



Third
Sunday
of Advent

December 14, 2025
10:30 A.M.

js

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

THE GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Nun Komm der Heiden Heiland

H. Walcha

GREETING

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

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Watch and wait for Christ's coming!

**We light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love,
remembering the promises of God with prayer.**

We light this candle in hope.

We light this candle for peace.

We light this candle in joy!

Rejoice! For our Lord is coming into the darkness of oppression's exile to lead us home, as we hear in Isaiah 35:1-10: (O.T. p. 663)

Let us pray:

O Lord, our redeemer,

you lead us from languishing in sorrow's shadows into laughter's joy over your abundant restoration. Thank you that you are coming for us to lead us home along your Way, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Sung Response – 137 – He Came Down – He Came Down

**He came down that we may have joy,
He came down that we may have joy,
He came down that we may have joy,
hallelujah forevermore.**

Come, let us walk in the Joy of the Lord!

*HYMN 105

People, Look East

BESANCON

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

This is the time for us to wake from sleep; salvation is near to us. Let us ask our Savior for forgiveness.

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

God of Grace, we confess our confusions about the new age and the new life that comes with Christ. We cling to familiar things. We are uncertain about the transformation your grace will bring. Humble us, O God, and teach us to do the work of repentance so that we may know the richness of restored relationship with you and one another. Amen.

A brief silence is kept for personal prayer.

PRAYER RESPONSE (HYMN 90)

Wait for the Lord

WAIT FOR THE LORD

POURING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATER AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, hear the good news: God's mercy is from everlasting to everlasting. Before we repent and change our ways, God's love has already claimed us as God's own. Proclaim with me the good news of the gospel.

*GLORIA PATRI (Hymn 583)

Glory to God

GLORIA

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

The life of faith is not only about being faithful to God. It is knowing that God is faithful to us. God has forgiven us in Christ, and so we forgive one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

*SUNG RESPONSE (HYMN 134)

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Diane Bowers

May God be with you in worship here.

May God be with you in worship there.

Children may depart the sanctuary for Kids' Kirk. They will return before communion.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Spirit prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we may see the glorious signs of your promise fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:46-55 (O.T. p. 663)

The Gospel of the Lord. **May Jesus Christ be praised.**

Matthew 11:2-12 (N.T.p. 11)

The Gospel of the Lord. **May Jesus Christ be praised.**

SERMON

Rev. Matthew Covington

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN 100

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(Adapted from the Confession of 1967)

Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus. His faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child of God. He was the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel, the beginning of the new creation, and the pioneer of the new humanity. He gave history its meaning and direction and called the church to be his servant for the reconciliation of the world. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

All things in heaven and earth belong to God, who is coming in glory to reveal a new creation. Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

MUSIC FOR THE OFFERING

Mary's Magnificat

Andrew Carter

*Softly a light is stealing, Sweetly a maiden sings,
Ever wakeful, ever wistful.
Watching faithfully, thankfully,
tenderly her King of Kings.*

*My soul doth magnify the Lord:
And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.*

*Mary her song to Jesus softly, serenely sings:
I will love you, I will serve you,
May my lullaby glorify,
magnify my King of Kings.'*

*THE DOXOLOGY (Hymn 606)

OLD HUNDREDTH

SEALING THE WORD WITH THE SACRAMENT

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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

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

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

...who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Sung by all: (Hymn 552)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.

The prayer continues.

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; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD & THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All who seek God are invited to the table, regardless of church affiliation or any other condition or identity. Ushers will guide you forward to partake by taking a piece of bread and dipping it in the cup. Servers will come to those who prefer to remain in their seats.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our hope, we give you thanks that you have given us this foretaste of the justice, righteousness, and peace of your promised new creation. Strengthen us with this heavenly food as we seek to serve your holy realm. Lead us to live in joyful expectation of the coming again in glory of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE CREATED ORDER

*HYMN 102 *Savior of the Nations, Come* NUN KOMM DER HEIDEN HEILAND

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CLOSING VOLUNTARY *Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 661* JS Bach

**Rise in body or spirit*

LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher: *Rev. Matthew Covington*

Liturgist: *Marilyn Van Winkle*

Communion Servers: *Paul & Charlotte Puckett*

Kids' Kirk: *Marsba Nash*

Lighting the Advent Candles: *Stephanie & Alexis Dube*

You are invited to make a gift to support our church's ministry of sharing God's love:

- As the offering plate is passed
- By scanning the QR code to the right
*Please note that a 2.9% fee + \$0.50 is taken from your donation
- Online at fpcobky.com/give
*Please note that a 2.9% fee + \$0.30 is taken from your donation
- Or by contacting the church office to set up automatic withdrawal



The Life of the Church

Today we welcome to the pulpit, Rev. Matthew Covington. Matthew has most recently served as the Interim Pastor here at First Presbyterian Church Owensboro. He retired after 21 years of serving as pastor of The Presbyterian Church of Bowling Green, Kentucky. He has served the Presbytery of Western Kentucky in numerous ways, as Moderator of the Presbytery, as Moderator of the Commission on Ministry, as a Commissioner to General Assembly, and as Chair of the task force to rewrite the Presbytery's Manual of Operations. Matthew and his wife Ann met as students at Davidson College. They have two daughters, and three grandchildren.

Printed copies of this week's **PresbyNotes** newsletter are available on the table in the hall.

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Financial Update Our ministry is funded by the giving of members and friends. Thank you for your generosity.

Year-To-Date (thru Oct.)

Income: \$ 611,164.40

Expense: \$ 585,093.81

Balance: \$ 26,070.59

Month To Date (Nov.)

Income: \$ 53,459.04

Expense: \$ 26,654.01

Balance: \$ 26,805.03

Week of November 30

Income: \$ 5,887.49

Expense: \$ 4,271.05

Balance: \$ 1,616.44

Keep your pledge current and look for more good news here.



First Presbyterian Church is an inclusive community of faith called to proclaim the good news of the love of Jesus Christ for all people, and to join God in the building of a just, peaceful, and compassionate world.

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