

# Service of Worship

*December 3rd, 2023*

*1st Sunday of Advent*



First Presbyterian Church of Fort Thomas

*Rev. Dr. Amy Snow, Interim Pastor*

*Dave Zeng, Music Director*

*Christina Seal, Pianist/Organist*

**We Gather Together**

Fanfare

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

“O Come Emmanuel, Clair de Lune”

Trad./Debussy

Advent Wreath Lighting

Pete & Karen Sower and family

Hymn #84, verse 1

**“Creator of the stars of night, Your people’s everlasting light, O Christ,  
Redeemer of us all, We pray you hear us when we call.”**

**Lord Jesus, as we search for signs of hope this week, help us to become the signs of hope that others are searching for. As these candles are but a glimpse of the light of the heavens, help us to be a glimpse of heaven’s hope for those who are walking in darkness. Amen.**

\*Opening Hymn

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

Hymn #377

\*Call to Confession

\*Prayer of Confession

**Holy God, we confess our desire to live as your disciples and still live as normal citizens of this world. We spend one day giving thanks for all you have given to us, and the next day we indulge in unchecked greed vying for the best prices for gifts and goods that aren’t needed and often aren’t really wanted. Help us to break free from this cycle of excess that harms our hearts and is destroying our planet. Help us to find joy and meaning in each other, our relationships and in simple but rich traditions. Show us how to fill this season with hope, and wonder, and deep love. Amen.**

\*Assurance of God’s Love and Forgiveness

In Christ there is no darkness at all, the night and day are alike in Christ.

The Lamb of God has taken away the sins of the world.

**We are forgiven, rescued and redeemed. Shine in our hearts Lord Jesus! Amen.**

Hymn #93, verse 3

**“Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.  
Let me thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in me reveal.”**

The Passing of the Peace

May the Peace of Christ be with you,

**And also, with you.**

Special Music

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”  
*Men’s Ensemble*

## **We Proclaim God’s Word**

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Pew Bible pg. 205

This is the Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“All the Light We Cannot See”

Rev. Dr. Amy Snow

## **We Respond to God’s Word**

Hymn of Response

“Look Who Gathers at Christ’s Table!”

Hymn #506

**The Lord’s Supper and a time for Healing, Hope and Wholeness**  
Invitation to the Table

### **The Great Thanksgiving and the Words of Institution**

The Lord be with you, **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy God, we give thanks for...

Along the Way we join our voices with those of all created beings in Heaven, and on Earth singing:

**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.**

Communion of the People

Prayers for Hope, Healing, and Wholeness

Prayer after Communion

Call for the Offering

Doxology

Hymn #608

**“Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below; praise Holy Spirit ever more; praise Triune God, whom we adore. “**

Prayer of Dedication

## *We Go Forth In God's Name*

Closing Hymn

“My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout”

Hymn #100

\*Benediction

\*Benediction Response

Hymn #105 verse 4

**“Stars keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim, shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together. People look east and sing today: Love the Lord, is on the way.”**

Postlude

“Psalm 42/Genevan”

Craig Phillips

WORSHIP NOTES

Acolyte: Brady Dolph

Liturgist: Roger Neff

\*All are invited to stand in body or spirit

# All Hymns from Glory to God hymnal, unless noted otherwise

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