



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CLEVELAND

AUGUST 30, 2026
FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
10AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE Meditation on '*Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether*' Gerre Hancock

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

God remembers and visits us
and restores us to the community of faith.

**In our pain, suffering, and loss
we know the assurance of God's presence.**

When we have opposition and hopeless situations,
God bears us up on eagles' wings.

**In the loneliness of our firm idealism
God grants healing and transformation.**

Whatever we need as we gather to worship,
a merciful and loving God meets us here.

**We assemble with high expectations
that God has much good in store for us.**

The good gifts God bestows on us here
are for our use in reaching out to others.

**We want to use our talents
in the service of Jesus Christ.**

* INVOCATION PRAYER

Let us pray together:

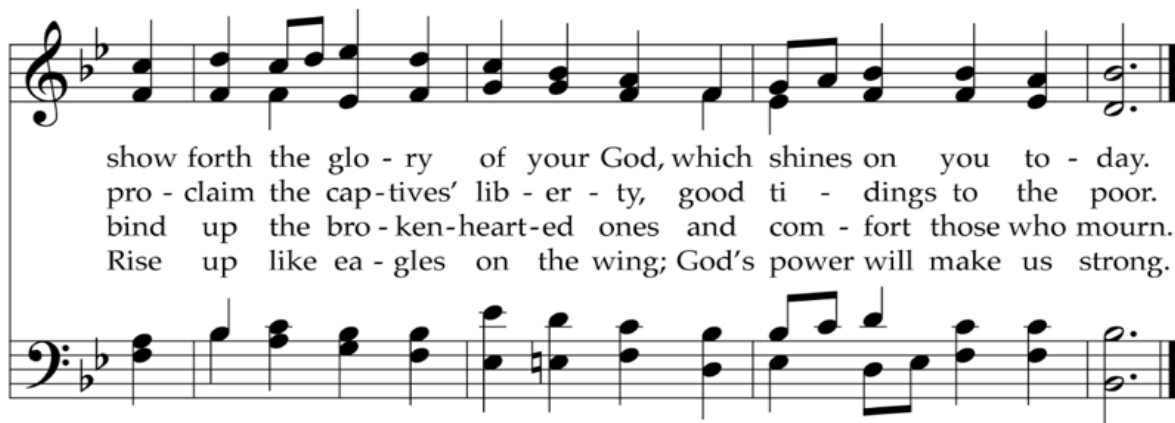
**This is a festival day, glorious God,
a day of remembering your faithfulness through the centuries,
a time for celebrating your vibrant presence with us,
a pause of anticipation for the seasons yet to be.
We rejoice at the assurance that you take pleasure in us,
that we are known by you, called by you,
empowered by you to live honorably and humbly,
in the spirit of the Christ.
We would exalt your name and sing for joy,
knowing that we can trust you for the guidance and direction we need.
Amen.**

* HYMN #744

Arise, Your Light Is Come!

FESTAL SONG

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. Both staves are in 4/4 time and have a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. Below the staves, there are four lines of lyrics, each corresponding to a different voice part (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass). The lyrics are: 1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey; 2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door; 3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born, 4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun - tains burst in song!



Echoing imagery from Isaiah 61:1–2 and other passages, this text was created as an inclusive-language alternative to an older hymn using this late 19th-century tune. Because it is a song of encouragement rather than a song of praise, it is not directed to God but to people.

TEXT: Ruth Duck, 1974
 MUSIC: William H. Walter, 1894
 Text © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc.

FESTAL SONG
 SM
 (this tune in a lower key, 815)

* CALL TO CONFESSION

Ruth Finley

The apostle Paul appealed to Christians in Rome to;
 "present your bodies as a living sacrifice,
 holy and acceptable to God,
 which is your spiritual worship.
 Do not be conformed to this world
 but be transformed by the renewal of your mind."
 Those who take this appeal seriously
 realize that they fall short of its realization.
 Join me, in these words or your own thoughts, as we 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

**Ever-present God,
 we have been protective of the gifts you have entrusted to us.
 We look for our own advantages rather than the well-being of others.
 We withdraw from those we consider less worthy than we,
 and court the attention of people who might enhance our position.
 At the same time, our faith falters in doubt,
 and we are frozen by our fears.
 We are often among the opposition rather than on your side, O God.
 What will it profit us if we gain the whole world
 but forfeit the fullness of life you intend for us?
 We need your forgiveness and the gift of new life in Christ.
 (moment of silent confession)**

