



**FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP**

**First Sunday of Christmas
December 27, 2020**

Worship Online at 11:00am Sunday Mornings

www.farmingtonpres.org

Click "Worship with Us!"

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

We lift up our hearts in worship, Lord God, not because all is right with the world, but because all the world is broken and in need of your healing. We raise our hands in worship, Lord God, not because all is right in our lives, but because your light shines on even those who walk in darkness. We bow down in worship, Lord God, not because we have what we want, but because you give us what we need. Amen.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Tom Bryant

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rejoice! Emmanuel is born to dwell with us.

Love that shaped earth and heaven,

light that drives out darkness, is born to dwell with us.

May we be shaped by that love and share that light.

For he came full of grace, God's love that we do not and cannot deserve, and full of truth, God's omniscient - all knowing, all seeing, all wise - reality.

He comes to forgive and restore, dwelling with us and in us.

Rejoice! Jesus Christ is born!

Glory to God in the highest! Peace and goodwill to all!

HYMN OF PRAISE – No. 132 “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today; ox**

and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now. Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this! He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forever more. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall. Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, open our eyes to the presence of your Spirit upon us, within us, among us. For our apathy in the presence of oppression, forgive us. If we have contributed to the despair of anyone, forgive us. For our participation in systems that enslave, forgive us. When our mouths remain too tightly closed, loosen our lips with songs of grace, songs of hope, songs of justice.

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!

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!

THROUGH CHILDREN'S EYES

Sandy Hilliard & Rebecca Hutchins

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet, till her vindication shines out like the dawn, her salvation like a blazing torch. The nations will see your vindication, and all kings your glory; you will be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will bestow. You will be a crown of splendor in the LORD's hand, a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

SECOND READING

Galatians 4:4-7

But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "*Abba, Father.*" So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

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 "Rejoice, for You Are an Heir"

Rev. Rebecca Luter

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 “What Child is This” English Ballad: *Greensleeves*
Elizabeth Luter, piano

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 trees are taken down and the nativities are put away, your light may continue to shine.

HYMN – No. 110 “Love Has Come”

Love has come a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies. See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises: Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

Love is born! Come, share in the wonder. Love is God now asleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his mother; what is the name her heart is saying? Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers. Love! Love! Jesus, Emmanuel.

Love has come and never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free. Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking. Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” German Fold Melody

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

Susan Bryant, Liturgist

Sandy Hilliard & Rebecca Hutchins, 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...will gather again in January. Happy New Year!

Worship on Wednesdays Register on the website to join in interactive Zoom worship on December 30th at 6pm 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

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...joy was spread throughout the Farmington family as the Caroling Caravan made its way with Santa in the lead!

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, Jamecka Donley, 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, 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: Peace and Healing.

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