



**FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP**

**Third Sunday of Advent**

**December 13, 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**

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 Paine Family

**HYMN OF PRAISE – No. 106**

Verses 1 & 2

**“Prepare the Way, O Zion”**

**Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near! Let every hill and valley a level way appear. Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story. *O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.***

**He brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above. His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love. Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding. *Refrain.***

**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

Rev. Rebecca Luter

## PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

Isaiah 60:1-9

“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and

kings to the brightness of your dawn. “Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the hip. Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come. Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the LORD. All Kedar’s flocks will be gathered to you, the rams of Nebaioth will serve you; they will be accepted as offerings on my altar, and I will adorn my glorious temple. “Who are these that fly along like clouds, like doves to their nests? Surely the islands look to me; in the lead are the ships of Tarshish, bringing your children from afar, with their silver and gold, to the honor of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has endowed you with splendor.

This is the Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

## SECOND READING

Matthew 1:1-2:2

This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham:

Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar, Perez the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, Ram the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of King David.

David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah’s wife, Solomon the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, Abijah the father of Asa, Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Jehoram, Jehoram the father of Uzziah, Uzziah the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amon, Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jeconiah<sup>[4]</sup> and his brothers at the time of the exile to Babylon.

After the exile to Babylon: Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel, Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, Zerubbabel the father of Abihud, Abihud the father of Eliakim, Eliakim the father of Azor,

Azor the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of Akim, Akim the father of Elihud, Elihud the father of Eleazar, Eleazar the father of Matthan, Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus who is called the Messiah.

Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Messiah.

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”). When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

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 Hopes and Fears of All the Years”

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**

*Musica Sacra 1778*

**“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”**

#### **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.**

#### **SERVICE OF ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION**

Rebecca Hutchins

Paul King

Suzanne Thomas

#### **HYMN – No. 145 “What Child Is This”**

**What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds  
watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the King, whom  
shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him  
laud, the babe, the son of Mary!**

**Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are  
feeding? Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word  
is pleading. Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross  
be borne for me, for you. Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the  
babe, the son of Mary!**

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to  
own him. The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts  
enthroned him. Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings  
her lullaby. Joy, joy; for Christ is born, the babe, the son of  
Mary.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Tom Bryant

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”/”O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

**Bold Type** – congregation in unison

Affirmation of Faith is “Advent Creed” by Dave Hopwood, on [engageworship.org](http://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

Rebecca Hutchins, Liturgist

Rev. Rebecca 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](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

**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](http://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 Joseph, a righteous man who acts courageously, and hear the stories of others who have responded courageously to God's call to take courageous action. Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 9am. All are encouraged to join us on Zoom at Meeting ID: 869 8138 8088 Passcode: Bible. There is no student book or preparation needed.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](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.

### **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/](http://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/](http://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 19<sup>th</sup>. If you are planning to come, please email Rev. Rebecca at [rluter@farmingtonpres.org](mailto:rluter@farmingtonpres.org) so that we can plan our routes. We will be finished by noon.

**This week at Farmington...**Elder training was completed for Suzanne Thomas to be ordained and for her, Paul King, and Becky Hutchins to be installed.

**Remember in Prayer...**Our Farmington Family, Session and Staff; Essential workers and all affected by Covid-19; Jack Arendt, Mary Lou Barrentine, Gavin Blake, Rev. Ruth Lovell-Bradham, Kenny Buckner, Jelena Colasurdo, Mary Lou Collins, D.J. Davis, Lisa Dick, Jane Egan, Ed Gallagher, Rev. Jim Hamilton, Bill Harrington, Donna Hoover, Gary Hutchins, Anna Leigh Jenkins, Lori Kent, Joe Knittig, Ashley & Kevin Lewis, Harland Lovell, The McDonald Family, Greg McKenna, Jim Mitchell, Chris Patterson, Beverly Ryan, Terry Scisti, Patti Simpkins, Jayden Spillman, Williams Stevens, Susan St. John, Anne Wages, Joan Wallace, Mary Webb, Lewis Weiss and Gloria, Jean Wiseman, Faye Woods and from our Presbytery: The Presbyterian Church USA/Presbyterian Mission Agency.

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

**Sympathies...**to the family and friends of Aaron Hibbler, Jr., uncle of Anthony Jones, to the family and friends of Luke Wilson, friend of Madison Lewis, and to the family and friends of Jackie Moore, aunt of MaryShelley Ritchey.

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