

Service of Worship

March 15th, 2026
4th Sunday of Lent



First Presbyterian Church of Fort Thomas

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

Fanfare
Welcome & Announcements
Prelude

The Gathering

Lenten Litany

One: When our ears become stuffed with our selves,

All: You open them with songs of grateful praise.

One: When our mouths overflow with rich, sweet whine,

All: You wash them out with living waters of hope.

One: When all we can say is 'Give me! Give me!'

All: You challenge us to submit to servanthood. We worship you in spirit, Jesus, Water Giver.

*Call to Worship

One: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

All: I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to God all my life long.

One: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord: Who made heaven and earth, and all that is in them. Who executes justice for the oppressed and gives food to the hungry.

All: The Lord sets the prisoner free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous. The Lord watches over the strangers and upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin. The Lord will reign forever. Praise the Lord.

Scripture

Matthew 16:24-27

Pew Bible, pg. 18

Questions to ponder:

What do you think of when you think of self denial/self sacrifice?

All hymns and responses will be played through once before singing starts.

*Opening Hymn

"O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

Hymn #610

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Almighty and merciful God, we continue to want more, blind to the blessings we already possess. We want everything now, blind to the value of patience and hard work. We take so much delight in our own accomplishments that we are blind to people in need. Forgive us! Cleanse us of our entitlement, anxiousness and pride. Help us see the world with your eyes so that we can be people of gratitude, courage and compassion, because of what we see in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

*Assurance of God's Love

*Responsorial Hymn "Lord, Have Mercy upon Us" Hymn #575
"Lord have mercy upon us; Christ, have mercy upon us: Lord, have mercy upon us."

*Greeting in Christ's Name

Brothers and sisters in Christ, we are one forgiven family. Let us continue to worship God in thanksgiving as we greet those who join us in prayer and praise.

As we have been welcomed by God, we now seek to welcome those among us.

May the peace of Christ be with you all.

(Friends, while still maintaining the safety of the peace sign, let us take a holy moment of active greeting. Move to the 3 pews around you, sharing God's peace with God's people before returning to your seats.)

The Word

Time with the children
Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading Matthew 19:16-30 Pew Bible, pg. 21

Sermon "Random Acts of Lent: Self Denial" Rev. Dr. Holly Robertson

Response to Grace

*Hymn "Will You Come and Follow Me" Hymn #726

Affirmation of Faith from Psalm 23:

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

*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

“O Lord My God”

Hymn #625, v. 1-3

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

“O Lord My God”

Hymn #625, v. 4

“When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in humble adoration, and there proclaim, “My God, how great thou art!” Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee. How great thou art! How great thou art!”

Postlude

(Please remain seated and reflect upon the service)

WORSHIP NOTES

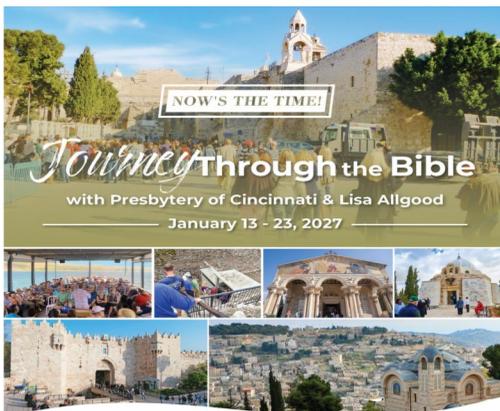
Liturgist: Roger Neff

Acolyte: Abel & Gabe Dawn

*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 Tracey Davenport, and Lectionary Liturgies by Thom Schuman.



Join us!

We'll journey through Israel, focusing on the significant places of Jesus' Ministry.

Questions?

More information?

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PS – yes, it's safe!