



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CLEVELAND

AUGUST 9, 2026
ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
10AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE	<i>Nimrod from "Enigma Variations"</i>	Edward Elgar
WELCOME		Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams
INTROIT	<i>A Prayer Of Saint Patrick</i>	John Rutter

Christ be with me, Christ within me Christ behind me, Christ before me
Christ beside me, Christ to win me Christ to comfort and restore me
Christ above me, Christ beneath me Christ in quiet, Christ in danger
Christ in hearts of all that love me Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Welcome to this time of shared prayer,
when we encourage one another in our ministry.

**We need this time for reassurance
and strengthening for all we face in life.**

Here we remember the faith we hold in common
and find renewal and encouragement.

**It is often difficult to sense God's presence
in the headlines or in our daily contacts.**

It is hard to see ourselves as Christ's representatives
when so few seem to put faith first.

**We feel alone and unappreciated,
as if we were the only faithful ones left.**

When everyone marches to a different drummer,
it is hard to know who's out of step.

**Bring us together to hear your still small voice
so we can recognize you when we're apart.**

* INVOCATION PRAYER

Let us pray together:

**How good and pleasant it is, O God,
when kindred live together in unity.
Draw us now into the community you intend for all your people.
Help us to listen and understand,
both your word for us and our sharing with one another.
Keep us from being misled by popular acclaim
and the wisdom of the marketplace.
May we not be unobservant guides to one another
but rather be fully open to your gifts and obedient to your call.
Come to us now with healing and blessing.
Amen.**

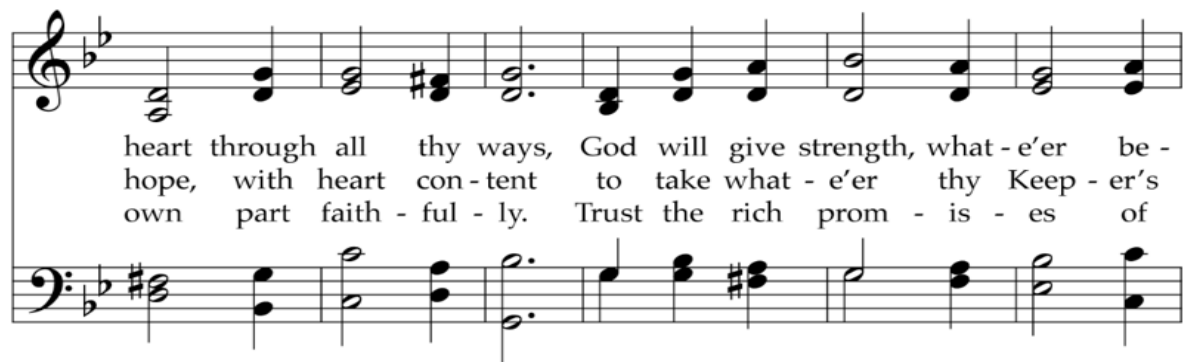
* HYMN #816

If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee

WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT

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 in 3/4 time and B-flat major. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. Below the staves, there are three lines of lyrics corresponding to the notes of the melody.

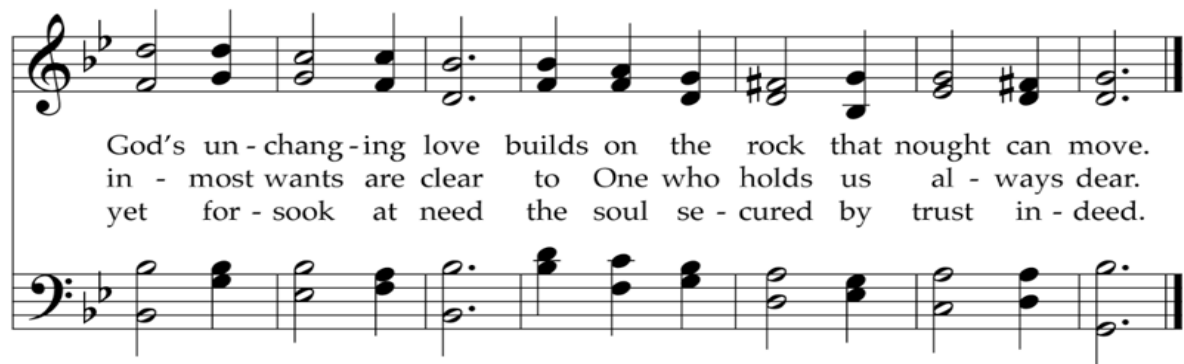
1 If thou but trust in God to guide thee, with hope - ful
2 On - ly be still, and wait God's lei - sure in cheer - ful
3 Sing, pray, and swerve not from God's ways, but do thine



