

Service of Worship

*January 25th, 2026
3rd Sunday after Epiphany*



First Presbyterian Church of Fort Thomas

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

Fanfare

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

The Gathering

*Call to Worship

One: Come out of the shadows and into God's light!

All: **We will not play hide and seek, but will make a pilgrimage to God's heart.**

One: Lay down all which is a burden to you!

All: **We will give our fears to God, who is our help in every moment.**

One: Follow the One who will lead you to new life!

All: **We long to live in God's presence ever day of our lives.**

Scripture

Matthew 8:23-27

pg. 8

Question for Reflection:

When has fear threatened to overtake your faith?

*Opening Hymn

“We Gather Together”

Hymn #336

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

We admit, God our Light, that we do indeed try to tear Christ apart—a piece of him here to support our politics, a part of him to undergird our economic views, the rest of him to bolster our fears of others. We could leave immediately to follow him, but need to wait until we see where he might lead us. We want you to look upon us with favor always, but have no trouble turning our backs on those around us.

Hear us, God our Deliverer, as we speak of our failures! Have mercy on us, we appeal to you, have mercy! May your love become the core of our hearts, may your compassion become the words we speak, may your hope illuminate the ways in which we serve others, even as we seek to follow the One who calls us to new life, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

*Assurance of God's Love

Psalm 103:17 says “The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.”

Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

We claim God's grace and will extend it to others. Amen.

*Responsorial Hymn

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

Hymn #366 v. 1

“Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven, to earth come down, fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown. Jesus, thou art all compassion; pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.”

*Greeting in Christ’s Name

My friends, God gathers us all in, to rest in his love.

We, as believers, are called to bring comfort to our neighbors and share in their joy.

Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

(Friends, while still maintaining the safety of the peace sign, let us take a holy moment of active greeting. Move to the 3 pews around you, sharing God’s peace with God’s people before returning to your seats.)

The Word

Time with the children

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

Psalm 27:1, 4-9

Pew Bible, pg. 503

Sermon

“The God Factor”

Rev. Dr. Holly Robertson

Response to Grace

*Hymn

“I Will Come to You”

Hymn #177

Affirmation of Faith from A Brief Statement of Faith

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. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. 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!”

*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

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.

The Sending

*Closing Hymn

“How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord”

Hymn #432

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

“O, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

Hymn #610 v. 2

“The name of Jesus charms our fears, and bids our sorrows cease; sings music in the sinner’s ears, brings life, and health, and peace.”

Postlude

(Please remain seated and reflect upon the service)

WORSHIP NOTES

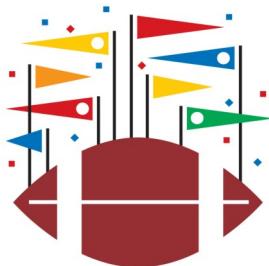
Liturgist: Dave Agard

Acolyte: Brekken Tester

*All are invited to stand in body or spirit

All Hymns from Glory to God hymnal, unless noted otherwise

Attributions: This liturgy is from the Presbyterian Outlook, written by Teri McDowell Ott and Lectionary Liturgies by Thom Schuman.



Super Bowl Challenge

In addition to the Souperbowl luncheon, which will be February 8th after worship, we are going to be participating in a Super Bowl Challenge. There is a great need in our community for non-perishable food and hygiene items and we want to help.

- * Pick your team ahead of the game (be honest!)
- * bring in the amount of non-perishable or hygiene items equivalent to the score of the team you picked.

This is a challenge, not a mandate—if the score is too high, do what you can. If you prefer to donate money, Rev. Holly will shop for you. Most importantly—Have Fun!