



FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP
Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 20, 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 Little Town of Bethlehem" Redner, Arr. Tom Bryant

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH Gerry & Gerrie Wilder

HYMN OF PRAISE – No. 108 Verses 1, 2, & 4

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be, he is Alpha and Omega; he the source, the ending he, of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore!

By his Word was all created; he commanded; it was done: heaven and earth and depths of ocean, universe of three in one, all that sees the moon's soft shining, all that breathes beneath the sun, evermore and evermore!

This is he whom seers in old time chanted of with one accord, whom the voices of the prophets promised in their faithful word. Now he shines the long expected. Let creation praise its Lord, evermore and evermore!

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

Rachel Barr

PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

Isaiah 42:1-9

“Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will bring justice to the nations. He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice; he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth. In his teaching the islands will put their hope.”

This is what God the LORD says—the Creator of the heavens, who stretches them out, who spreads out the earth with all that springs from it, who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it:

“I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness. “I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not yield my glory to another or my praise to idols. See, the former things have taken place, and new things I declare; before they spring into being I announce them to you.”

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

SECOND READING

John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural

descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

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: In Him Was Life”

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

Traditional German Carol

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

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.

In the bleak mid-winter, frosty wind made moan; earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone; snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak mid-winter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain; heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign: in the bleak mid-winter a stable place sufficed the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Traditional French Carol

“Angels, We Have Heard on High”

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

Chris Luter, Liturgist

Rachel 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 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 worshiping 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...will gather again in the new year. Have a Merry Christmas!

Monday Morning Bible Study Start your week with the story of Mary and hear the stories of others who have used their voice to answer God's invitation. Monday, December 21st 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 will return on December 30th at 6pm on Zoom as we prepare to welcome the new year open to new possibilities for doing God's work in the world.

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...we encourage you to invite your friends and family without a church home or whose churches do not have an online option to join you in worshipping virtually at either 7pm or 11pm on Christmas Eve. Forward your email, share on Facebook, take a picture and text the insert, call them... It has never been easier to invite others to church!

Remember in Prayer...Our Farmington Family, Session and Staff; Essential workers and all affected by Covid-19; Jack Arendt, Mary Lou Barrentine, Gavin Blake, Kenny Buckner, Jelena Colasurdo, Mary Lou Collins, D.J. Davis, Lisa Dick, Linda Drentlaw, 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, Patti Simpkins, Jayden Spillman, Williams Stevens, Susan St. John, Joan Wallace, Ed Warvel, Mary Webb, Rev. David Welsh, Faye Woods and from our Presbytery: New Hope Presbyterian Church, McKenzie, TN.

Sympathies... 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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8245 Farmington Blvd.
Germantown, TN 38139
901-754-2794



Christmas Eve Services

3 Worship Services

4:30pm - In person, Outdoor
7pm & 11pm - Online, At Home

The first service will be in-person outside in the circle drive in front of the Nativity Scene and front steps of the church. Bundle up (if it is cold), wear your mask, and bring your lawn chair for this brief Service of Divine Worship at 4:30pm. Hear again as Luke tells the story, "In those days..." and sing again with the angels, "Joy to the World!"

The second service will premiere on YouTube at 7pm. Gather with your Farmington family and greet one another on the chat as we celebrate the birth of our Lord with special music and a Christmas pageant presented by the children of the church. This service will be available any time after the premiere as well, if 7pm does not fit well into your Christmas Eve plans.

The third service will premiere the second service again on YouTube at 11pm. For those families who will be together and would like to welcome the Christ Child at the break of the new day, we will be live in the chat again at 11pm and able to greet one another with wishes of "Merry Christmas!"