



**FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP**  
**Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost**  
**November 8, 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

God of community, we gather with praise and thanksgiving for who you are and for all that you have done for us. You know us better than we know ourselves—all our thoughts and actions—and yet you love us, gently leading and guiding and blessing us. May your Spirit move in our hearts and minds as we worship —examine our attitudes and actions, lay bare the things we need to confess, challenge us with your Word, and guide us on to paths that lead to life. For we are your people, called by your name. Amen.

WELCOME

PRELUDE Prelude in Db

Chopin

CALL TO WORSHIP

God, who calls us together, unites us as one.

**United in our common loyalty to Jesus Christ, we glorify God.**

Christ, who welcomes and accepts us, calls us to follow him.

**Following Christ's example, we welcome all who come with hearts of hope, eager with anticipation.**

Following Christ's example, we welcome all who come with bodies weary, weighed down with troubles.

**Welcome to all who come with spirits yearning, ready to question and explore.**

Welcome to all who come with spirits yearning, seeking a place that brings you closer to God and who find here a faith community.

**We come to rejoice and adore God, who calls us here. Let us worship God together!**

HYMN OF PRAISE – No. 611 “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!  
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun  
above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of  
doubt away. Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light  
of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee; earth and heaven reflect  
thy rays; stars and angels sing around thee, center of  
unbroken praise. Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery  
meadow, flashing sea, chanting bird and flowing fountain,  
call us to rejoice in thee.

Mortals, join the happy chorus which the morning stars  
began. Love divine is reigning o’er us, joining all in heaven’s  
plan. Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of  
strife. Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of  
life.

REFLECTIONS ON STEWARDSHIP

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

**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

Doug Barr

**PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD**

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

Mark 2:1-12

A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, “Why does this fellow talk like that? He’s blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, “Why are you thinking these things? Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, take your mat and walk?’ But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he said to the man, “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.” He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”

This is the Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

SECOND READING

Romans 15:1-7

We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of us should please our neighbors for their good, to build them up. For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: “The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.” For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

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?

It's Such a Good Feeling

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

“Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life”  
Gardiners’s Sacred Melodies

Where cross the crowded ways of life, where sound the cries of race and clan, Above the noise of selfish strife, we hear your voice, O Son of Man.

From tender childhood’s helplessness, from human grief and burdened toil, From famished souls, from sorrow’s stress, your heart has never known recoil.

O Master, from the mountainside, make haste to heal these hearts of pain; Among these restless throngs abide; O tread the city’s streets again.

Till all the world shall learn your love, and follow where your feet have trod; Till glorious from your heaven above shall come the city of our God. (*Frank Mason North*)

#### 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.**

LITANY FOR VETERANS+

We pause to remember those who go to war in our name.

**We give thanks for courage, for love of country, for those who work to bring peace to our world.**

Remind us, O God, that the goal of any war need be justice and peace.

**On this day, we pause in worship to give thanks to God for veterans.**

And seek to bind up the wounds of those who served.

**Enable us to know how to comfort, how to bind up their wounds.**

And remind us, Dear God, that the widow, the orphan, the widower, and the veteran – all know the cost of war.

**Challenge us to love the warrior but hate the cost of war.**

And we pray for a time when peace will reign and swords become plowshares once more, that war be known only in history books.

**And we give thanks, Gracious God, that you remain with us as we celebrate the service of all who dared to go forth in our name. Remind us that such service is not a movie, an adventure, nor something to be glorified. Remind us that war is a failure by us to overcome hatred with love, injustice with righteousness, violence with peace. We give thanks for those who protect us from such failures. May we truly be your people and be makers of peace. Amen.**

HYMN – No. 338 “O Beautiful for Spacious Skies”

**O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain, for purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain! America! America! God shed his grace on thee, and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea!**

**O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife, who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life! America! America! God mend thine every flaw; confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law!**

**O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years thine alabaster cities gleam, un-dimmed by human tears! America! America! May God thy gold refine till all success be nobleness and every gain divine!**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Recessional March in G

John Cramer

**Bold Type** – congregation in unison

+Litany for Veterans was written by Rev. Tom Williams of Whitefish Bay, WI.

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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  
Elizabeth Demaree, Liturgist  
Doug Barr, 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 in person today at the church for an outdoor gathering time, games, and fellowship. 2pm - 3:30pm. Snacks and drinks provided. Invite your friends to join us!

**Stewardship Sunday** Next Sunday (November 15<sup>th</sup>) is Stewardship Sunday. You should receive a packet with a pledge card in the mail. You may return your 2021 Estimate of Giving to the church by mailing it to the church office or returning it to the church next Sunday afternoon between 2-3pm. Rev. Rebecca will be on the front steps with the model church for you to place your card inside and share in a moment of prayer.

**Monday Morning Bible Study** will meet at 9am on Monday, November 9<sup>th</sup>. Rev. Rebecca will lead the study of Chapter 6 of William Barclay's Discovering Jesus on living as the Body of Christ. Books are available from the church office. Go to zoom.com and enter the Meeting ID 869 8138 8088. The password is Bible.

**Worship on Wednesdays** Wednesday evenings are moving inside! We will meet in the Sanctuary from 6:15-6:45pm. There is a limit of 30 persons. Sign up at [www.farmingtonpres.org/weekday-worship](http://www.farmingtonpres.org/weekday-worship). Come a bit early to find your seat 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! Please do not visit in the hallways!

**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

**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](mailto: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.

**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...**our Care-a-van visited 8 families on Saturday with a reverse trick-or-treat. The buckets were filled with goodies for Hadley and Hudson, Camille, Delilah and Frank (and baby Charlie), Charlotte, Carter, Amelia and Abby, Henry (May was at a birthday party), and Grayson and Gavin. Thanks to Jinney Hart; Ann Erickson; Louise Jacobson; Iris Lawing; Katie and Sam Bryant; Kristie, Julia, and Natalie Lively; Roland, Olivia and Mia Mittag; Rebecca, Nic and Lizzie Luter; Jon, Charlene, and Melissa Still; Jayme White and her dog, Max; Shelley, Bailey and her friend, Ashlynn Hollingsworth, and JB Wann.

**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, Bo Bradham, Kenny Buckner, Jeremy Bukauskas, Jelena Colasurdo, Jim Collins, D.J. Davis, Lisa Dick, Jane Egan, Joe & Lurline Emrich, Ed Gallagher, Rev. Jim Hamilton, Bill Harrington, John Hazen, Gary Hutchins, Lori Kent, Joe Knittig, Ashley & Kevin Lewis, Harland Lovell, Greg McKenna, Beverly Ryan, Patti Simpkins, Williams Stevens, Susan St. John, Joan Wallace, Mary Webb, Jean Wiseman, Faye Woods and from our Presbytery: Military Veterans.

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