



**FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP**  
**Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**October 4, 2020**

Worship Online at 11:00am Sunday Mornings

[www.farmingtonpres.org](http://www.farmingtonpres.org)

Click "Worship with Us!"

**ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME**

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

WELCOME

PRELUDE Prelude in F Major

J.S. Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus foretold that people would come streaming in from East and West, North and South, gathering around the table in the Kingdom of God.

**We gather to remember our Lord from many places, differing in ages, differing in races, differing in thoughts, politics and even beliefs.**

As the Holy Spirit draws us together as Christ's Body, we discover that our differences are not something we tolerate but that our differences are indeed a blessing; the more difference we bring, the more fully we experience the presence of the sacred in our midst.

**We gather to remember our Lord: the height and the breadth and the depth of the love of Christ.**

As the Holy Spirit draws us together as the holy universal church, we know and bear one another's burdens, admonishing and comforting one another; suffering with one another for the sake of righteousness.

**We gather to remember our Lord: the humility and sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

The Holy Spirit gathers us, children of God, just as we are. Wherever we are on this journey of life, we are welcome here, here in this place, here in this community, come and remember with us.

**We gather to remember, give thanks, and praise our Lord.**

“In Christ There Is No East or West”

**In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north, but one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.**

**Join hands, disciples of the faith, whate'er your race may be. All children of the living God are surely kin to me.**

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of Covenant and Promise, we want to be a people of peace, reconciliation, and healing of the spirit, yet we know we often fall short of what you would have us to be. Be patient with us. You call us to reflect your grace and generosity, yet we know we often fail to live up to our call as disciples. Help us see your image in each person we meet with fresh eyes.**

**You blessed each person with skills, talents, and opportunities to minister, yet we know we often fall short of what you would have us do. Be patient with us. You call us to reflect your love and sacrifice, yet we know we often fail to live up to our call as disciples. Help us use our gifts for service and ministry in our congregation, our neighborhood, our city...and wherever we have opportunity.**

**Forgive us, we pray. Free us to be joyfully obedient disciples, transforming the world around us to match your vision of life abundant.**

KYRIE

**Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

GLORIA PATRI – No. 581

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We belong to God, maker of all that is and all that is to come, abundant provider of all things, who loves all people. It is God alone who gives life, who is generous beyond measure with grace and blessing.**

We follow Christ, who loved and served humbly, healed the broken and included the outcast, chose to suffer rather than harm, gave his life for our redemption, and was raised by God to new life.

In his teaching and healing, his death and resurrection, and in his presence with us in all circumstances, he reveals God to us. Christ calls us to serve him for the sake of proclaiming God's grace and grants his spirit to us to guide, heal, and empower us.

We live by that Holy Spirit, flowing through us, uniting us for the sake of the healing of the world. As members of the church, the Body of Christ, we devote ourselves to lives of love, rejoicing in the power of forgiveness, the reality of resurrection, and the mystery of eternal life. Amen.

THROUGH CHILDREN'S EYES      Rev. Rebecca Luter and Sam Bryant

## PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

Acts 15:5-21

Then some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said, "The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to keep the law of Moses."

The apostles and elders met to consider this question. After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: "Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe. God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. He did not discriminate between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith. Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of Gentiles a yoke that neither we nor our ancestors have been able to bear? No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are."

The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them. When they finished, James spoke up. "Brothers," he said, "listen to me. Simon has described to us how God first intervened to choose a people for his name from the

Gentiles. The words of the prophets are in agreement with this, as it is written:

“After this I will return and rebuild David’s fallen tent. Its ruins I will rebuild, and I will restore it, that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord, even all the Gentiles who bear my name, says the Lord, who does these things—things known from long ago.

“It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God. Instead we should write to them, telling them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood. For the law of Moses has been preached in every city from the earliest times and is read in the synagogues on every Sabbath.”

This is the Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

SECOND READING

Psalm 139

You have searched me, LORD, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely. You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. If I say, “Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,” even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand – when I awake, I am still with you.

If only you, God, would slay the wicked! Away from me, you who are bloodthirsty! They speak of you with evil intent; your adversaries misuse your name. Do I not hate those who hate you, LORD, and abhor those who are in rebellion against you? I have nothing but hatred for them; I count them my enemies. Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

This is the Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

**Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.**

SERMON

Rev. Rebecca Luter

Please, Won't You Be My Neighbor?

A Place at the Table

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Please remember those on our prayer list.*

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.**

**RESPOND TO GOD**

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY "Help Us Accept Each Other"

Potter

DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.**

**Praise him all creatures here below.**

**Praise him above, ye heavenly host.**

**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**God of Power and Glory, we come to your altar this morning, offering our gifts and praying for your presence in a world that is hurting and divided. Much of what we see is chaos, confusion, and anxiety – a world that desperately needs to**

glimpse your presence and your glory. Help us to be people who restore relationships. Use us and our offerings to be a window into your love and compassion for our neighbors and the world. Amen.

