



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CLEVELAND

AUGUST 2, 2026
TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST WITH COMMUNION
10 AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE	<i>Great Is Thy Faithfulness</i>	Jack Scrader
WELCOME	Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams	
INTROIT	<i>Come to the Water</i>	John Foley

O let all who thirst let them come to the water.
And let all who have nothing let them come to the Lord.
Without money, without price why should you pay the price except for the Lord?

* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Come away to a lonely place for a while
to sit and learn at the feet of Jesus.

**Where Jesus lives we are not lonely,
for there is compassion and healing power.**

In Christ's presence none go hungry,
but all find bread for body and soul.

**Christ is, for us, the bread of life
and bids us feed our neighbor.**

Miracles of sharing are inspired by small gifts,
spontaneously offered, without pretense or guile.

**We want to experience the miracles of Christ,
beginning in our own attitudes and actions.**

Then let Jesus lead you to the Source of life
and intercede for you before God.

**With our sisters and brothers we seek God's blessing,
in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.**

* INVOCATION PRAYER

We seek your presence, holy God.

Break through all our pretenses

**that we might sense the vibrant energy embracing the whole universe
yet know ourselves to be personally loved
within the vast expanse of space and time.**

How amazing are all the miracles of life that surround us!

We praise you.

We thank you.

We bow in awe before you.

**In this hour, we pray that our faith may be enlivened,
our trust deepened,**

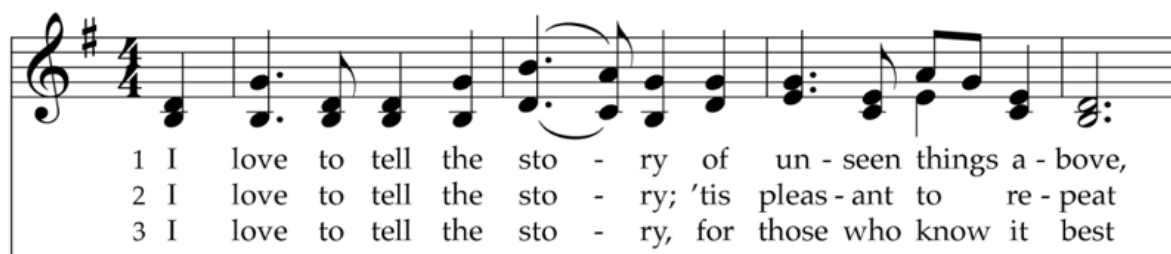
our commitment expanded to meet the challenges of our times.

Amen.

* HYMN #462

I Love to Tell the Story

HANKEY



1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
2 I love to tell the sto - ry; 'tis pleas - ant to re - peat
3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best

of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.
 what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!
 seem hun - ger - ing and thirst-ing to hear it, like the rest.

I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know 'tis true;
 I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
 And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,

it sat - is - fies my long-ings as noth - ing else could do.
 the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly Word.
 'twill be the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

Refrain

I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo - ry
 to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

* CALL TO CONFESSION

Don Urban

Through ceremonies and memorials,
 we find self-discipline and renewal.
 We neglect them to our peril.
 When we remember, we recognize the deep thirst within our souls.
 Then we can work at removing the barriers
 we have erected within us against God.
 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,
who saved a people from oppression
by signs and wonders and an outstretched hand,
save us from ourselves and from the perils we face every day.
So many stimuli propel us toward the darkness
of dishonesty, unfaithfulness, and unfairness.
Sometimes we face enemies within;
laziness, fear, and low self-esteem.
Often structures and powers outside us
have little regard for covenant communities,
individual rights, or corporate responsibility.
We confess our complicity with evil
and our slowness to seek your help.
Listen to our prayer and deliver us.**

(moment of silent confession)

* KYRIE

GUARANI KYRIE

**Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison,
Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison.**

* ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.
God spares nothing to redeem us,
even the lifeblood of Jesus Christ,
poured out on our behalf.
Our Creator meets us where we are,
in wilderness, in crowded places, at work, or at worship, with saving grace.
God teaches us the way we should go and leads us on a level path.
We are set free from sin to live fully as God intends.
Praise be to God.

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 #581

Glory Be to the Father

GLORIA PATRI

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen, amen.**

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Please be seated.

Like Joseph, we have been entrusted with our ruler's possessions.

