

Service of Worship

December 24th, 2025

Christmas Eve



First Presbyterian Church of Fort Thomas

Rev. Dr. Holly Robertson, Pastor

Mika Komuro, Pianist

Brass Quartet:

Austin Park, Ben Hunter, David Roode, John Miller

We Gather Together

Prelude

Brass Quartet

Welcome & Announcements

Light has come to the world:

Lighting the candles of advent and Christ's Birth

Frank & Judy Sower

***Call to Worship**

One: With eyes wide open and our ears on edge,

All: **We look for shepherds and listen for the songs of angels.**

One: In the light of winter's moon, with the Southern Cross lighting the way, we gather outside the door of a mystery, wondering if we dare go enter.

All: **With folks and friends we love, with strangers we have just met, we gather, becoming the holy family for this time and in this place.**

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

Pew Bible pg. 638

***Opening Hymn**

"O Come, all Ye Faithful"

Hymn #133

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

This was going to be the year, God of silent nights, when we were going to give away more than we spent, but we didn't. This was going to be the season when we spent more time with others, but we filled our calendars with meetings. This was going to be the Christmas when we wrote personal letters to friends and family, but spent too much energy filling out our to-do lists. This was going to be a truly holy season, but it just got too harried and hurried. Forgive us, Love Gifter, and draw us closer to the Baby born not into wealth and power, but into poverty and weakness; to the One who loves unconditionally and welcomes all; to the Child who gathers other children to him, to bless them and serve them; to the One who drew near to us, so we might be drawn to your heart— Jesus Christ, our Brother, our Lord. Amen.

***Assurance of God's Love**

Into the valleys of our death, Jesus comes with life; into the shadows of our world, Jesus brings light; into the brokenness of our lives, Jesus brings forgiveness and peace.

Thanks be to God for the gift of the Baby of Bethlehem, who brings joy and peace to us in these moments of forgiveness and in all the days to come. Amen.

Hymn #119, v. 1

"Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king. Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies; with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Greetings in Christ's Name

As the Christ child brought peace to earth, let us share peace with one another.
The Peace of Christ be with you.
And also, with you.

Hymn

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”
(remain seated)

Hymn #136

We Proclaim God's Word

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:1-20

Pew Bible pg. 58

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

Special Music

“O Holy Night”
Cathy Newman

Darlene Zschech & Craig Gower

Sermon

“Tune Up and Sing”

Rev. Dr. Holly Robertson

We Respond to God's Word

Hymn

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Hymn #113

Communion

As Christ came down to us let us come forward to receive God's gifts.

Hymn

“What Child is This”
(remain seated)

Hymn #145

Call for the Offering

Offertory

“Hallelujah, Glory Hallelujah”
Chancel Choir

Natalie Sleeth

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. 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

“Away in a Manger”

Hymn #115

Sharing the Light of Christ

Please hold lit candles upright and tip unlit candles to light them to avoid spilling hot wax.

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

“Silent Night”

Hymn #122

Postlude

“Ava Maria”

Vladimir Vavilov

WORSHIP NOTES

Acolyte: Cadence Webster & Scarlett Young

Liturgist: Tom Hills

*All are invited to stand in body or spirit

All Hymns from Glory to God hymnal, unless noted otherwise

Attribution: portions of the liturgy are from Thom Shuman's Lectionary Liturgies.

First Presbyterian Church

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

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