heart through all thy ways, God will give strength, what - e'er be -
hope, with heart con - tent to take what - e'er thy Keep - er's
own part faith - ful - ly. Trust the rich prom - is - es of



tide thee, to bear thee through the e - vil days. Who trusts in
plea - sure and all - dis - cern - ing love hath sent. No doubt our
grace; so shall they be ful - filled in thee. God nev - er



God's un - chang - ing love builds on the rock that nought can move.
in - most wants are clear to One who holds us al - ways dear.
yet for - sook at need the soul se - cured by trust in - deed.

This hymn is a testimony of experience. The original seven-stanza German text (based on Psalm 55:22) and its tune were created by the author/composer at the age of twenty in thanksgiving for finding employment many weeks after being left almost penniless following a robbery.

TEXT: Georg Neumark, 1641; trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1855, 1863, alt.
MUSIC: Georg Neumark, 1641

WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT
9.8.9.8.8.8

* CALL TO CONFESSION

Peggie Willett

Life is a mixture of faith and doubts,
successes and failures, affirmations and betrayals.
Before we can fully appreciate the positive forces at work
within and around us, we need to expose the negatives.
Let us seek to free ourselves of the sin that clings so closely
by seeking God's forgiveness.
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, whom earthquake, wind, and fire cannot contain,
we are often shaken by powerful forces on every hand
that deny your sovereignty.
Our doubts multiply and our faith wearies.
We have great sorrow and anguish
when we see things as they are with people and nations
and try to imagine how they might be if your rule were recognized.
It's so lonely out there, with our faith shaken and no one to share it.
So we deny you too.
Yes, we do, God.
And we are sorry.
Please forgive us and help us to try again.**

(moment of silent confession)

* KYRIE

GUARANI KYRIE

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

* ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

O you of little faith, why do you doubt?
There are thousands who share your commitment
and continue to renew their trust.
Think what this world might be if there were no witness to truth,
no workers for peace, no leaders with deep compassion for people,
nurtured by their faith.
You are making a difference.
Your witness is needed and appreciated.
God saves you from your foes
and delivers you from the power of your enemies.
Find gladness and joy in God's steadfast love.

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.

Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

When you invest generously in the work to which God calls us,
your whole life is drawn into fulfilling relationships with God
and with the people you are helping.

Do not be afraid to share.

The offering will now be received.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *To Everything There Is a Season*

Ed Harris

To everything there is a season, to everything there is a time;
To every purpose under heaven there is a time, a proper time.
To live and die, to plant and harvest. To kill and heal, to wreck and build;
To cry and laugh, to mourn and dance. There is a time, a proper time.

A time to cast away to bring together, a time to be embraced, to be alone;
To find and lose, to keep and give, there is a time, there is a time.
To tear apart, to mend together, to be silent, and to speak;
To love and hate, for war and peace, there is a time, a proper time.
To everything there is a time.

* DOXOLOGY Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

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

Peggie Willett

Let us join our voices in prayer:

**O God, it is so simple to give money,
even when we have little to share.
But it's difficult to put ourselves in the offering plate.
That seems to be giving up too much.
Is this what you're really asking for?
Is it the only way we can ever claim our true selves
and find the fulfillment you intend for us?
Please answer us, God!
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

**Gracious God,
we listen for you in wind, earthquake, and fire.
Unexpectedly, you speak in the sound of silence.
We pray that by the power of the Holy Spirit,
you will silence in us all storms, doubts, and fears
that overwhelm so that we may hear what you have to say.
Your still small voice.
Thin. Quiet.
Yet compelling, commanding , all the same.
We ask it in the name of Christ.
Amen.**

