



**FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP**  
**Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**September 26, 2021**

Worship Online at 11:00am Sunday Mornings

[www.farmingtonpres.org](http://www.farmingtonpres.org)

Click "Worship Together"

**ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME**

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

**Holy God, we gather here to worship and to recall your many blessings in our lives. We assemble in person and online to sing our praise together, joining our voices with all the saints from east and west, north and south, in heaven and on earth. We give thanks to you and rejoice, for your steadfast love endures forever! You are our strength, our salvation, and our hope. Amen.**

WELCOME

PRELUDE "Andante"

Josef Rheinberger

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the Lord."

**We come not to shape God in our image, but to reclaim God's image with us.**

Even the swallow has found a place to nest and raise her young near your altar.

**We come not to tremble, but to trust.**

When trouble comes, where do you look for help? To the mountains? Our help comes from the Lord our God, who made heaven and earth.

**We come not to escape the world's problems but to be strengthened to engage and transform the world.**

God so loves the world that he came in Jesus to reconcile and make new.

**We come at God's invitation, blessed in order to bless.**

“I Sing a Song of the Saints of God”

I sing a song of the saints of God, patient and brave and true, who toiled and fought and lived and died for the Lord they loved and knew. And one was a doctor, and one was a queen, and one was a shepherdess on the green: they were all of them saints of God, and I mean, God helping, to be one too.

They lived not only in ages past; there are hundreds of thousands still; the world is bright with the joyous saints who love to do Jesus’ will. You can meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea, in church, or in trains, or in shops, or at tea; for the saints of God are just folk like me, and I mean to be one too.

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, in response to your overwhelming love, we are humbled. We mean to love you with all our hearts and minds, with all our strength, but there are so many other things that clamor for our focus. Lord Jesus, in response to your lavish love, we are awed. We mean to live and move and have our being following you, but there are so many other paths calling for our attention. We forget who you are, the source of every blessing. We forget who we are, blessed to be a blessing. Forgive us, Living God. Restore us and form us into the people you dream we will be, focused on loving you and our neighbor in response to your love.

KYRIE

Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\*GLORIA PATRI – NO. 581

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and

buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

THROUGH CHILDREN'S EYES

Doug Barr

*All children are invited to come to the Chancel steps.*

*Afterward, young children may return to their seat.*

*Worship bags are available beside the entrance to the Sanctuary.*

## PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

Genesis 12:1-3

The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.

This is the Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

SECOND READING

Mark 9:38-50

"Teacher," said John, "we saw someone driving out demons in your name and we told him to stop, because he was not one of us." "Do not stop him," Jesus said. "For no one who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment say anything bad about me, for whoever is not against us is for us. Truly I tell you, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to the Messiah will certainly not lose their reward.

"If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them if a large millstone were hung around their neck and they were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to

stumble, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, where “the worms that eat them do not die, and the fire is not quenched.” Everyone will be salted with fire.

“Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt among yourselves, and be at peace with each other.”

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.**

SERMON

“Blessed to Be Salty”

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

Hear the promise of God to you, “Follow me, and I will bless you; and you will be a blessing.” Let us give thanks for the many blessings God has brought in our lives, that through our tithes and offerings others may come to know God’s blessing in their lives.

For those who are worshiping in the Sanctuary, would the ushers please come forward? For those worshiping at home, you are invited to offer your gifts to God by clicking “Offering” on our website. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Hubert H. Parry

“How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord”

How clear is our vocation, Lord, when once we heed your call to live according to your word and daily learn, refreshed, restored, that you are Lord of all and will not let us fall.

But if, forgetful, we should find your yoke is hard to bear; if worldly pressures fray the mind and love itself cannot unwind its tangled skein of care: our inward life repair.

In what you give us, Lord, to do, together or alone, in old routines or ventures new, may we not cease to look to you: the cross you hung upon, all you endeavored, done.

\*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

**Generous God, we can never measure your blessings; your loving presence steadfastly supports and guides us. You are present with us in our darkest moments; you rescue us. You are present with us in our deepest despair; you sit with us. You are present with us in our greatest joys; you celebrate with us. We give thanks for your constant presence, guidance, and care. Receive our offerings of thanksgiving and transform them into the mystery of your reign on earth, with your will being done in all times and all places. In Jesus's name. Amen.**

\*HYMN – No. 693 “Though I May Speak”

**Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire, but have not love, my words are vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.**

**Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess, but not be given by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.**

**Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control; our spirits long to be made whole. Let inward love guide every deed; by this we worship, and are freed.**

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE “Harvest Festival”

Robert Powell

\* Stand as able.

**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  
Laurinda Ingram, Liturgist  
Doug Barr, Children's Moment  
Jerry Hosier and Roland Mittag, Ushers  
Delilah Davis and Grayson Perkins, Acolytes  
Chancel Choir  
Cooper Patterson, Bass



THIS SERVICE IS BEING LIVE-STREAMED  
AND RECORDED. ATTENDEES  
IMPLICITLY AGREE THAT THEY, AND  
ANY CHILDREN ACCOMPANYING  
THEM, MAY BE ON CAMERA.

## Welcome IN THE NAME OF JESUS, THE CHRIST

We hope that you will sense 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.

**Need more information? Want to sign up for something? Looking for the livestream of worship?** Go to our website: [www.farmingtonpres.org](http://www.farmingtonpres.org)

**Need to give us information? Want to ask a question? Looking for assistance with signing up?** Email us at: [church@farmingtonpres.org](mailto:church@farmingtonpres.org)

## Happenings AT FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN

**Sanctuary Flowers** this morning are given to the glory of God by MaryShelley Ritchey. A very Happy Birthday to Jack & Cole. Love Mom.

