



FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP
Second Sunday of Christmas
January 3, 2021

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 "O Little Town of Bethlehem" Arr. Tom Bryant

CALL TO WORSHIP

We are living into God's Kingdom today, the Body of Christ at work in the world.

The one who is seated on the throne says to us: "See, I am making all things new!"

We welcomed in a new year, turning our calendars and saying good-bye to 2020. Yet, nothing has really changed. We still are living in the midst of a global pandemic with all the economic and social ramifications that have accompanied it.

We will not despair, for God redeems everything in God's time.

The one who was born to redeem, invites us, "Come, all who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest."

The angels proclaimed he was born to bring peace on earth and good will to all, whom God loves.

Across space and time, the Body of Christ, composed of all the descriptors we humans have used to divide and separate, is tasked with the work of bringing God's Kingdom of peace and sharing that God loves all and God's Will for all is good.

Therefore, we come with hope to praise our God, who was born in Bethlehem, who sits at the right hand of the Father, and who has come to dwell with us, and to join our voices in the angels' song.

HYMN OF PRAISE – No. 123

Verses 1 & 5

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold: “Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven’s all-gracious King”: the world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old, when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold, when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling, and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

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

Julia Lively

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

What do workers gain from their toil? I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God.

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End.

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 “A New Earth, with No Sea”

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 Star is This”

adapted Michael Praetorius

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. 119 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king. Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!” Joyful, all ye nations rise; join the triumph of the skies; with the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord, late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin’s womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity, pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Refrain.

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings. Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. *Refrain.*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Postlude in D Major”

Knecht

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
Jackie Hall, Liturgist
Julia Lively, 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 understand and want to hear from you. 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 Zoom... join us Sunday at 2pm for High School and 3pm for Middle School. Let's resolve to gather in the new year.

Monday Morning Zoom Bible Study On January 11th, we will begin studying An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith by Rev. Dr. Barbara Brown Taylor. In it, she shares how she learned to encounter God far beyond the walls of the church and invites us to discover God

everywhere we go and in everything we do. Join us Monday mornings at 9am on Zoom with Meeting ID: 869 8138 8088 Passcode: Bible.

Worship on Wednesdays Wednesday evening service is currently online! We are now gathering on Zoom at 6pm. To receive the link to the service, register on our website www.farmingtonpres.org. It is good to interact with 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.

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 without an appointment.** If you would like to meet with Rev. Rebecca, please call and make an appointment.

This week at Farmington...more than 50 worshipers braved the cold to worship on Christmas Eve in person while over 150 worshipers gathered online at the 7 and 11pm services to welcome Christ anew into our world and into our lives.

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, Jane Egan, Ed Gallagher, Rev. Jim Hamilton, Bill Harrington, Donna Hoover, Angela Horne, Gary Hutchins, Anna Leigh Jenkins, Lori Kent, Paul & Kirsten King, Joe Knittig, Ashley & Kevin Lewis, Harland Lovell, The McDonald Family, Greg McKenna, Faye McKenzie, Beverly Ryan, Patti Simpkins, Jayden Spillman, Williams Stevens, Susan St. John, Joan Wallace, Sandy Wann, Mary Webb, Faye Woods and from our Presbytery: Grace Presbyterian Church, Bartlett, TN.

Sympathy...to the family and friends of Linda Drentlaw, mother of Rhonda Byrne.

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Germantown, TN 38139

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