



**FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP**  
**Christmas Eve**  
**December 24, 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 "O Come, Little Children"

Schulz

Joanna and Vesta Andrews, Choir Chimes

CALL TO WORSHIP

All we have left when we stand in the world's darkness is this longing for love to be born once again.

**Welcome the Light!**

By the faint light of the moon, Mary and Joseph found their way down the dusty road.

**Welcome the Light!**

In the shadowy stable stall, Joseph kindled a lamp.

**Welcome the Light!**

Warm breath, rustling hooves, the beasts with sparkle in their eyes.

**Welcome the Light!**

Mary gave birth to Jesus, called Emmanuel, God-With-Us.

**Welcome the Light!**

Angels flooded the night sky, singing, "Glory to God in the highest!"

**Welcome the Light!**

Shepherds saw the sky ablaze, leaving their sheep to come and see.

**Welcome the Light!**

The cosmos rejoiced, setting a brilliant star to mark his bed.

**Welcome the Light!**

Wise Men from the East followed the star to worship him.

**Welcome the Light!**

And on this Christmas night, with joy, we greet the Child.

HYMN OF PRAISE – No. 133

Verses 1, 2, & 3

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant; O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem! Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!**

*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!*

**True God from true God, Light from light eternal, born of a virgin, a mortal he comes; very God begotten, not created!**  
*Refrain.*

**Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation; sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest!**  
*Refrain.*

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

The Williams Family

DUET “Gesù, Bambino”

Pietro Yon

Sandy Hilliard and Rebecca Hutchins

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Everlasting Father, we have been so busy getting ready for your birth tonight. We have gathered around Advent wreaths, mailed cards, wrapped gifts, trimmed trees and decorated the places we call home. Both our time and thoughts, especially as this unprecedented year comes to an end, have been a whirlwind of activity. Too often we forget that the heart of Christmas is your love.**

**Emmanuel, you came to earth because you loved us. Tonight, and always, help us hear anew your promises of hope, peace, joy and love. Move us out of complacency. Let us hear angel voices, see shepherds hurrying to a stable, feel the baby’s soft breath on our cheeks and ponder in our hearts what your love means to the world. In the name of the baby who would become King we pray.**

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”

Verse 1

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

### **PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder. For as in the day of Midian’s defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. Every warrior’s boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

This is the Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

THROUGH CHILDREN’S EYES

Christmas Pageant

SECOND READING

Luke 2:1-20 (King James Version)

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused

wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

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: Those Days and These Days”

SOLO “O HOLY NIGHT”

ADOLFE ADAM

Tucker Williams

## RESPOND TO GOD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**I believe in God whose light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never smother it.**

**I believe that on a night like this night in Bethlehem there was born a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.**

**I believe in the Word who has become incarnate, our very flesh and blood, yet full of grace and truth.**

**I believe in the blessed appearing of the salvation of our God, that is for the happiness of all people.**

**I believe in his name as Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of peace; of the increase of his rule and of his unique peace, there will be no end. The zeal of the God of hosts will do this.**

**This I surely believe!**

#### 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.**

#### PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY “All This Day My Heart Rejoices”

Ebeling

#### 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

**Celebrating your birth, we once again embrace your presence, O God, and we offer you our love. We give you thanks for the world of wonder you created – forest and field, sea and sky – and for the gift of love that you have given – a tiny babe, lying in a manger. Receive our gifts of gratitude and praise and use them for your glory, so that when the ringing of the bells fades and the candles are blown out your light may continue to shine.**

#### LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright ‘round yon virgin mother and child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord at thy birth.**

**Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light; with the angels let us sing Alleluia to our King: Christ the Savior is born: Christ the Savior is born.**

## BENEDICTION

SENDING FORTH HYMN – No. 134 “Joy to the World” Verse 1

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king; let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

POSTLUDE “Walk in the Light” Traditional Spiritual

**Bold Type** – congregation in unison

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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  
Rev. Ruth Lovell Bradham, Liturgist  
Chancel Choir

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