

Service of Worship

*December 28th, 2025
1st Sunday of Christmas*



First Presbyterian Church of Fort Thomas

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

Fanfare
Welcome & Announcements
Prelude

The Gathering

*Call to Worship

One: Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

All: Praise the Lord!

One: Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

All: Praise the Lord!

One: Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

All: Praise the Lord!

One: Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters, wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

All: Praise the Lord!

One: Praise the Lord kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!
Young men and women alike, old and young together!

All: Praise the Lord!

One: Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted.

All: Praise the Lord!

Scripture for reflection

Isaiah 63:7-9

pg. 693

*Opening Hymn

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

Hymn #128

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness. You grew in wisdom and in divine and human favor. All too often, we don't worry about growing in wisdom or in grace, and we seek human favor while forgetting that your divine favor is even more important. Forgive us, gracious God, for our refusal to follow in Jesus' footsteps. We turn from this and all our sin. By the power of your Spirit, sanctify us to be more like him, each and every day. We pray in Christ's name. Amen.

*Assurance of God's Love

Hear the promise of the Lord: See, your salvation has come! You are a holy people, redeemed by God; sought out and not forsaken.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God! Amen.

*Responsorial Hymn

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Hymn #119 v. 3

“Hail; the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings. Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. ”

*Greeting 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. Amen.

The Word

Prayer for Illumination

Children’s Time

Scripture Reading

Matthew 2:1-15

Pew Bible, pg. 2

Sermon

“Nowell Once Again”

Rev. Dr. Holly Robertson

Based on “The First Nowell”, Hymn #147

Response to Grace

*Hymn

“Once in Royal David’s City”

Hymn #140

Affirmation of Faith from A Declaration of Faith

We believe in God, robed in splendor, veiled in mystery, ruler alike of darkness and light. We encounter God in Jesus Christ, who was tortured and put to death, but whose radiance could not be quenched; whose touch brings a blaze of colour to a dull, drab world: reviving the weary, healing the wounded, dazzling the satisfied. We walk with God, guided by the light of God’s loving spirit, who enters the shadowed places of our hearts and leads us into truth and life. We wait for God, and for the fulfillment of God’s promises, for the time when the darkness will hold no fear and light will no longer blind, but creation will be made whole once more and God’s peace will reign for ever.

*Call for the Offering

Offertory

Ringers in Harmony

*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

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

Hymn #143

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

“Angels We Have Heard On High”

verse 3

“Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing; come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo!”

Postlude

Ringers in Harmony

(Please remain seated and reflect upon the service)

WORSHIP NOTES

Liturgist: Lois Rogers

Acolyte: Nolan & William Hughes

*All are invited to stand in body or spirit

All Hymns from Glory to God hymnal, unless noted otherwise

Attributions: Portions of this liturgy are from Synod of the Covenant order for worship December 28, 2025 and Presbyterian Outlook.