



FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP
Second Sunday of Advent
December 6, 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 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" arr. Tom Bryant

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH Mike and Lu Schneider

HYMN OF PRAISE – No. 88 Verses 1, 6, & 7

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind; bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

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

Erin Webb

PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

Isaiah 52:1-9

Awake, awake, Zion, clothe yourself with strength! Put on your garments of splendor, Jerusalem, the holy city. The uncircumcised and defiled will not enter you again. Shake off your dust; rise up, sit enthroned, Jerusalem. Free yourself from the chains on your neck, Daughter Zion, now a captive.

For this is what the LORD says: “You were sold for nothing, and without money you will be redeemed.”

For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: “At first my people went down to Egypt to live; lately, Assyria has oppressed them.

“And now what do I have here?” declares the LORD. “For my people have been taken away for nothing, and those who rule them mock,” declares the LORD. “And all day long my name is constantly blasphemed. Therefore my people will know my name; therefore in that day they will know that it is I who foretold it. Yes, it is I.”

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, “Your God reigns!” Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they shout for joy. When the LORD returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes. Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

SECOND READING

Luke 1:1-4

Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

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: The Story for You Who Love God”

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

“For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits” Marty Haugen
For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits; truly my hope is in you.
O Lord of Light, our only hope of glory, your radiance shines in all who look to you; come light the hearts of all in dark and shadow.
O Spring of Joy, rain down upon our spirits; our thirsty hearts are yearning for your word; Come, make us whole, be comfort to our hearts.

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. 114 “Away in a Manger” Verse 1

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Sleepers Awake, For Night Is Flying” J.S. Bach

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
Pat Sherman, Liturgist
Erin Webb, 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 Start your week with the story of Elizabeth as we consider how her life experiences shaped her identity and how ours shape us. Monday, December 7th 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. 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.

Caroling Caravan We will wear our masks (and hats and gloves) to bring Christmas greetings to those in our congregation who have limited mobility or are

sheltering at home. No singing ability needed! We will gather at 9:30am in the church parking lot on December 19th. If you are planning to come, please email Rev. Rebecca at rluter@farmingtonpres.org so that we can plan our routes. We will be finished by noon.

This week at Farmington...it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! Thank you to all who came and decorated the Sanctuary and decked the doors with wreaths!

Remember in Prayer...Our Farmington Family, Session and Staff; Essential workers and all affected by Covid-19; Jack Arendt, Mary Lou Barrentine, Rev. Ruth Lovell-Bradham, 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, Donna Hoover, Gary Hutchins, Anna Leigh Jenkins, Lori Kent, Joe Knittig, Ashley & Kevin Lewis, Harland Lovell, The McDonald Family, Greg McKenna, Jim Mitchell, Beverly Ryan, Terry Seisti, Patti Simpkins, Williams Stevens, Susan St. John, Anne Wages, Joan Wallace, Mary Webb, Lewis Weiss and Gloria, Jean Wiseman, Faye Woods and from our Presbytery: First Presbyterian Church, Kennett, MO.

Congratulations...to John and Kristan Perkins on the birth of Graham Mason on November 28th and to the great-grandmother, Pat Sherman.

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, to the family and friends of Talina McDonald, family member of Rosemary Malmo (FPDS employee), and to the family and friends of Aaron Hibbler, Jr., uncle of Anthony Jones.

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