of heart.
Here you will find rest for your souls."

**In a harsh world we long for kindness we can trust
and rest that is truly refreshing.**

Again, Christ promises: "My yoke is easy,
and my burden is light."

**In Jesus Christ we find true freedom
and the joy of living according to the Spirit.**

* INVOCATION PRAYER

**All-powerful God,
we celebrate the freedom you give us to make our own response
to all the possibilities you lay out before us.
We are grateful for the revelation you provide
through the witness of many in the Scriptures.
Through their words, help us to discern your Word.
Come to us in the midst of our diversity
to bring understanding and mutual caring.
Open us to a new appreciation of our birthright as your children.
Beyond all our clamor for the things of this world,
we long for the richness of spirit you alone can provide.
Feed us here, we pray.
Amen.**

* HYMN #32

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

ELLACOMBE

1 I sing the might-y power of God that made the moun-tains rise,
2 I sing the good-ness of the Lord who filled the earth with food.
3 There's not a plant or flower be-low but makes thy glo-ries known.



that spread the flow-ing seas a-broad and built the loft-y
God formed the crea-tures through the Word, and then pro-nounced them
And clouds a-rise, and tem-pests blow, by or-der from thy
skies. I sing the wis-dom that or-dained the sun to rule the day.
good. Lord, how thy won-ders are dis-played, wher-e'er I turn my eye,
throne, while all that bor-rows life from thee is ev-er in thy care,
The moon shines full at God's com-mand, and all the stars o-bey.
if I sur-vey the ground I tread, or gaze up-on the sky!
and ev-ery-where that we can be, thou, God, art pres-ent there.

* CALL TO CONFESSION

Kara Bane

We are a people of good intentions who want to accept Christ's invitation.
Indeed, we have done so, many times.

However, like the first-century Christian, whom we know as the apostle Paul,
we find that what we want to do seldom finds fulfillment.

Let us use some of Paul's words to make our confession of 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

I do not understand my own actions, O God of all life.

I can will what is right, but I cannot do it.

I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do.

I delight in the law of God, in my inmost self,

but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

Who will deliver me from this body of death!

Hear me and answer, Gracious God!

(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's answer comes again from Paul's writing:

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

We are set free from the law of sin and death.

Live, therefore, according to the Spirit

and set your minds on things of the Spirit.

To set the mind on the flesh is death,

but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

The Spirit of God dwells in you.

Believe and celebrate this joyous good news!

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

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

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

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Please be seated.

God's Word has been sown among us.

We are the soils, receiving seeds of truth.

The harvest depends on our accepting the Word,

letting it take root and getting rid of the weeds.

What we offer to God is a small return on God's investment in us.

Let us give with joy.

The offering will now be received.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

O God, Show Mercy to Us

Psalm 67 set to Gustav Holst

O God, show mercy to us and bless us with your grace;
And cause to shine upon us the brightness of your face,
so that your way most holy on earth may soon be known,
and unto every people your saving grace be shown.

Let all the peoples praise you;
Let all the nations sing;
In every land, praises and songs of gladness ring.

For you will judge the peoples in truth and righteousness,
and on the earth all nations will your just rule confess.
Let all the peoples praise you; let all the nations sing.
Then earth in rich abundance to us its fruit will bring.
The Lord our God will bless us; our God will blessing send,
and all the earth will worship to its remotest end.

* DOXOLOGY #608

PRAISE GOD

Choir

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below; praise
Holy Spirit everyone; 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

Kara Bane

Let us join our voices in prayer:

**Through our offerings, Loving God,
we would send to all nations the good news of peace.
May we live at peace with one another in this congregation,
work for it in our community,
and support all efforts to build peace in our homes,
in places of work and leisure, and between all hostile forces.
To that end, bless and multiply these gifts.
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

Let us pray together:

**Comforting God,
by your Holy Spirit
lift the burdens from our souls
through the reading of your Word for us,
that we may learn how easy it is
to live in a loving relationship with you.
Amen.**

THE READINGS

Epistle

Romans 7:15-25a (Inclusive Bible)

Paul says: "I don't understand what I do—for I don't do the things I want to do, but rather the things I hate. And if I do the very thing I don't want to do, I am agreeing that the Law is good. Consequently, what is happening in me is not really me, but sin living in me.

