

Service of Worship

January 11th, 2026

Baptism of the Lord



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 to the waters, beloved—where Spirit moved over at creation, where Jesus was immersed in justice, where God leaned close to us.

All: We splash in the river of God's joy.

One: Come to the waters, beloved—where God's voice thunders, where God whispers kindness.

All: We watch as Jesus steps into the muddy mess of our lives.

One: Come to the waters, beloved—where the Spirit gifts us so we can stand side by side with the broken and forgotten.

All: We come because we are indeed God's beloved children.

Scripture for reflection

Isaiah 42:1-9

pg. 670

Question to ponder:

When do you most feel that you are God's beloved?

*Opening Hymn

"Fairest Lord Jesus"

Hymn #630

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

We know we prefer to stand on the shore, gentle God, scared to run barefoot into the waters of faith. We take small sips of the living water of grace you offer but go on binges with the mixed drinks of anger and fear. We have trouble seeing some neighbors, much less strangers, as your beloved and believe our privilege means all are as comfortable as we are.

As we draw near to the waters of baptism, God of grace, have mercy on us. Whenever we forget who we are, send us to serve the vulnerable. Whenever we forget what we are, challenge us to be more gracious and just. Whenever we forget those we are, wash us again in that forgiveness deeper than our shallow lives, and fill us with new life in Christ. Amen.

*Assurance of God's Love

This is our good news, friends. The Spirit descends upon us, the heavens open, and God speaks—not with judgment, punishment, or condemnation, but with joy, grace, hope, love.

**We are God's beloved children—forgiven, claimed, named, baptized. Thanks be to God.
Amen!**

*Responsorial Hymn

“Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether”

Hymn #529 v. 1

**“Draw us in the Spirits tether, for when humbly in your name two or three are met together, you are in the midst of them. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Here we touch your garment’s hem. ”**

*Greeting in Christ’s Name

The Word

Time with the children

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

Matthew 3:13-17

Pew Bible, pg. 3

Sermon

“Just Add Water”

Rev. Dr. Holly Robertson

Response to Grace

*Hymn

“Baptized in Water”

Hymn #482

Affirmation of Faith from A Declaration 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.

*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

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

Hymn #306

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

“Our God Is an Awesome God”

Hymn #616

“Our God is an awesome God who reigns from heaven above with wisdom, power, and love; our God is an awesome God!”

Postlude

(Please remain seated and reflect upon the service)

WORSHIP NOTES

Liturgist: Cheryl Boettger

Acolyte: Young Family

*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 Roger Gench and Lectionary Liturgies by Thom Schuman.