

Service of Worship

October 22nd, 2023

21st Sunday after Pentecost



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

Stewardship Minute

Prelude

“Down to the River to Pray”

trad. Spiritual arr. Ken Medema

Call to Worship

Cheryl Boettger

L: Worship the Lord, tremble before God all the earth!

P: **Say among the nations, “The Lord is king! He will judge the people with equity!”**

L: Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

P: **Let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord.**

L: He is coming to judge the earth.

P: **He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with His truth. Let us worship the Lord.**

*Opening Hymn

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

Hymn #307

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Creator God, we are commanded to give to you what is branded as yours. But since we cannot see your face, we confess to a miserable confusion. Where is your image printed? Not on our coinage or our calendars. Not on any of the things we buy in the store or in the ad-laden videos that stream by us. No, the only place we can see your face, is in our neighbor and in the mirror. We are all created in your image. It is easier to part with our money than to dedicate our whole selves to you, but if WE are what you want, heart, mind, soul and strength— we’ll do our best, God. We’ll give our all to you. Amen.

*Assurance of God’s Love and Forgiveness

Hear the good news! Our God, lover of justice, glories not in punishment but in redemption.

Christ has broken the power of sin and rescued us from our shame.

Be at peace: you are forgiven, and your are free.

To God be the Glory! Alleluia! Amen.

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

Hymn #240, refrain

The Passing of the Peace

May the Peace of Christ be with you,
And also, with you.

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory

“Fairest Lord Jesus”
Mixed Vocal Quartet

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. “

Litany of Commitment

It helps, now and then, to step back and take the long view.

The Kingdom is not only beyond our efforts; it is even beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God’s work.
Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of saying that the kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said. No prayer fully expresses our faith. No confession brings perfection. No pastoral visit brings wholeness. No program accomplishes the church’s mission. No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about.

We plant the seeds that one day will grow. We water the seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise. We lay foundations that will need further development. We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something and to do it well.

It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord’s grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.

We are prophets of a future not our own.

-Bishop Ken Untener of Saginaw in 1979

We Proclaim God’s Word

Time with Our Children

Pastor Amy

Prayer for Illumination

Lord, in the stories of your Scripture, in the teaching of your Son, give us truth to cling to; help us hear your still, small voice. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Matthew 22:15-22

Pew Bible pg. 24

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

Sermon

“Finding a Third Way”

Rev. Dr. Amy Snow

Hymn

“This Is the Day the Lord Hath Made”

Hymn #681

We Respond to God’s Word

Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles’ Creed

In life and death we belong to God.

Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

In sovereign love God created the world good, acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation, and makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God, was crucified, and raised from the dead, delivering us from death to life eternal.

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the church. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

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

We Go Forth In God’s Name

Closing Hymn

“God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

Hymn #716

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

Hymn #744 verse 1

**“Arise, your light is come! The Spirit’s call obey;
show forth the glory of your God, which shines on you today”**

Postlude

“Sortie in D Major”

César Franck

WORSHIP NOTES

Acolyte: Hughes Family

*All are invited to stand in body or spirit

All Hymns from Glory to God hymnal, unless noted otherwise

Liturgy written by Carol Holbrook Prickett for the Presbyterian Outlook, used with permission.

First Presbyterian Church
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We are a Christian body dedicated to:

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



Tues. 10/24	Office Hours, 9-12
Wed. 10/25	Office Hours, 9-12 Book Club
Thurs. 10/26	Office Hours, 9-12
Sun. 10/29	Youth Halloween Party

Support FPC by giving online using this link:

Ftfpc.org/give

On the Prayer List This Week: Linda B, Sally Reusch, Herb Hilgeman, Jane Reusch, Cindy Roth, Gary Shields, Jo Alexander

Remember Our Members in Caring Facilities:

The Barrington: Ann Deering, John Alexander, Barb Manyet

Carmel Manor: Jane Reusch

Hyde Park Health Center: Carol Warf

Highland Springs: Kathy Clixby

Inspirations: Corinne White

Providence Pavillion: Betsy Evans

To address any pastoral needs, please contact the office at 859-441-8939 or Pastor Amy at 513-335-1621— pastoramyfpc@gmail.com



The Flowers today are given by

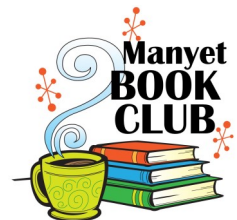
Jim Humphries

To the glory of God and in loving memory of

Katherine Humphries



Manyet Book Club will meet again Wed., October 25th at 7pm at Donna Baxter's house. We will be sharing stories from the new Chicken Soup for the Soul Book, *Angels and the Miraculous* by Amy Newmark. Come join us!



Upcoming Youth Events

Registrations and more info
can be found at
lakesidechurch.org



Three Brothers- David Wilcox

All three brothers loved their father, but he's brought them here today
To see these papers and these lawyers, and divide the old estate
All three feel that they're the favorite, he loves each of them the best
But these documents he gave them, will now put them to the test

So they open all the writings, that will prove the rightful heir
To this home that they remember, and the right to settle there
Their own sister is a prisoner, they don't see her face to face
They've not heard her song of beauty, or felt the movement of her grace

She lives live behind those bars of steel and waits for her release
Will she die or will we see
Jerusalem In Peace

Each one looks at what he's given, and he studies what he's shown
They hold their maps that show possession, of this place they've called their home
At first they sigh with satisfaction, when they see what's on their maps
Each one's given all he wanted, but the boundaries overlap

So do you wish us to be brothers? Father help us understand
Or will we each kill off the others? to claim this same piece of land
Do You mean there to be hatred? In this place you built to last
And will faith just die a prisoner? In the dungeon of the past

She lives behind those bars of steel and waits for her release
Will she die or will we see
Jerusalem In Peace

She lives behind those bars of steel and waits for her release
Will she die or will we see
Jerusalem In Peace

Jerusalem is sending her voice from inside the prison of disbelief
Stand up you people of the one God to bring about her release