THE READINGS

Tanach

1 Kings 19:9-18 (Inclusive Bible)

There Elijah went into a cave and spent the night.
And the word of YHWH came to him: "What are you doing here, Elijah?"
Elijah replied, "I have been zealous for YHWH God Omnipotent. The people of Israel have abandoned your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death by the sword. I am the only one left, and now they're trying to kill me, too!"
God said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of YHWH, for YHWH is about to pass by."
Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountain apart and shattered the rocks by YHWH's power—but YHWH was not in the whirlwind. After the wind there was an earthquake—but YHWH was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire—but YHWH was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.
When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice said to him, "What are you doing here Elijah?"
He replied, "I have been zealous for YHWH God Omnipotent. The people of Israel have abandoned your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death by the sword. I am the only one left, and now they're trying to kill me, too."
YHWH told Elijah, "Go back the way you came, to the Desert of Damascus.
When you get there, anoint Hazael as ruler of Aram. Also anoint Jehu ben-Nimshi as ruler over Israel, and anoint Elisha ben-Shaphat, from Abel Meholah, to succeed you as prophet. Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu.
Yet I reserve 7,000 in Israel—all whose knees have not bowed down to Ba' al and all whose mouths have not kissed his images."

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

With God's help we are listening.

Jesus insisted that the disciples get into the boat and precede him to the other side. Having sent the crowds away, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray, remaining there alone as night fell. Meanwhile the boat, already a thousand yards from shore, was being tossed about in the waves which had been raised by the fierce winds.

At about three in the morning, Jesus came walking toward them on the lake.

When the disciples saw Jesus walking on the water, they were terrified.

"It is a ghost!" they said, and in their fear they began to cry out.

Jesus hastened to reassure them: "Don't worry, it's me!" Don't be afraid!"

Peter spoke up and said, "If it is really you, tell me to come to you across the water."

"Come!" Jesus said.

So Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus.

But when he saw how strong the wind was, he became frightened.

He began to sink, and cried out, "Save me!"

Jesus immediately stretched out his hand and caught Peter.

"You have so little faith!" Jesus said to him. "Why did you doubt?"

Once they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Those who were in the boat showed great reverence, declaring to Jesus, "You are indeed God's Own!"

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

"The Sound of Silence"



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.**

Refrain Just a clos - er walk with thee, grant it,
 1 I am weak, but thou art strong; Je - sus,
 2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I
 3 When my fee - ble life is o'er, time for

Je - sus, is my plea, dai - ly walk - ing close to
 keep me from all wrong; I'll be sat - is - fied as
 fal - ter, Lord, who cares? Who with me my bur - den
 me will be no more; guide me gent - ly, safe - ly

thee: let it be, dear Lord, let it be.
 long as I walk, let me walk close to thee. Ref.
 shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee. Ref.
 o'er to thy shore, dear Lord, to thy shore. Ref.

The chromatic musical style of this anonymous short hymn suggests that it probably dates from the early 20th century. It also seems to owe much of its popularity to radio broadcasts and recordings as well as to evangelistic meetings and singing conventions of that era.

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

We can stay together no longer;
there is work for us out in the world.

**There is much we do not understand,
but what we do understand we will do.**

We are among God's chosen ones,
with humble responsibilities unique to us.

**God grants us opportunities to serve
that are available to no others.**

God helps us to walk on water when we need to
and lets us sink when we get too self-centered.

**In quiet confidence we face the week ahead,
listening for the still small voice.**

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Amen

Danish Threefold

POSTLUDE

Fugue in G minor bwv 535

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:

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.



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 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 with Baptism/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 Church Annual Picnic/North Olmsted Community Cabin

Tuesday August 25

12:15PM Tuesday AA Meeting/Cuyahoga Room

Wednesday August 26

11:00AM Stirring Up Hope Soup Pantry

12:15PM Mid-Week Communion/Sanctuary

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

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.

Scan the QR Code with your phone.



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CLEVELAND

LOVING CHRIST, SERVING CITY—SPIRITUALLY, SOCIALLY, CULTURALLY—SINCE 1820

91 Public Square, Cleveland, Ohio 44113-2058

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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

Choir

Kaya Sparks, *soprano*

Christian Bush, *tenor*

Val Sibila, *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

Mark Corey

Forrest Diehl

Pam Daly

Ruth Finley

Alyssa Niepokny

Charlene Thornton

Class of 2027

Anand Bandari

Eric Grattan

Sunny Kunche

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Elie Medie

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Lori Montero

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Class of 2027

Bruce Kranicz

Class of 2027

Mike Musson

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