I know that no good dwells in me, that is, in my human nature; the desire to do right is there, but not the power. What happens is that I don't do the good I intend to do, but the evil I do not intend. But if I do what is against my will, it is not I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. This means that even though I want to do what is right, a law that leads to wrongdoing is always at hand.

My inner self joyfully agrees with the law of God, but I see in my body's members another law, in opposition to the law of my mind; this makes me the prisoner of the law of sin in my members.

How wretched I am! Who can free me from this body under the power of death? Thanks be to God—it is Jesus Christ our Savior!"

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

With God's help we are listening.

Jesus said, “What comparison can I make with this generation?
They are like children shouting to others as they sit in the marketplace,
‘We piped you a tune, but you wouldn’t dance.
We sang you a dirge, but you wouldn’t mourn.’
For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they said, “He is possessed.”
The Chosen One comes, eating and drinking, and they say,
‘This one is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’
Wisdom will be vindicated by her own actions.”

Then Jesus prayed, “Abba God, Creator of heaven and earth, to you I will offer praise; for what you have hidden from the learned and the clever, you have revealed to the youngest children. Yes, Abba, everything is as you want it to be.”
Jesus continued, “Everything has been handed over to me by Abba God.
No one knows the Only Begotten except Abba God, and no one knows Abba God except the Only Begotten—and those to whom the Only Begotten wants to give that revelation.

Come to me, all you who labor and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon your shoulders and learn from me,
for I am gentle and humble of heart. Here you will find rest for your souls,
for my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR’S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

“Shared Burdens”



WE RESPOND IN LOVE AND FAITH

* HYMN #507

Come to the Table of Grace

TABLE OF GRACE

Capo 3: (D) F (A) C (Bm) Dm (D7/A) F7/C (G) B $\flat$

1 Come to the ta - ble of grace. Come to the

ta - ble of grace. This is God's ta - ble; it's

not yours or mine. Come to the ta - ble of grace.

- 2 Come to the table of peace...
- 3 Come to the table of love...
- 4 Come to the table of hope...
- 5 Come to the table of joy...

* INVITATION TO THE MEAL

May the Spirit of love be with you.

And may the love of Christ be with you.

Open wide your cautious hearts.

**May the hope of our Creator,
pour peace in our souls.**

Let us give thanks,

to the One who created this time and space.

From our joy we give God thanks and praise.

God of the fair winds and bounteous fields,
of the storms overhead and the seas below,
with joy we celebrate the connection we have
with all of creation "From sea to shining sea,"
From the beauteous mountain caps
to the rivers winding across the land.

We honor the connection we have with your beings,
from the chipmunks scurrying through our yards
to the swallows swooping in the air above.
We embrace the relationships with our neighbors
near and far—
the ones who are close to our hearts,
and the ones with whom distance in miles and souls
sets us apart.

And so we come to this table:
The ones with many opportunities,
and those seeking liberty.
The ones who have been disregarded and those embraced,
knowing that Christ's welcome receives all.
Knowing that Jesus the Christ
ate with sinners and tax collectors,
with those who disapproved and those who leapt for joy,
with Judas and Peter, with Mary and Martha,
with Philip and Thomas.

Therefore we praise you,
joining our voices with the choirs of heaven
and with all the faithful of every time and place
who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.
You are holy, O God of majesty,
and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.**

And so we too come to the table.
The table of God's freedom.
The table of God's justice and love.
The table which reflects the true Kingdom,
realm of God, where all are welcome.

Great is the mystery of faith.
**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

We pray for all in need of healing, whether it be in body, mind, or spirit...

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,

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
let us pray as our Savior has taught us:

**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.**

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

We come to the table remembering the night before Jesus died.
As Jesus ate with his followers in a room away from the world,
“taking a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks,
he broke it and gave it to them, saying,

Barukh ata Adonai Eloheinu melek ha'olam
hamotzi lekhem min ha'aretz.

Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe,
who brings forth bread from the earth.

‘This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’

And Jesus did the same with the cup after supper, saying,

Barukh ata Adonai Eloheinu melek ha'olam
borei p'ri hagafen.

Blessed are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe,
who creates the fruit of the vine.

‘This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant.’
Whenever we eat and drink at the table, we remember the Christ in our midst.

PRAYER FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

Spirit of Hope, Holy Winds of Divine Freedom,
encircle this bread and cup.
Encircle us in our eating and drinking
that we may experience the radical love of Christ here today,
and sharing this care as we journey throughout this week.

