



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CLEVELAND

SEPTEMBER 6, 2026
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST WITH COMMUNION
10 AM Sanctuary Worship

WE GATHER IN THE GRACE OF GOD

PRELUDE	<i>Let Us Come to Worship God</i>	Tai Melody
WELCOME		Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams
INTROIT	<i>God Be In My Head</i>	John Rutter

God be in my head, and in my understanding,
God be in mine eyes, and in my looking;
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;
God be in my heart, and in my thinking;
God be at mine end, and at my departing.

* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Where two or three gather in Christ's name
the Sovereign One is present.

**Let our coming together proclaim our commitment
to Christ and the church.**

Blow the trumpets to sound God's warning.

Hold one another accountable before the Creator.

**The earth shakes at the visitation of our God,
and all our idols stand condemned.**

God calls us away from our anger and disputes
to honest communication and reconciliation.

**We renew our allegiance to the commandment
"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."**

* INVOCATION PRAYER

**Majestic God, who led our spiritual ancestors
with a pillar of cloud that hid them by day
and protected them by night,
lead us through the threatening times in which we live.
Save us from the floods of our own misplaced trust,
as you saved them from the waters of the sea
and the weapons of their pursuers.
On this day, grant strength to those who are weak
and support for all who are stumbling.
Let every tongue praise you as we give account to you of our deeds.
Amen.**

* HYMN #619

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven

LAUDA ANIMA

1 Praise, my soul, the God of heav - en; glad of heart your
2 Praise God for the grace and fa - vor shown our fore-bears
3 Like a lov - ing par - ent car - ing, God knows well our
4 An - gels, teach us ad - o - ra - tion; you be - hold God

car - ols raise; ran - sored, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,
in dis - tress; God is still the same for - ev - er,
fee - ble frame, glad - ly all our bur - dens bear - ing,
face to face. Sun and moon and all cre - a - tion,

who, like me, should sing God's praise? Al - le - lu - ia!
slow to chide, and swift to bless. Al - le - lu - ia!
still to count - less years the same. Al - le - lu - ia!
dwell - ers all in time and space: Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the Mak - er all your days!
Al - le - lu - ia! Sing our Mak - er's faith - ful - ness!
Al - le - lu - ia! All with - in me, praise God's name!
Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace!

This adaptation of an older paraphrase of Psalm 103 (see no. 620) is informed by an awareness that much of the received language of religious traditions enshrines social values that obscure the goodness of God, which far transcends all our labels and categories and hierarchies.

TEXT: Henry Francis Lyte, 1834; adapt. Ecumenical Women's Center, 1974
MUSIC: John Goss, 1869
Text Adapt. © 1974 Ecumenical Women's Center

LAUDA ANIMA
8.7.8.7.8.7

* CALL TO CONFESSION

Jordan Ware

Sometimes we do not feel like praying.
We resist a time of confession as too negative and not really needed.
Yet we cling to our idols and to our anger toward other people.
Both poison our thoughts and deeds.
We need moments to get at "what's eating us," in order to survive.
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, we rebel against authority
and resist those who would tell us how to live.
When we are wronged, we want to fight back.
When we are angry with people, we do not want you to forgive them.
When we are alienated from others,
we prefer to ignore them
rather than face the painful process of reconciliation.
But you do not let us rest easy with our disputes or our enemies.
Down deep we are not happy with ourselves this way.
Help us to change, according to your purposes for us.**

(moment of silent confession)

* KYRIE

GUARANI KYRIE

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

* ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

When we trust, God is our Help and our Shield.
God's wrath is suspended when we come to ourselves
and seek forgiveness.
God delights in our penitence, forgives our waywardness,
and empowers us to turn things around and find newness of life.
How wonderful is God's steadfast love and faithfulness!
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.
We are indebted to the Creator
for all we have and for the precious gift of life itself.
Nothing we can do will ever begin to repay this debt.
Therefore, with gratitude, we extend to others
the gracious acceptance and generosity we have experienced.
Let us thank God with our offerings.
The offering will now be received.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Ain'-a That Good News!

William L. Dawson

I got a crown up in-a the kingdom, Ain'-a that good news!
I'm-a gonna lay down this world, gonna shoulder up-a my cross.
Gonna take it home-a to my Jesus, Ain'-a that good news!
I got a harp up in-a the kingdom.. I got a robe up in-a the kingdom...
I got a Saviour up in-a the kingdom...

* DOXOLOGY #606

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.**

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

Eric Grattan

Let us join our voices in prayer:

**Loving God,
sometimes we are like little children
who resent having to share their toys.
In this mood we are as grudging with our offerings
as we are with paying taxes.
Help us to see your intention that we be faithful stewards
of all you entrust to us.
As we "contribute to the needs of the saints,"
may we hold one another accountable
for the wise use of your resources so all we give
and all we retain may be used according to your purposes.**

* 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:

**Holy Spirit,
as your word is read and preached,
pass among your gathered people,
opening minds to increase understanding,
opening hearts to bind us together in your love.
In Jesus' name we ask it.
Amen.**

THE READINGS

Epistle

Romans 13:8-14 (Inclusive Bible)

Owe no debt to anyone—except the debt that binds us to love one another. If you love your neighbor, you have fulfilled the Law. The commandments—no committing adultery, no killing, no stealing, no coveting, and all the others—are all summed up in this one: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love never wrongs anyone—hence love is the fulfillment of the Law.