We are stewards of all that God places in our hands –

our time, our talents, our accumulated treasures – life itself.

Our offering is not just about tithes and gifts for the church's mission;
it is about rededication of all life in Christ's service.

The offering will now be received.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

We Shall Walk Though The Valley

Undine Smith Moore

We shall walk through the valley and the shadow of death

We shall walk through the valley in peace

If Jesus Himself shall be our leader

We shall walk through the valley in peace

There will be no trials there

There will be no trials there

If Jesus Himself shall be our leader

We shall walk through the valley in peace

* DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

FAIRHILL

Choir:

Praise God, all creatures here below. Praise God above, ye heavenly host.

Praise Triune God, Whom we adore. Amen.

Congregation:

Praise God, all creatures here below. Praise God above, ye heavenly host.

Praise Triune God, Whom we adore. Amen.

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

Don Urban

Let us join our voices in prayer:

**As Christ blessed the loaves and fishes of a generous child in Galilee,
we seek your blessing on what we share at this altar.**

May we, too, with our gifts, be instruments of your purposes.

Amen.

* OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Bless Thou The Gifts

Robert Schumann

Bless thou the gifts our hands have brought;

bless thou the work our hearts have planned.

Ours is the faith, the will, the thought; the rest, O God, is in thy Hand. .

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Let us pray together:

**Providing God,
by your Holy Spirit
feed us with your Word,
that we might be filled
with the bread of life.
Amen.**

THE READINGS

Tanach

Isaiah 55:1-5 (Inclusive Bible)

YHWH says: "All you who are thirsty, come to the water! You who have no money, come, buy food and eat! Come, buy wine and milk, without money, without price! Why spend your money for what is not bread, your wages for what fails to satisfy? Heed me, and you will eat well, you will delight in rich fare; bend your ear and come to me, listen, that you many have life: I will make an everlasting Covenant with you—in fulfillment of the blessings promised to David. See, I have made of you to be a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander of the nations. See, you will summon nations you never knew, and nations that never knew you will come hurrying to you—for the sake of YHWH, the Holy One of Israel, who will glorify you."

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

With God's help we are listening

When Jesus heard about the beheading of his cousin John, he left Nazareth by boat and went to a deserted place to be alone. The crowds heard of this and followed him from their towns on foot. When Jesus disembarked and saw the vast throng, his heart was moved with pity, and he healed their sick. As evening drew on, the disciples approached Jesus and said, "This is a deserted place and it is already late. Dismiss the crowds so they can go to the villages and buy some food for themselves." Jesus said to them: "There is no need for them to disperse. Give them something to eat yourselves." "We have nothing here," they replied, "but five loaves and a couple fish." "Bring them here," Jesus said. Then he ordered the crowds to sit on the grass. Taking the five loaves and two fish, Jesus looked up to heaven, blessed the food, broke it, and gave it to the disciples, who in turn gave it to the people. All those present ate their fill. The fragments remaining, when gathered up, filled twelve baskets. About five thousand families were fed.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

"Adjusting Our Perspective"



WE RESPOND IN LOVE AND FAITH

* HYMN #834

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

PRECIOUS LORD

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in 3/4 time, with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody is primarily in the Soprano part, with the Bass part providing harmonic support. The lyrics are as follows:

1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand; lead me on, help me
2 When my way grows drear, pre - cious Lord, lin - ger
stand; I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
near; when my life is al - most gone,
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I
light; take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.
fall; take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.

* INVITATION TO THE MEAL

Community of saints,
beloved of God, we are invited
to come and gather at the table of love and liberation,
to feast on the dreams of God,
to be nourished by but a taste of what God desires to do among us.

God calls us from institutional halls of power,
from shelters and the streets.
God calls us from classrooms and pulpits,
bars and prison cells.
God calls us as we are, from wherever we are,
to come and be in solidarity with Christ,
who lives and loves on the margins.

God whispers “come”
and live abundantly,
turning from all that claim blessings
flow from money, power, or control.

Come, and love relentlessly;
following Christ on paths of uncertainty,
taking risks for one another,
calling down unjust power from its throne
and lifting up the lowly,
the impoverished, the burdened.
To answer the call of Christ is to find ourselves
no matter our social location,
choosing to align ourselves with the causes
of the marginalized, the oppressed,
the outcast, and the isolated,
with the faith that together,
we might enflesh new possibilities
of healing,
of connection,
of freedom from all that destroys.

