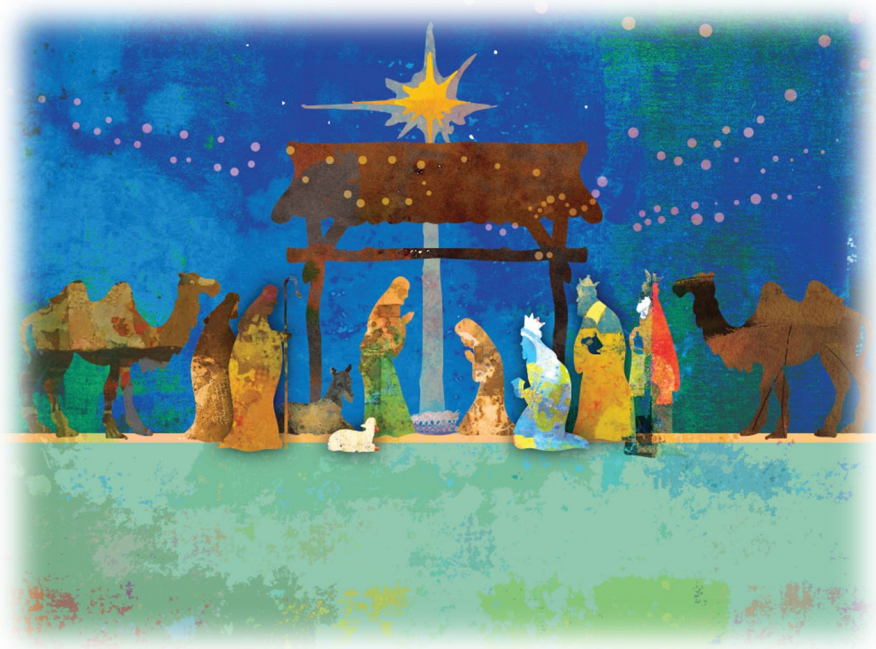


# Service of Worship

*December 21st, 2025  
4th Sunday of Advent*



First Presbyterian Church of Fort Thomas

*Rev. Dr. Holly Robertson, Pastor  
Mika Komuro, Pianist*

Fanfare  
Welcome & Announcements  
Prelude

**The Gathering**

Lighting of the candles of hope, peace, joy & love

Vank Russman Family

\*Call to Worship

One: Come, Over-flowing joy: tip-toeing into our lives like the children on the holiest of nights.

**All: Come, Good News of grace: prepare our hearts to welcome you, and all whose hopes have turned to ashes.**

One: Come, Dreamer of peace: so we may pour our lives and gifts into a world in need of reconciliation.

\*Opening Hymn

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Hymn #82

\*Call to Confession

\*Prayer of Confession

**Come now, Reconciler of the nations, for our world, our lives, need your peace more than ever before. Come, Caller to discipleship, for we long to let go of our self-interest and narcissism. Come, Word Gifter, for we hunger to hear your voice once again, ever always. Come, Servant of the poor, so we notice you in all those we push past in this hectic season. Come, Silence of our nights and Holiness of our hearts, and forgive us for turning your compassion into commercials, your joy into jingles, your hope into hollow words, your love into lust for the short-lasting offerings of the world. May we find our way to the One born simply, born gracefully, for us—Jesus, the Child of wonder and life.**

\*Assurance of God's Love

We may not notice them there, at the back of the pile of presents, but it is God's hope, God's life, God's mercy, which are the true gifts we receive each and every moment.

**We give thanks to our gracious God, who has forgiven us and blessed us. Amen!**

**Reception of Teri Foltz to membership by Reaffirmation of Faith**

One: Just as the body is one and had many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body so it is with Christ

**All: For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. 1Corinthians 12:12-13**

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world? *I do.*

Who is your Lord and Savior? *Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.*

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love?  
*I will, with God's help.*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Will you be a faithful member of this congregation? Will you share in its worship and mission through your prayers and gifts, your study and service, and so fulfill your calling to be a disciple of Jesus Christ? If you will, please respond: **I will, with God's help.**

**Holy God, Thank you for calling us to be your people and joining us to Christ's body, as your church. We praise you for leading Teri to this congregation. Empower all of us by your Spirit, that we might love one another as Christ loved us, honoring him in all that we say and do, giving our lives in service to others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

\*Responsorial Hymn

"Great Are You, Lord"

Hymn #614

**"Great are you, Lord: you are holy and just; by your power we trust in your love. Great are you, Lord: you are faithful and true; by your mercy you prove you are love. Great are you, Lord, and worthy of glory! Great are you, Lord and worthy of praise. Great are you, Lord. We lift up our voice; we lift up our voice: great are you, Lord!  
Great are you, Lord!"**

\*Greeting in Christ's Name

May the Peace of Christ Be With You. **And also with you.**

Let us greet one another with the peace of Christ.

\*Call for the Offering

Offertory

\*Doxology

Hymn #582

**“Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.”**

Prayer of Dedication

### **The Word**

#### ***The Nativity Story: A Reader’s Theater***

Based on Matthew 1-2 and Luke 1-2, New Living Translation

Presented by the talented FPC children and youth

*The following hymns will be sung during the presentation. Please join as directed.*

“Oh Little Town of Bethlehem”

#121 v. 1-4

“Away in a Manger”

#115 v. 1-3

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

#119 v. 1-3

“We Three Kings of Orient Are”

#151 v. 1-4

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

#133 v. 1-4

### **The Sending**

\*Benediction

\*Benediction Response

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Hymn #88, v. 6

**“O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death’s dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.”**

Postlude

**(Please remain seated and reflect upon the service)**

### **WORSHIP NOTES**

Liturgist: Paul Winkler

Acolyte: Brekken Tester

\*All are invited to stand in body or spirit

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

Attributions: Portions of this liturgy are from Thom Shuman’s Lectionary Liturgies and John Wurster Presbyterian Outlook