Besides, you know the time in which we are living. It is now the hour for you to wake from sleep, for our salvation is closer than when we first accepted the faith. The night is far spent; the day draws near. So let us cast off deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us live honorably as in daylight, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual excess and lust, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with our Savior Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the desires of the night.

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

With God's help we are listening.

Jesus says: “If your sister or brother should commit some wrong against you, go and point out the error, but keep it between the two of you. If she or he listens to you, you have won a loved one back, if not, try again, but take one or two others with you, so that every case may stand on the word of two or three witnesses. If your sister or brother refuses to listen to them, refer the matter to the church. If she or he ignores even the church, then treat that sister or brother as you would a Gentile or a tax collector.

The truth of the matter is, whatever you declare bound on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you declare loosed on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again I tell you, if two of you on earth join in agreement to pray for anything whatsoever, it will be granted to you by my Abba God in heaven. Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there in their midst.”

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

PASTOR’S MESSAGE

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

“Radical Love – Healing Together”



WE RESPOND IN LOVE AND FAITH

* HYMN #523

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

BICENTENNIAL

Refrain D Bm G F#m D/F# Em A D



You sat-is - fy the hun - gry heart with gift of fin - est wheat;

Bm F#m Em A D *Fine*



come give to us, O sav-ing Lord, the bread of life to eat.

Bm G F#m G A7 Bm



1 As when the shep-herd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice,
2 With joy - ful lips we sing to you our praise and grat - i - tude
3 Is not the cup we bless and share the blood of Christ out-poured?
4 The mys-tery of your pres-ence, Lord, no mor - tal tongue can tell:
5 You give your-self to us, O Lord; then self - less let us be,

to Refrain

Em A Em Em7 A



so when you call your fam - ily, Lord, we fol - low and re-joyce.
that you should count us wor - thy, Lord, to share this heaven-ly food.
Do not one cup, one loaf, de - clare our one - ness in the Lord?
whom all the world can-not con - tain comes in our hearts to dwell.
to serve each oth - er in your name in truth and char - i - ty.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Submitted together, this text and tune were chosen from about two hundred entries to be the official hymn for the 41st International Eucharistic Congress held at Philadelphia in 1976. At the center of its many biblical images, the third stanza draws on 1 Corinthians 10:16-17.

TEXT: Omer Westendorf, 1976

MUSIC: Robert E. Kreutz, 1976

Text and Music © 1977 Archdiocese of Philadelphia (Published by International Liturgy Publications)

BICENTENNIAL

CM with refrain

* INVITATION TO THE MEAL

The Holy One be with you.

And also with you.

Open your hearts to the One who is Love.

We open our hearts to you, O God.

Let us give thanks to God who takes risks for love.

**For the courage of the Holy that lives in us,
we give thanks.**

Throughout history, O God,
we have struggled to claim the power you have given us.
Destructive forces within and around us
make us question your call upon our lives.
We turn ourselves over,
in ways ordinary and remarkable, to what is.
To what has been. To the familiar.

But you have created us for so much more.
In Jesus, we saw a life lived in all its potential.
In all its Sacred power.
Life that is abundant.
Love that was creative, and fervent for justice.
We saw, too,
the consequences of living as if the Kingdom were close.

And so we wonder.
If we live with such courage, what will we lose?
In proclaiming truths that confront unjust power,
do we stand a chance of survival?
How will it go for us,
if we are willing to risk everything for love?
You have never promised us safety,
but you have shown us what is possible.

The Spirit brings new life even to places of death.
Jesus, knowing the dangers ahead,
still did not cave to the threats of power
or give in to the temptations of the popular.
There was nothing he would trade, for his love,
of the suffering and betrayed, not even his own life.

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 Kindom, 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...

Ingrid Naylor, JoAnn Hood, Bruce Kranicz, Jean Marie Leathers, Patsy Buchanan,
Adam Fiortto, Karen McKibben, Denise Sarago, Tommy Bollinger, Scheem,
Jimmy, Conrad, Jerome, Dorland, 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

On the night of his arrest,
Jesus gathered around table with his companions.
His friends. His beloveds in the struggle.
Even the one who would turn him over to the cross.
He took bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to all of them and said,

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.”

After supper, he did the same with the cup, 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 is a symbol of the new covenant. Drink in remembrance of me.”

In remembering the life of Jesus,
we remember what he taught us about ourselves –
about the power God has given us.
We remember that God enfleshed is Good News
that feeds, that protects, that heals, and delivers.

We remember the words he spoke:
“whoever believes in me
will do the works I have been doing,
and they will do even greater things than these.”

PRAYER FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

And so we pray,
pour out your Spirit on this bread and this cup, O God.
Through these gifts, fill our hearts with courage
to believe the Kindom is within us,
to live boldly in pursuit of love that liberates,
and to follow the Wisdom that leads from the margins.
Blessed be this meal of hope.