* KYRIE

GUARANI KYRIE

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

* ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Our God, who led people from slavery in Egypt,
leads us from our slavery to the worst in ourselves.
To all who obey God's voice and keep covenant,
the Sovereign One promises a Healing Presence:
"You shall be my own possession among all peoples;
for all the earth is mine."
We are further assured by Jesus that
"those who lose their life for my sake will find it."
Rejoice in your new freedom and opportunities!
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.
Our Hebrew ancestors offered the best
of their flocks and crops to honor God.
We bring symbols of our labor,
dedicating them and ourselves
to upholding the highest values of human life.
May our offerings be a joyous expression of worship.
The offering will now be received.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Draw Us In The Sprints Tether

Harold Friedell

Draw us in the Spirit's tether, For when humbly in Thy name,
Two or three are met together Thou are in the midst of them;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Touch we now Thy garment's hem.

As the brethren used to gather In the name of Christ to sup,
Then with thanks to God the Father Break the bread and bless the cup,
Alleluia! Alleluia! So knit Thou our friendship up.

All our meals and all our living Make as sacraments of Thee,
That by caring, helping, giving We may true disciples be.
Alleluia! Alleluia! We will serve Thee faithfully.

* DOXOLOGY

FAIRHILL

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host. Praise Triune God, Whom we adore. Amen**

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

Ruth Finley

Let us join our voices in prayer:

**We delight once more
in the opportunity to give for the cause of Christ.
May we contribute generously and give aid, with zeal.
Along with our money, we also offer ourselves,
as living sacrifices,
for the world's transformation.
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

**By the power of your Spirit, O Lord,
make your Word become a joy to us
and the delight of our hearts.
Amen.**

THE READINGS

Epistle

Romans 12:9-21 (Inclusive Bible)

Your love must be sincere. Hate what is evil and cling to what is good. Love one another with the affection of sisters and brothers. Try to outdo one another in showing respect. Don't grow slack, but be fervent in spirit: the One you serve is Christ. Rejoice in hope; be patient under trial; persevere in prayer. Look on the needs of God's holy people as your own; be generous in offering hospitality. Bless your persecutors—bless and don't curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Have the same attitude toward everyone. Don't be condescending to those who aren't as well off as you; don't be conceited. Don't repay evil with evil. Be concerned with the highest ideal in the eyes of all people. Do all you can to be at peace with everyone. Don't take revenge; leave room, my friends, for God's wrath. To quote scripture, "Vengeance is mine, I will pay them back," says our God. But there is more: "If your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them drink. For in doing so, you will heap burning coals upon their heads." Don't be overcome by evil, but overcome evil by doing good.

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

With God's help we are listening.

From that time on, Jesus began to explain to the disciples that he must go to Jerusalem, to suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and religious scholars, and that he must be killed, and on the third day raised to life. Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Rabbi!” he said.

“This will never happen to you!”

Jesus turned to Peter and said, “Get yourself behind me, you Satan!

You are trying to make me stumble and fall. You’re setting your mind not on the things of God, but of mortals.”

Then Jesus said to the disciples, “If you wish to come after me, you must deny your very selves, take up the instrument of your own death and begin to follow in my footsteps. If you would save your life, you will lose it; but if you would lose your life for my sake, you will find it. What profit would you show if you gained the whole world but lost yourself? What can you offer in exchange for your very self? The Promised One will come in the glory of Abba God accompanied by the angels, and will repay all according to their conduct. The truth is, some of you standing here will not taste death before you see the coming of the Promised One’s reign.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR’S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

“Overcome Evil by Doing Good”

“Do not be
overcome
by evil,
but
overcome evil
with good.”