Amen

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Please partake of the elements as you receive them,
and then place the cup back into the tray.
You may then light a candle in petition of prayer
or in remembrance.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Starting from the back of the sanctuary
you are invited to come forward at this time.

COMMUNION ANTHEMS

With Passion in Our Hearts

Ik Hwan Moon

With passion in our hearts, and our spirits aflame,
To a breathless, choking land we bring breath and life.
We will wave the flag of justice high.
To the heavens and the earth let freedom come.

God Reigns O'er All the Earth

Jane Parker Huber

God reigns o'er all the earth! Green hills and valleys low,
the farms and towns in golds and browns God's grace and beauty show.
God reigns o'er all the earth! Stone banks and spreading plains,
in rainbow hues-reds, yellows, blues-of streams and country lanes.

* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

**God of abundance,
with this bread of life and cup of salvation
you have united us with Christ,
making us one with all your people.
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue forever in the risen life
of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.**

1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved. How pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come. 'Tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures. He will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found, was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

CHOCTAW

*Shilombish holitopa ma!
 Ishmminti pulla cha
 hatak ilbusha pia ha
 is pi yukpalashke.*

CREEK

*Po ya fek cha he thlat ah tet
 ah non ah cha pa kas
 cha fee kee o funnan la kus
 um e ha ta la yus.*

NAVAHO

*Nizhónígo joobá diits' a'
 yisdáshítinígí,
 lah yóóiiyá, k'ad
 shénáhoosdzin,
 doo eesh'íí da ít'ée.*

As was his custom, the author wrote this hymn to accompany his sermon on 1 Chronicles 17:16–17, preached on January 1, 1773; he called it "Faith's Review and Expectation." Much of its current popularity comes from this now-familiar tune, an association that began in 1835.

TEXT: Stanzas 1–4, John Newton, 1772; stanza 5, *A Collection of Sacred Ballads*, 1790; Navaho, Albert Tsosie
 MUSIC: *Columbian Harmony*, 1829; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1910, alt.

Text Phonetic Transcr. Cherokee, Kiowa, Creek, and Choctaw © Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference;
 Phonetic Transcr. Navaho © Albert Tsosie

AMAZING GRACE
 CM

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Set your minds on things of the Spirit
and turn away from self-centered pursuits.

**We want to live according to the Spirit,
putting away all selfishness and sin.**

Carry with you the humility of Christ,
who was gentle and lowly in heart.

**We want to follow Christ's example,
but we fear where it may lead us.**

Jesus promised, My yoke is easy
and My burden is light.

**We will need the Spirit's help
to find comfort in any cross we must bear.**

The One who raised Jesus Christ from the dead
will grant abundant life, fulfilling and eternal.

**In Jesus Christ we are finding true freedom
and the joy of living according to the Spirit.**

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Amen

Anonymous

POSTLUDE

*God Bless America
(All Are Invited to Sing)*

Irving Berlin

**God bless America, land that I love.
Stand beside her, and guide her,
Through the night with the light from above.**

**From the mountains, to the prairies,
To the oceans white with foam,
God bless America, my home sweet home,
God bless America, my home sweet home.**

*“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:

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.



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 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

Independence Day Holiday/Building and Offices Closed

Tuesday July 7

12:15PM Tuesday AA Meeting/Cuyahoga Room

Wednesday July 8

11:00AM Stirring Up Hope Soup Pantry

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Thursday July 9

2:00PM Worship Committee Meeting/ZOOM

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/Gallery

1:40PM Guardians-Pirates/Progressive Field

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

Last Sunday Attendance In-Person:43 Online:218

There are many ways to support The First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland

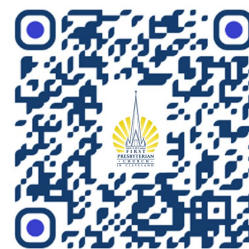
Online Giving:

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

Kaya Sparks, *soprano*

Noah Whitaker, *tenor*

Rayna Brooks, *alto*

Adam Whanger, *bass*

The Community Choir at The First Presbyterian Church in Cleveland

Church Elders:

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

Clerk of Session: Beth Buchanan

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 Deacons:

Class of 2027

Dave Eifert

Class of 2027

Bruce Kranicz

Class of 2027

Mike Musson

Church Trustees:

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