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

O God Be Merciful

Chrisopher Tye

O God be merciful unto us and bless us;
and show the light of his countenance upon us.
That we may know thy way upon earth;
thy saving health among all the heathen.
Let the people praise thee, O God;
let all the people praise thee.
O let the people rejoice and be glad.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

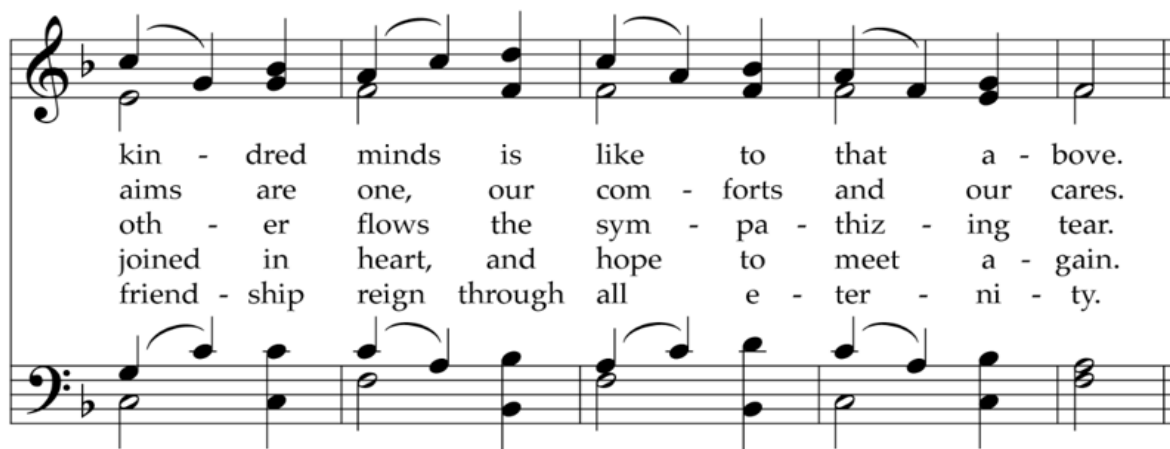
**God, we give you thanks!
For this meal that nourishes us in body and spirit.
For a taste of your dreams.
For the earth that gifts us these resources.
And for these bodies of ours
through which you take on flesh.
May our gratitude produce faithfulness
and our faithfulness produce justice.
Amen.**



1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
 2 Be - fore our *Fa - ther's throne we pour our
 3 We share our mu - tual woes; our mu - tual
 4 When we are called to part, it gives us
 5 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we



Chris - tian love. The fel - low - ship of
 ar - dent prayers. Our fears, our hopes, our
 bur - dens bear. And of - ten for each
 in - ward pain; but we shall still be
 shall be free; and per - fect love and



kin - dred minds is like to that a - bove.
 aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
 oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
 joined in heart, and hope to meet a - gain.
 friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

*Or "Maker's"

Written to express a pastor's unwillingness to leave a beloved congregation, this hymn is frequently used as an expression of Christian fellowship, especially at the conclusion of the Lord's Supper. The tune is attributed to an influential Swiss musician and publisher.

* COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Go to your hungry enemies, waiting to be fed,
and your hurting neighbors who need forgiveness.

**Our worship is not complete
until we have done our all for reconciliation.**

Let your church participate with you
in the building of better relationships.

**We seek to live in peace with all people,
and we need the church to help us.**

Be affectionately devoted to one another;
outdo one another in showing honor.

**We need help to develop genuine love
in which we really see and hear others.**

Rejoice with those who rejoice,
weep with those who weep.

**We renew our allegiance to the commandment
"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."**

* CHORAL RESPONSE

Amen

Danish Amen

POSTLUDE

Prelude in E flat

Camille Saint-Saëns

*"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:

Ingrid Naylor, JoAnn Hood, Bruce Kranicz, Jean Marie Leathers, Patsy Buchanan,
Adam Fiortto, Karen McKibben, Denise Sarago, Tommy Bollinger, Scheem, Jimmy,
Conrad, Jerome, Dorland, 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 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

12:00PM New Member Class/Gallery/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

Saturday September 19

9:30AM NAMI WALKS/Edgewater Park

Sunday September 20

10:00AM Worship/Sanctuary

11:30AM Communion/Chapel

11:30AM MUW Committee Meeting/Cuyahoga Room

11:45AM Handbell Rehearsal/Gallery

1:40PM Guardians/Athletics/Progressive Field

2:00PM Welcoming and Fellowship Committee

Cleveland Art Museum Tour

Last Sunday Attendance In-Person:57 Online:230

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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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

Cali Jacobs, *soprano*
Zara Smith, *soprano*
Kaya Sparks, *soprano*

Christian Bush, *tenor*
Anthony Steward, *tenor*
Noah Whitaker, *tenor*

Rayna Brooks, *alto*
Morgan Potts, *alto*
Val Sibila, *alto*

R. Dominic Aragon, *bass*
Job Butcher, *bass*
Adam Whanger, *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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