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.**

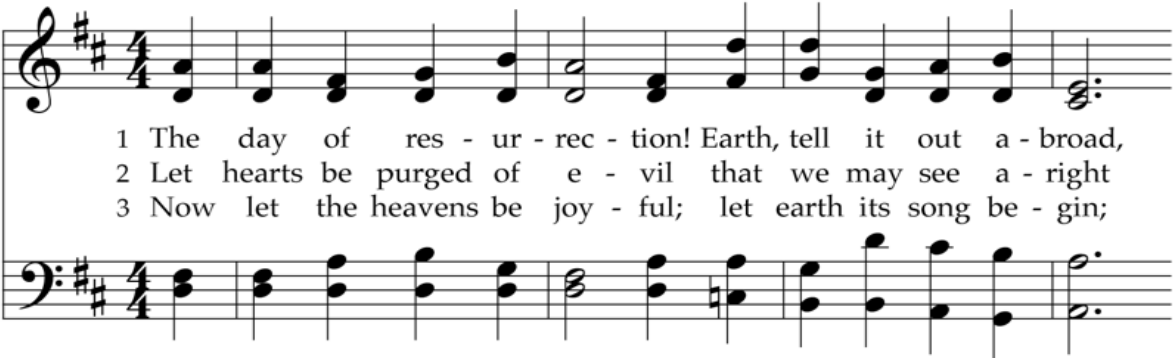
**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**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.**

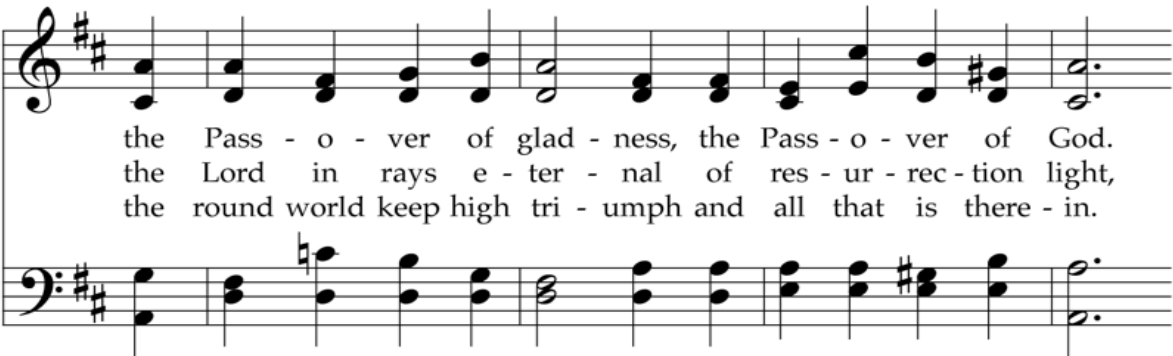
LIGHTING OF CANDLES, PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

We ask all these things in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray...

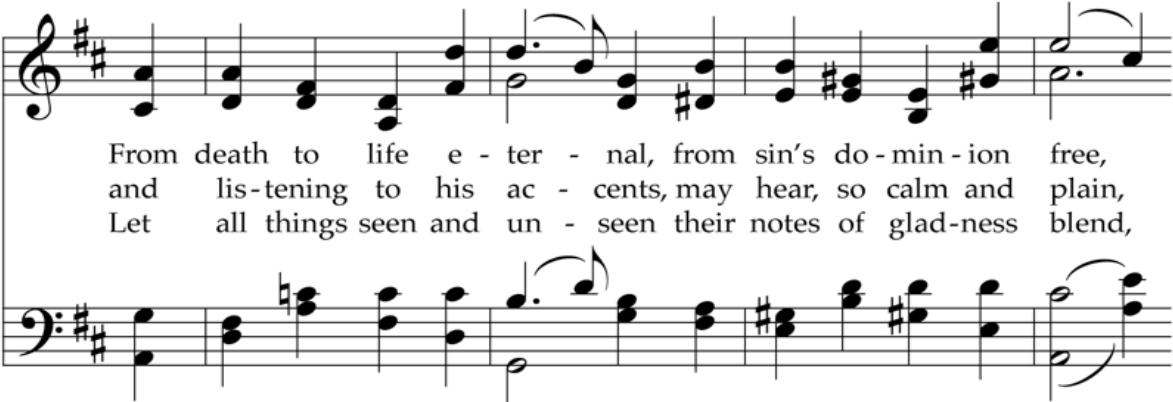
**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**