When these are the desires of our hearts,
we open ourselves to God.
Blessed are those, Jesus said,
who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.
And so let us come to the table,
expectant,
eager,
open to tasting the rich blessings of heaven
born from unexpected places, and people, and experiences.

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, empire, 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...

Dorland, Sally Columbo, Addie Singleton, Rajvinder Kaur
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.**

(Please be seated)

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In this meal,
we remember the life, death, and resurrection
of the One who still takes on flesh among us today.

On the night he would be arrested,
Jesus gathered his friends and companions.
In the midst of a tense and dangerous time,
they found each other at table,
connecting over the story of God-enfleshed among them.

And as they did so, Jesus took bread, gave thanks to God,
broke the bread and shared it with his disciples 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.

“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he also took the cup,
gave thanks to God, and shared it with his disciples, 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.

“Drink from this, all of you; this is the cup of the new covenant.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

PRAYER FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

And so we pray,
Come Holy Spirit,
Breath of God,
Renewer of life,
settle on these gifts and all who gather here,
that we might be transformed in our remembrance
of your radical love,
your eternal embrace,
and your grace that makes all things new.

For the sake of our shared lives,
the life of this land on which we live,
and the lives of those yet to come,
nourish us and renew our hope
that soon Christ may rise again among us.

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 ANTHEM *Jesus Joy of Our Desiring* J.S Bach

Jesus, joy of our desiring, Holy wisdom, love most bright,
Drawn by Thee, our souls aspiring, Soar to uncreated light.

Word of God, our flesh that fashioned, With the fire of life impassioned,
Striving still to truth unknown, Soaring, dying round Thy throne.

Through the way where hope is guiding, Hark, what peaceful music rings,
Where the flock in thee confiding, Drink of joy from deathless springs.

Their's is beauty's fairest pleasure, Their's is wisdom's holiest treasure,
Thou dost ever lead thine own, In the love of joys unknown.

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 To God be the glo - ry; great things he has done!
2 Great things he has taught us; great things he has done,



So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
and great our re - joic - ing through Je - sus the Son;



who yield - ed his life an a - tone - ment for sin,
but pur - er and high - er and great - er will be



and o - pened the life - gate that all may go in.
our won - der, our trans - port, when Je - sus we see.

Refrain



Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!



Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the peo - ple re - joice!



O come to the Fa - ther through Je - sus the Son,



and give him the glo - ry: great things he has done!

This American gospel song became popular in England in the late 19th century, then returned to this country in the mid-20th century with the Billy Graham crusades. Its continuing popularity may well be due to the freedom from subjective considerations in its praise of God.

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

In love, God justifies and forgives us.

If God is for us, who can be against us?

Persecution, famine, peril, and sword

cannot separate us from the love of Christ.

In all things we are more than conquerors
through the One who loved us.

There is no power on earth, in life or death,

that can cut us off from God's salvation.

Live, then, as God's children,

aware of God's generosity and expectations.

As God has blessed us,

we will share with our neighbors.

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Amen

Danish Threefold

POSTLUDE

Fugue in D major

George Frideric Handel

*“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:

Dorland, Sally Columbo, Addie Singleton, Rajvinder Kaur

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 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 Committee Meeting/ZOOM

Sunday August 9

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

12:30PM Chair Exercise Class/Chapel

Tuesday August 11

12:15PM Tuesday AA Meeting/Cuyahoga Room

Wednesday August 12

11:00AM Stirring Up Hope Soup Pantry

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Thursday August 13

2:00PM Worship Committee Meeting/ZOOM

Sunday August 16

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

1:00PM Alzheimer Disease-Dementia Seminar Potluck/Memorial Hall

1:40PM Guardians/Padres/Progressive Field

Tuesday August 18

12:15PM Tuesday AA Meeting/Cuyahoga Room

Wednesday August 19

11:00AM Stirring Up Hope Soup Pantry

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Thursday August 20

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

Sunday August 23

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

2:30PM Annual Picnic/North Olmsted Community Cabin

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

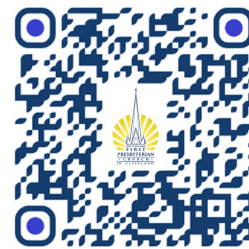
Online Giving:

firstprescle.org/giving

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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

Choir

Val Sibila, *soprano*

Anthony Steward, *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

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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