

Service of Worship

December 7th, 2025

2nd Sunday of Advent



First Presbyterian Church of Fort Thomas

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

Fanfare

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

The Gathering

Lighting the Advent Candle

Dave & Pat Agard

***Call to Worship**

One: In this season of bumper to bumper stress, with life more crowded than the stores,

All: God welcomes us to a feast of faithfulness, where we may sit in peace and gentleness.

One: In these times of rancorous rants and snide remarks, with people too busy to offer words of compassion,

All: Jesus whispers of hope for broken hearts, sings carols of justice for all the outsiders.

One: In these days of more and more time spent with devices, and fewer moments with those who could touch us with joy,

All: the Spirit embraces us with peace that comforts, loves us with a passion beyond 140 characters.

***Opening Hymn**

"I've Got Peace Like a River"

Hymn #623

Scripture lesson

Isaiah 11:1-12

Pew Bible, pg. 640

Question for Reflection:

How can you help bring about God's glorious reign of peace?

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Goodness Incarnate, we must confess that we have not lived as your children. We muddy the clear waters of baptism with the detritus of walking over those we claim we love. We sit in our lonely lives feasting on bitterness, when we could be feasting with those we are told not to trust. We wait for all our desires to be taken care of by you, while you hope we would fill the lives of others with your grace and hope.

Forgive us, God of this holy season, and help us to be as willing to draw near to others, so we might heal their brokenness, touch their loneliness, embrace their grief, and love them as you did when you came to us so long ago, as well as in these moments, in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Responsorial Hymn**

"I Danced in the Morning"

Hymn #157 v. 1

"I danced in the morning when the world was begun, and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, and I came down from heaven and I danced on earth. At Bethlehem I had my birth. Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance said he, and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he."

*Passing of the Peace

May the Peace of Christ Be With You. **And also with you.**
Let us greet one another with the peace of Christ.

The Word

Time with the Children
Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading- Please LISTEN and hear God speaking peace into your hearts.

Sermon

“Find Peace in the Pieces”

Rev. Dr. Holly Robertson

Response to Grace

*Hymn

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

Hymn #144

*Affirmation of Faith

God’s redeeming work in Jesus Christ embraces the whole of human life: social and cultural, economic and political, scientific and technological, individual and corporate. It includes our natural environment as exploited and despoiled by sin. God wills that God’s purpose for human life shall be fulfilled under the rule of Christ, and all evil be banished from God’s creation. Already God’s reign is present as a ferment in the world, stirring hope in all people and preparing the world to receive its ultimate judgment and redemption. With an urgency born of this hope, the church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better world. It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth, nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat. In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial achievement to the final triumph of God.

Hymn

“In Remembrance of Me”

Hymn #521

Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

Words of Institution

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts! **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Hymn response

Hymn #701

**“Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I’ll be a living sanctuary for you.”**

May the Advent God give you hope.

May God grant you peace.

Let us lift our hearts to God who offers righteousness to all.

We open our hearts to the One who loves justice.

Children of God, rejoice in the One who call us to live in harmony with everyone.

Amen and Amen! We give our thanks to God!

The Bread

The Cup

Prayer after Communion & 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.

Call for the Offering

Offertory

*Doxology

Hymn #608

**“Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore.”**

Prayer of Dedication

The Sending

*Closing Hymn

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

Hymn #123, v. 1-4

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

Hymn #123, v. 5

**“For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old, when with the evercircling
years shall come the time foretold, when peace shall over all the earth its ancient
splendors fling, and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.”**

Postlude

(Please remain seated and reflect upon the service)

WORSHIP NOTES

Liturgist: Roger Neff

Acolyte: Young Family

*All are invited to stand in body or spirit

All Hymns from Glory to God hymnal, unless noted otherwise