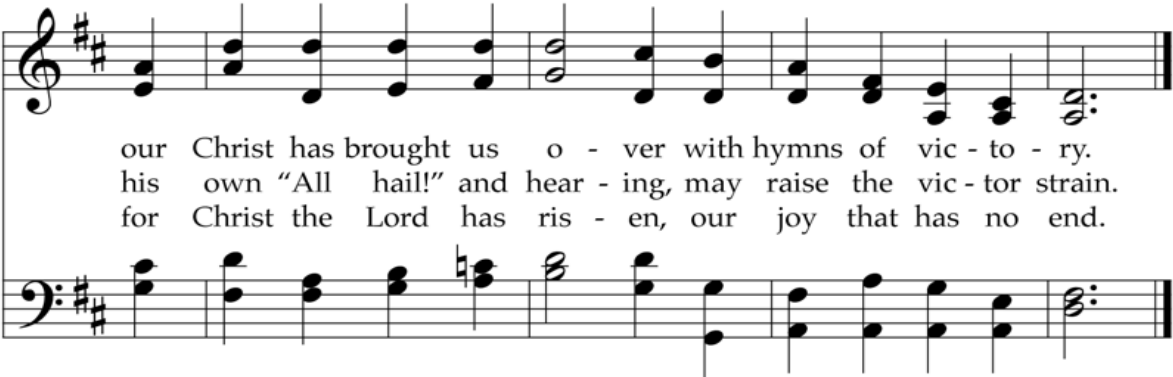
1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad,
 2 Let hearts be purged of e - vil that we may see a - right
 3 Now let the heavens be joy - ful; let earth its song be - gin;



the Pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the Pass - o - ver of God.
 the Lord in rays e - ter - nal of res - ur - rec - tion light,
 the round world keep high tri - umph and all that is there - in.



From death to life e - ter - nal, from sin's do - min - ion free,
 and lis - tening to his ac - cents, may hear, so calm and plain,
 Let all things seen and un - seen their notes of glad - ness blend,



our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.
 his own "All hail!" and hear - ing, may raise the vic - tor strain.
 for Christ the Lord has ris - en, our joy that has no end.

The roots of this English text come from a mid-8th century Greek hymn that continues to be used in Orthodox churches at the midnight Eucharist marking the beginning of Easter. The tune is named for the county in northwestern England where the composer was then an organist.

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

We go out, not to gain the whole world,
but to share in its salvation.

**We shrink from going to our Jerusalems,
but we will face their terror with Christ.**

Do not be conformed to this world,
but prove the will of God among people.

**We aim to do what is good, acceptable,
and perfect, but without pretense or conceit.**

Use well the gifts of God's grace:
prophecy, in proportion to your faith,
**serving, teaching, and exhortation
with creativity and enthusiasm,**
contributing liberally and aiding zealously,
doing acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

**Wherever our serving leads,
we will know God's presence and blessing.**

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Danish Threefold

POSTLUDE

Fugue in E-flat, BWV 552

J. S. Bach

*“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, Bruce Kranicz, Denise Sarago, Tommy Bollinger, Scheem, Jimmy,
Conrad, Gavin Morkel, Paula Morkel, Todd St. Clair, Joyce Sabe, Dorland,
Addie Singleton, Rajvinder Kaur, Dora Berman and family, Ray Columbo 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 August 30

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

12:00PM Stated Session Meeting/Cuyahoga Room

1:40PM Guardians/Royals/Progressive Field

Tuesday September 1

12:15PM Tuesday AA Meeting/Cuyahoga Room

Wednesday September 2

11:00AM Stirring Up Hope Soup Pantry

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

6:00PM Welcome and Fellowship Committee Meeting/ZOOM

Sunday September 6

10:00AM Worship with Communion/Sanctuary

1:40PM Guardians/Tigers/Progressive Field

Monday September 7/Labor Day

All Day Building and Offices Closed

Tuesday September 8

12:15PM Tuesday AA Meeting/Cuyahoga Room

Wednesday September 9

11:00AM Stirring Up Hope Soup Pantry

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Thursday September 10

7:00PM Worship Committee Meeting/ZOOM

Sunday September 13

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

Tuesday September 15

12:15PM Tuesday AA Meeting/Cuyahoga Room

Wednesday September 16

11:00AM Stirring Up Hope Soup Pantry

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

Thursday September 17

7:00PM FPS Directors Meeting/Conference Room

Last Sunday Attendance In-Person:66 Online:203

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

91 Public Square, Cleveland, Ohio 44113-2058

Phone: 216-241-6145 **Fax:** 216-241-6149

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

Guest Organist: Rees Taylor Roberts

Choir

Val Sibila, *soprano*

Christian Bush, *tenor*

Morgan Potts, *alto*

R. 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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