**Sunday School** All ages meet each Sunday morning at 10am for study and fellowship. Elementary in A6, youth in the Youth Room, and adults have the

option of a Men's Bible Study in Fellowship Hall or a study with Rev. Rebecca in the East Room.

**Youth Sunday School** we are in a season of Confirmation. Each lesson on Sunday mornings will focus on what it means to be Presbyterian. All youth are invited to participate 10 - 10:45am.

**Youth Fellowship** Join us 2 - 4pm (Sunday, Sept. 26). We will watch *Fellowship of the Rings* (Part 1). FYI – there is fantasy violence and its rated PG-13. Bring snacks!

**Young Adult Bible Study** will meet Mondays 6:30pm - 7:30pm in the Starbucks at Pinnacle Bank on Germantown Parkway. Read Luke chapter 16 for this week's discussion.

**Church-wide Picnic** This week, the whole Farmington family (members, visitors, and friends) is encouraged to enjoy an evening outdoors at Johnson Road Park on Wednesday, September 29<sup>th</sup>. We will have hamburgers and hot dogs, fun and games, and fellowship with friends. Bring your lawn chairs to accommodate everyone and facilitate social distancing. We will begin to gather at 5:45pm. Dinner is \$8 for adults, \$4 for children, and the maximum cost for a family is \$25. We want to plan for YOU! Please let us know that you are planning to eat at the picnic by emailing us at [church@farmingtonpres.org](mailto:church@farmingtonpres.org) or texting your name and # eating to 901-674-8000.

**Congregational Meeting** Session has called a Congregational Meeting following worship on October 3<sup>rd</sup> for the purpose of hearing and acting on the report of the 2021 Nominating Committee.

**Room in the Inn** Wednesday lunches for guests will continue through September. Thank you to all who have volunteered!

**Half Truths: God Helps Those Who Help Themselves and Other Things the Bible Doesn't Say** Join us next Sunday morning (October 3<sup>rd</sup>) as we discuss "God Won't Give You More Than You Can Handle" at 10am in the East Room AND on Zoom, Meeting ID: 835 3196 2842 (no passcode needed). This study by Adam Hamilton is engaging and enlightening. While the book may be purchased for study, the class will begin with a video presentation and no homework is required! Rev. Rebecca Luter will be facilitating our discussions.

**Hiking at Pinecrest** Enjoy the beauty of the autumn leaves at Pinecrest on a hike on Wednesday, November 17, 10am-1pm, \$5 per person. Catch some scenery into Mississippi on the ridgetops and varying forest community types on this moderate 3 mile hike around the Blue trail. Bring your own lunch. RSVP to [Charity@camppinecrest.org](mailto:Charity@camppinecrest.org) or 901-878-1247.

**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 between 5:00-5:30pm. They are donating 10% back to Farmington. If you would like to order, please contact them at [hutchinsathome@gmail.com](mailto:hutchinsathome@gmail.com).

**Bulletin Mailing List** While we were all worshipping on YouTube Premier, we sent a bulletin weekly to every household. If you are returning to worship in the Sanctuary and would like to be removed from the weekly mailing, please email us at [church@farmingtonpres.org](mailto:church@farmingtonpres.org) and let us know.

**Communications from the Church** If you do not get the Happenings email each week and would like to, please email and let us know. We also send text reminders about upcoming Farmington events. You can get those by texting “@farmpres” to “81010.”

**Worshipping in the Sanctuary** Please be mindful of social distancing. Alternate pews are closed to assist in maintaining maximum capacity and distancing. Masks are required while inside the building of those 2 years of age and older.

**Gathered to Worship...Sent to Serve** In response to God’s blessings and to support what God is doing through the Farmington family, you can make your offering through the website, using a checking account, or mail your offering to Farmington Presbyterian Church, 8245 Farmington Boulevard, Germantown, TN 38139.

**Flowers for Worship** The Flower Calendar is located on our website and is posted on the bulletin board near Fellowship Hall. There are now only 2 open dates left for 2021: October 24 and November 28.

**This week at Farmington...**the Annual Scholastic Book Fair returned this week to FPDS along with the Annual Parent Appreciation Picnic Thursday evening. We are thankful for the opportunity for parents to meet their children’s friends, get to know other parents, and mingle with their children’s teachers.

**Remember in Prayer...**Our Farmington Family, Session and Staff; Essential workers and all affected by Covid-19; those impacted by the floods of Waverly, TN and Hurricane Ida, Ryan Andrews, Jack Arendt, Mary Lou Barrentine, Bill Brown, Stephanie Brown, Kenny Buckner, Ralph Carr, Jelena Colasurdo, Mary Lou Collins, D.J. Davis, Pat Rush Davis, Jane Egan, Ed Gallagher, Rev. Jim Hamilton, Bill Harrington, Martha Noble Hathcock, George Hazen, Johnny Hofrichter, Gary Hutchins, Carol Lovell, Harland Lovell, Nancy Palmer, Rit Pangburn, Dennis Peebles, Sue Patterson Pine, Bob Pointer, Jonathan Riley, Patti Simpkins, Williams Stevens, Susan St. John, Joan Wallace, Rob Wentzel, Faye Woods and from our Presbytery: 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church, Rosemark, TN.

**Sympathies...**to the family and friends of Bill Kennedy, son of Peggy Kennedy, former FPDS employee who also recently lost her sister and to the family and friends of Larry Barr, uncle of Doug Barr.

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