



**FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP**

First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2020

Worship Online at 11:00am Sunday Mornings

www.farmingtonpres.org

Click "Worship with Us!"

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Let us kneel in the darkness of this world until we see God's light emerge. Let us wait with hope filled hearts, as Christ's image grows within us and shows us life. Let him speak to us and teach us love, until we open our hearts to be his home. Amen.

WELCOME

PRELUDE Siciliano

Vivaldi

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

The Palmer Family

HYMN OF PRAISE – No. 82 “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

**Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.**

**Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king, born
to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring. By
thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine
all sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.**

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of love, all year long we pursue power and money, yet
you came in weakness, as an infant. As we lament this year
the loss of shopping and hustle and bustle, you alone offer
what is lasting that cannot be purchased. Forgive us; heal us;
correct us. When we allow darkness to overcome the light,**

forgive us, Lord. When we reduce Christmas to gifts and food, have mercy on us, Christ. Forgive our lack of faith and trust, our lack of vision and action, that we may watch and wait and once more welcome our Savior home in our hearts.

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

GLORIA “Angels We Have Heard on High” *Refrain*
 Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in God the Father, creator of heaven and earth. The one who is full of patience, who is not afraid of silence, who does not need to fill each moment with activity and noise. The one who is beyond bluster and flurry, and who does not jostle for attention.

We believe in God the Son, Savior of creation, who slipped into Bethlehem one night, mostly unnoticed, who lived thirty years without headlines or hurry, who frequently took time alone with his patient Father, who waited for the right time to become the suffering servant, who stood quietly before the noise of his accusers, whose silence overpowered their words, who died, then rose again on a quiet Sunday morning.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens, empowers, renews and refreshes, sometimes arriving with obvious power, sometimes with the quiet breath of a whisper.

We believe in one God who patiently waits for us, and who longs for us to do the same.

THROUGH CHILDREN’S EYES

Nicholas Luter

PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

Isaiah 40: 1-9

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD’s hand double for all her sins. A voice of one calling: “In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD; make

straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.” A voice says, “Cry out.” And I said, “What shall I cry?” “All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field. The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass. The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever.” You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, “Here is your God!”

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

SECOND READING

Mark 1: 1-11

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: “I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way”—“a voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’”

And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

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

“I’ll Be Home for Christmas: Good News!”

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 ANTHEM “I Believe”

Mark Miller

I believe in the sun even when it’s not shining.

I believe in love even when I don’t feel it.

I believe in God even when God is silent.

(Words found on the walls of a cellar in Cologne, Germany by a person hiding from Nazi persecution.)

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

We commit to holding the radical hope of Jesus, transforming darkness in ordinary and extraordinary ways, living as Christ’s body here on earth, and giving our prayers, time and resources to shine his light. Amen

HYMN – No. 121 “O Little Town of Bethlehem” Verses 1 & 4

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today. We hear the

**Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us;
abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” arr. Tom Bryant

Bold Type – congregation in unison

Affirmation of Faith is “Advent Creed” by Dave Hopwood, on
engageworship.org.

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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
Kay Patterson, Liturgist
Nicholas Luter, 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 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

Gathered to Worship...Sent to Serve While we are not able to worship together in person, the church is still worshipping and carrying out the work and mission of God in the world. If you have made a

2021 Estimate of Giving, thank you. If you have not, please mail your pledge card to the church office. Even if you are not able to make a pledge at this time, we want to hear from you. If you are able to bring your pledge current or make an end of year offering, 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 or mail your offering to Farmington Presbyterian Church, 8245 Farmington Boulevard, Germantown, TN 38139.

Youth Group... join us at 2pm for an ALL YOUTH ZOOM. High School and Middle School together.

Monday Morning Bible Study Our Advent study starts tomorrow, November 30th at 9am. All are encouraged to join us on Zoom at Meeting ID: 869 8138 8088 Passcode: Bible. We will look at the stories of Zechariah, Elizabeth, Joseph and Mary interwoven with our own human experiences. We begin this week with “Zechariah: Faithfulness and Paralysis.” There is no student book or preparation with this series.

Worship on Wednesdays Wednesday evenings have moved online! We are now gathering on Zoom at 6pm. You should have received an email invitation to register (one-time only) to the Zoom group. If you have not, please email churchoffice@farmingtonpres.org and we will make sure you are able to join in worship. It is good to SEE everyone and have this time of Scripture and prayer together.

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.

Young Adult Bible Study Each week a group of young people gather for a drop in Bible Study. No prep is necessary. It is a time to check in, chill out, and see how the book of Mark speaks to our current events. 6:00pm on Thursday evenings via Zoom. Contact Doug Barr for more information, doug@farmingtonpres.org.

Saturday Morning Small Group Now studying Luke’s Gospel on Saturday mornings at 9am. Ann Erickson and Jinney Hart lead this group in discussion and study.

Two Sunday Morning Classes: November 29- December 20

Office Hours: An Online Pop-Up Bible Study offered by Columbia Seminary, 8:30-9:30 am, “Mary in the New Testament and Beyond.” Topics include Mary in early Christian thought, Mary in the Qu’ran and Islam, and Mary in Orthodox Christianity and in Christian Art. Register at: ctsnet.edu/connect/alumni/

Sunday Morning Seminary offered by Memphis Theological Seminary, 9-10am, “They Still Spark Wonder: New Light on the New Testament Christmas Stories.” Dr. Mitzi Minor will lead this look at aspects of the familiar Christmas stories which are often overlooked. When we do so, we often find new light shed on these beloved stories which can spark new wonder for us. Register at: memphisseminary.edu/sundayseminary/

FPDS is open and offers a Virtual Preschool Option! 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.** If you would like to meet with Rev. Rebecca, please call and make an appointment.

This week at Farmington...you are invited to pause and give thanks for the ways Farmington Presbyterian has blessed you.

Remember in Prayer...Our Farmington Family, Session and Staff; Essential workers and all affected by Covid-19; Jack Arendt, Mary Lou Barrentine, Kenny Buckner, Jeremy Bukauskas, Jelena Colasurdo, Mary Lou Collins, D.J. Davis, Lisa Dick, Jane Egan, Ed Gallagher, Rev. Jim Hamilton, Bill Harrington, John Hazen, Gary Hutchins, Lori Kent, Joe Knittig, Ashley & Kevin Lewis, Harland Lovell, The McDonald Family, Greg McKenna, Kristan Perkins, Beverly Ryan, Patti Simpkins, Williams Stevens, Susan St. John, Joan Wallace, Mary Webb, Lewis Weiss and Gloria, Jean Wiseman, Faye Woods and from our Presbytery: Hunger & Homelessness.

Sympathies...to the family and friends of April Adkins, mother of Ashley Vue (FPDS employee) and to the family and friends of Lisa Hudson, daughter-in-law of Loyd and Mary Hudson.

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