



Second
Sunday
of Advent

December 7, 2025
10:30 A.M.

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

THE GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Es ist ein' Ros' entsprungen

J. Brahms

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.

Hear God's promise of peace from Isaiah 11:1-10: (O.T. p. 640)

Let us pray:

Faithful God, you are at work to restore all of creation in its intended harmony.

Give us your shalom that we may be reconciled to all enemies in the peace that passes all understanding through Christ Jesus our Lord.

God of promise, God of hope, into our darkness come.

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

He came down that we may have peace,

He came down that we may have peace,

He came down that we may have peace,

hallelujah forevermore.

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

*HYMN 106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

BERENDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

John the Baptist's cry echoes through the ages: Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near! Here and now, we go to God in humility and faith, confessing our sins:

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

O God, we confess that our Advent waiting is affected by impatience and doubt. We should sing and shout that our Savior has come and is coming, but we are reticent. The restrictions we place on our exuberance do not serve us well. Forgive us. Let us learn to color our lives with fuller peace and hope, and with joyful expectancy as we await the Lord. Amen.

A brief silence is kept for personal prayer.

PRAYER RESPONSE (HYMN 95)

Prepare the Way of the Lord

PREPARE THE WAY

POURING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATER AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Beloved, know this: God hears our prayers and gives us full lives. Remember your baptism, and give thanks.

Through Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

*GLORIA PATRI (Hymn 583)

Glory to God

GLORIA

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Christ comes into our world and our lives to purify us and give us peace. The peace of the Lord be with you all. **And also with you.**

*SUNG RESPONSE (HYMN 96)

On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry

WINCHESTER NEW

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

Romans 15:4-13 (N.T. p. 163)

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Matthew 3:1-12 (N.T.p. 2)

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

SERMON

Rev. Matthew Covington

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*HYMN 129

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ES IST EIN' ROS'

*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

There Shall a Star from Jacob Come Forth

F. Mendelssohn

*There shall a star from Jacob come forth, and a scepter from Israel rise up.
And dash in pieces princes and nations.*

*How bright appears the Morning Star with mercy beaming from afar,
The host of heaven rejoices:
Jesus, Jesus! Holy, holy, yet most lowly,*

*Draw thou near us;
Great Immanuel, Come and bear us.*

*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 87

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

GENEVAN 42

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Allegro Maestoso from Sonata in C

F. Mendelssohn

**Rise in body or spirit*

LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher: *Rev. Matthew Covington*

Liturgist: *Diane Bowers*

Communion Servers: *Jeremy Brailsford & Debbie Bowley*

Kids' Kirk: *Marsba Nash*

Lighting of the Advent Candle: *The Higdon Family*

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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 the weekly **Advent Devotionals** are available on the table in the hall and the Narthex.

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

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

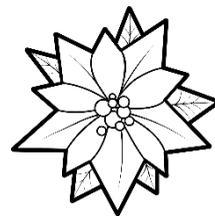
Keep your pledge current and look for more good news here.

Poinsettias will be ordered again this year through the Kentucky Hemophilia Foundation. The suggested donation is \$15 each. Please fill out the form below and place in the offering plate along with a check made payable to First Presbyterian Church with Poinsettia in the memo. You may also call the church office, 270-684-1467, or email, office@fpcobky.com, to place your order. Order deadline is Monday, December 8.

In honor/memory of _____

Given by _____

Quantity _____





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.

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

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