HYMN – No. 372 “O For a World”

**O for a world where everyone respects each other’s ways,  
where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.**

**O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved,  
where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.**

**We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice  
that opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.**

**The poor are rich; the weak are strong; the foolish ones are  
wise. Tell all who mourn: outcasts belong, who perishes will  
rise.**

**O for a world preparing for God’s glorious reign of peace,  
where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will  
cease.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Prelude to the “*Te Deum*”

Carpenter

**Bold Type** – congregation in unison

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**Participating in the service today:**

Rev. Rebecca Luter, Pastor

Doug Barr, Director of Christian Education

Jim Thrash, Director of Music

Tom Bryant, Accompanist

Jim Collins, Liturgist

Rev. Rebecca Luter & Sam Bryant, Children’s Moment

Chancel Choir

# Welcome IN THE NAME OF JESUS, THE CHRIST

We hope that you have sensed the presence of the Holy Spirit in this place and find here a place that feels like home. If you are interested in more information about the life of our congregation or in becoming a member, please speak with our pastor, Rev. Rebecca Luter. You may reach her by email at [rluter@farmingtonpres.org](mailto:rluter@farmingtonpres.org) or by phone in the church office, 901-754-2794.

New members are received by the Session in one of three ways: Profession of Faith for those who have not previously joined a church, Transfer of Membership for those who are moving their membership from another congregation, or Reaffirmation of Faith for those who have been inactive for some time in church or who wish to rededicate themselves to Christ and his ministry in the world through the church.

## Happenings AT FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN

**A Message from Session** While we are not able to worship together, the church is still carrying out the work and mission of God in the world. And, while we are not gathering on Sunday, the expenses of the church continue. If you have kept your pledge current, thank you. If you are able to bring your pledge current or make an offering at this time, your gift is critical. If you are not able to give in this time, we understand. You can make your offering through the website, using a checking account, at [www.farmingtonpres.org](http://www.farmingtonpres.org) or mail your offering to Farmington Presbyterian Church, 8245 Farmington Boulevard, Germantown, TN 38139.

**Youth Group** will meet October 4th at 2pm at Shelby Farms disc golf course. Purchase your own discs and we will use them regularly. Email Doug Barr for details or questions [doug@farmingtonpres.org](mailto:doug@farmingtonpres.org).

**Monday Morning Bible Study** is tomorrow at 9am. Rev. Rebecca will lead the study of Chapter 2 of William Barclay's Discovering Jesus. Books are available on [pcusastore.com](http://pcusastore.com) or [amazon.com](http://amazon.com). Go to [zoom.com](http://zoom.com) and enter the Meeting ID 869 8138 8088. The password is Bible.

**Worship on Wednesdays** Wednesday evenings from 5:15-5:45pm, bring your lawn chair as we worship together outdoors. Come a bit early to get set up so that we are all social distancing and wear your mask. In response to current advice of the CDC, we will not be singing. We will be gathered, we will hear the Word of God, and we will respond in praise! If it is raining, we will not gather.

**Holy Communion** will be served at the first Wednesday Worship Service in October (October 7<sup>th</sup>, unless cancelled due to rain). Please bring your own bread and juice to receive the Sacrament in a safe manner.

**Congregational Meeting** Session has called a Congregational Meeting to be held following the first outdoor worship service in October (October 7<sup>th</sup> unless cancelled due to rain) for the purpose of receiving the report of the nominating committee and electing elders for the Class of 2023 and a

congregational representative to the School Board. Nominations must, by Book of Order, be open from the floor. If you plan to nominate someone at the Congregational Meeting, please ensure their willingness to serve prior to making the nomination.

**Wednesday Night Dinners** Scott and Becky Hutchins (Firehutch Fine Foods) are now catering to-go orders for dinner to be picked up on Wednesday evenings at the church at 5:45pm. They are donating 10% back to Farmington. If you would like to order, please contact them at hutchinsathome@gmail.com.

**Saturday Morning Small Group** We are studying Matthew's Gospel and invite you to join us! Each Saturday mornings at 10am, Ann Erickson and Jinney Hart lead this group in discussion and study. If you are interested in joining this "virtual/telephone" study, please let Rev. Rebecca, Ann, or Jinney know.

**FPDS is open!** We are thankful to be able to serve our community as parents return to work. **Unless you are a staff member or a student, you will not be admitted into the building.** Members are strongly encouraged not to enter the building even if they have keys. It is important that we ensure that all surfaces that have been touched are clean. If you would like to meet with Rev. Rebecca, please call and make an appointment to meet off campus.

**Virtual Preschool** FPDS is offering virtual preschool classes for 3's and 4's beginning September 8<sup>th</sup>. If you have friends or family who have a 3 or 4 year-old who is not going to preschool in-person, this is an excellent option no matter where they live! More information is in New Vision – please share!

**This week at Farmington...** we remember World Communion Sunday by celebrating the diversity of God's creation. All are encouraged to attend the Wednesday Communion Service and to bring your own bread and juice to prevent the spread of germs.

**Remember in Prayer...** Our Farmington Family, Session and Staff; Essential workers and all affected by Covid-19, and by the wildfires in the Western United States; the Junn Family in Asia; Jack Arendt, Mary Lou Barrentine, Steve Boehme, Kenny Buckner, Jelena Colasurdo, D.J. Davis, Lisa Dick, Jane Egan, Ed Gallagher, Rev. Jim Hamilton, Bill Harrington, John Hazen, Gary Hutchins, Evans Jack, Kenneth Jack, Lori Kent, Joe Knittig, Ashley & Kevin Lewis, Jane and David Mayo, Greg McKenna, Lori Millar, Beverly Ryan, Patti Simpkins, Williams Stevens, Susan St. John, Joan Wallace, Mary Webb, Jean Wiseman, Faye Woods and from our Presbytery: First Presbyterian Church, Savannah, TN.

**Sympathies...** to the family and friends of Evelyn Jones, mother of Anthony Jones and to the loved ones of Gwynne Gladden.