

Service of Worship

*December 14th, 2025
3rd 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 and joy

Sally Reusch

*Call to Worship

One: What if joy were to break out unrestrained in our world? What would we notice?

All: The wilderness and dry land would be glad; the desert rejoice and blossom. The blind would see and the lame would walk. Lepers would be cleansed, and the deaf would hear. The dead would rise and the poor would receive good news.

One: May joy break out in our worship today as we anticipate the One who comes into our world! Come thou long expected Jesus!

Scripture for reflection

Isaiah 35:1-10

pg. 663

Questions to Ponder:

When have you felt God bring you from drought to living joy? How can you share that grace with others?

*Opening Hymn

“As with Gladness Men of Old”

Hymn #150

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

This season is supposed to be so holy, God of Christmas, yet the din of sales pitches turns us into cynical grumps. As we drive down the streets, the decorations on all the houses keep us from seeing the loneliness of the widower, the strained faces of those who fear the future. We are so determined to find just the right gift or card which speaks of joy, we forget that you came so long ago to offer justice to those who have none.

Be patient with us, God of our hearts, as we struggle to speak for the voiceless, to walk with those who have lost their way, to let go of our certainty of what really happened to long ago, and listen to the songs of children which speak of that peace which really can bring reconciliation, of that grace which really can offer hope, of that love which really came to us that night in Bethlehem, in the birth of Jesus, our Brother, our Savior. Amen.

*Assurance of God's Love

This is the good news: God remembers! Not our sins, not our foolish lives, not our rebellion.

God remembers us—and redeems us!

God prepares the way for us—the way to grace, to hope, to new life.

Joyfully, we offer our thanks to God. Amen.

“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.

The Word

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

Psalm 146:5-10

Pew Bible, pg. 581

Sermon

“Where’s Joy?”

Rev. Dr. Holly Robertson

Response to Grace

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.

*Hymn

“Joy to the World”

Hymn #134, v. 3-4

*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

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

Hymn #132

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

“You Shall Go Out with Joy”

Hymn #80, sing twice

“You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace; the mountains and the hills will break forth before you; there'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field will clap, will clap their hands. And all the trees of the field will clap their hands; the trees of the field will clap their hands; the trees of the field will clap their hands while you go out with joy.”

Postlude

(Please remain seated and reflect upon the service)

WORSHIP NOTES

Liturgist: Barb Deering

Acolyte: Vank Russman Family

*All are invited to stand in body or spirit

All Hymns from Glory to God hymnal, unless noted otherwise