

Service of Worship

April 21st, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Easter



Detail of an ancient image of Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch in the chariot.

First Presbyterian Church of Fort Thomas

Rev. Dr. Amy Snow, Interim Pastor

Dave Zeng, Music Director

Mika Komuro, Pianist

We Gather Together

Fanfare

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

“How Gentle God’s Commands”

by Hans Nageli
arr. Terri Hutchings

*Call to Worship

One: The Spirit descends like a dove, bringing peace to unite the world in a just and caring community.

All: The Spirit is the breath of God, bringing new life to the people of God.

One: The Spirit spreads like fire, bringing energy for witnessing to the love of God.

All: Blessed are you, Adonai Our God, who has made us partners in our own spiritual formation.

One: Blessed are you, Adonai Our God, Sovereign of the universe, who allows us to share about our lives in community, see beyond gender, race, and cultural difference, and blesses us with myriad affections to share with our loved ones.

All: Spirit of God, come to us and transform our lives by your power. Amen.

*Opening Hymn

“All Are Welcome”

Hymn #301

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

We have promised to live as your people, O God. Yet, we confess that we fail you and one another. We do not honor one another as we should. As the body of Christ, we are often disjointed and clumsy. We do not work together as one to your glory. We refuse your cry for help in the voices of the poor and hungry. We have not been faithful to the trust you have placed in us. (Silence is kept as personal confessions are made.)

Merciful God, receive us as we are, and forgive us. Encourage us with your love that we may commit ourselves anew to live as those who belong to you; through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Assurance of God’s Love and Forgiveness

One: Hear the good news:

All: In the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, we learn that God’s love has no bounds.

One: In Christ we are forgiven and are empowered to begin anew.

All: Thanks be to God!

Hymn #240, Chorus

**“Alleluia Alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Praise to His name.”**

Greeting in Christ's Name

In this Easter Season we greet each other with the ancient call and response:

Christ is Risen! **He is Risen Indeed!**

Call for the Offering

Offertory/Special Music

“And Can it Be”
Chancel Choir

by John Purifoy

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 Proclaim God's Word

Time with our Children

Pastor Amy

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

Acts 8:26-40

Pew Bible pg. 127

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

Sermon

“Altered on the Edge of Belonging”

Rev. Dr. Amy Snow

With Rev. Sue Jelinek M.Div. BCC Staff Chaplain III CCHMC

We Respond to God's Word

Affirmation of Love- “Love Wins” by Alden Solovy

One: One day, the words “coming out” will sound strange, oppression based on gender or orientation will be a memory, history to honor and remember:

All: The pain of hiding, repressing, denying, honoring the triumphs of those who fought to be free, remembering the violence of hatred that cost lives.

One: When love wins, when love wins at long last,

All: “Love your neighbor as yourself” will be as natural as breathing.

One: One day, love will win every heart, love will win every soul, fear will vanish like smoke, and tenderness for all will fill our hearts.

All: Love wins. In the end, love wins. Man for man, woman for woman, woman for man, men for women, all genders, all orientations, all true expressions of heart.

One: Let this come speedily in our day!

All: A tribute to the many and the diverse gifts from heaven. A tribute to love deep and true, each of us for one another.

Hymn of Response

“God Welcomes All”
(sing 3X)

Hymn #399

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

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. Lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

We Go Forth In God’s Name

Closing Hymn

“We All Are One in Mission”

Hymn #733

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

Hymn #231 v. 3

**“Christ has risen and forever lives to challenge and to change
All whose lives are messed or mangled, all who find religion strange.
Christ is risen, Christ is present making us what he has been:
Evidence of transformation in which God is know and seen.”**

Postlude

“Nearer My God To Thee”

arr. Michael Bailey

WORSHIP NOTES

Acolyte: Abel Dawn

Liturgist: Dave Agard

*All are invited to stand in body or spirit

All Hymns from Glory to God hymnal, unless noted otherwise

© Presbyterian Outlook, 2024 Liturgy written by Rev. Ellen Williams Hensle and provided for free distribution.

First Presbyterian Church

220 S. Ft Thomas Ave., Fort Thomas, KY 41075

ffpc220@gmail.com website: ffpc.org 859-441-8939

We are a Christian body dedicated to:

- Showing God's Love
- Sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- Serving the Needs of others