



FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP
Second Sunday of Advent
December 5, 2021

Worship Online at 11:00am Sunday Mornings

www.farmingtonpres.org

Click "Worship Together"

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Holy God, we gather in expectation, waiting with hope that you are coming. Meet us here. Shed your light into the dark places of doubt and fear within us. Rouse us to prepare for your coming, making space in our lives for love to be born. Draw close and wrap us in your peace. May we receive the greatest gift, Emmanuel, with joy. Amen.

WELCOME

PRELUDE "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The days grow shorter and the darkness closer.

Lord, in the lonely places, the wilderness moments, as we stand forlorn, believing we are alone,

You call out to us:

Prepare a way for the Lord.

The shadows lengthen; the cold presses in.

Lord, in the dark places, the valleys where we hide our fears, embracing our tears,

You call out to us:

Prepare a way for the Lord.

The lion and lamb cannot be left to rest together; the valleys are still low and the mountains high.

Lord, in this time of waiting, suspended between hope and fulfillment, gather us at this Table to remember Christ who came, Christ who comes, Christ who is coming.

May we be honest about the darkness within us, perceive your light emerging among us, and be overwhelmed by your mercy. **May we hear you calling, “Prepare a way for the Lord” and make a straight path for you, a path through our lives.**

*HYMN OF PRAISE – No. 106

Verses 1 & 2

“Prepare the Way, O Zion”

Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near! Let every hill and valley a level way appear. Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story. O blest is Christ who came in God’s most holy name.

He brings God’s rule, Zion; he comes from heaven above. His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love. Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding. O blest is Christ who came in God’s most holy name.

(Please be seated.)

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH†

The Moots Family

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, with joy and creativity you made the world and called it good, forming us in your image. Yet we have done much to quell that goodness and deform your image within us: we have fought with one another and failed to live in peace; we have shut out the stranger and disparaged the wandering; we have ignored the needy and judged the poor; we have not followed your command to love and to live as your beloved community.

Wrap us in your mercy, O God, forgive us, and bring us back to the joy we find in you.

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

We believe in Jesus Christ, born to us all so long ago in Bethlehem of Judea.

We believe in Him whose birth glorified Bethlehem, but for whom there was no room in the inn.

We believe in Him whose guiding star can bring together the humble and wise everywhere.

We believe in Him who walked among the common people, and was welcomed by those with open minds and yearning hearts.

We believe in Him whose life changed the course of history, over whom kings had no power, whose life humbled the proud, toppled the mighty, and elevated those of low degree.

We believe in Him whose love changed human hearts, and whose life and death on the cross proved that it is more important to serve than to be served.

We believe in Him who is the Prince of Peace, whose spirit makes for justice and peace among all peoples.

We believe in Him who is Emmanuel, whose presence changes the world through the power of love, faith and hope.

THROUGH CHILDREN'S EYES

Liv Palmer

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

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the cobra's den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

SECOND READING

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene— during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. Every valley shall be filled in every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. And all people will see God’s salvation.’”

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

“Wrapped in Serenity”

Rev. Rebecca Luter

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please remember those on our prayer list.

RESPOND TO GOD

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

*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

Emmanuel, shine your light and love upon these gifts and upon us. Dedicate them and us to bringing peace in this world. By your Holy Spirit, fill us, intertwine us, enwrap us with your power that is beyond this world and at the same time comes as close as our next breath. Then send us to do your will, Amen.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks for the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

SUNG RESPONSES – No. 552, 553, & 554

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.

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

The Communion elements we share this morning are gluten, sugar, nut, and dairy-free bread and white grape juice.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*HYMN – No. 378 “We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom”

We wait the peaceful kingdom, when wolf and lamb shall lie in gentleness and friendship without a fear or sigh, when lion shall be grazing, when snake shall never strike; a little child shall lead us both strong and weak alike.

Where is the peaceful kingdom? When will this new day start? We long for peace and comfort to reign within each heart. Yet not in our lives only, nor simply in our home: we pray that all creation will one day find shalom.

When wars of desolation and hate come to an end, when nation meets with nation and calls the other “friend,” still peace in all its fullness will only have begun: shalom for all creation begins with justice done.

That little child shall lead us to walk the chosen way, to share the peaceful kingdom, to greet God’s newborn day. The child born in a stable is sent to break our chains, to bring through word and table the day when justice reigns.

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

* Stand as able.

Bold Type – congregation in unison

†Advent Wreath Liturgy by Rev. Ruth Lovell Bradham

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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
Liv Palmer, Children’s Moment
Melanie Oest and Nadine Oest, Ushers
Charlotte Moots, Acolyte



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 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

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

Happenings AT FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN

Join us for Fellowship Coffee immediately following the service in the Fellowship Hall. Today's refreshments are provided by Merry Bonner and Paula Patterson.

Children's Sunday School All ages meet each Sunday morning at 10am for study and fellowship. Elementary in A6, youth in the Youth Room.

Adult Sunday School All men are invited to attend the Men's Bible Study in Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings at 9:30am. The hybrid (Zoom and in-person) class taught by Rev. Rebecca Luter meets at 10am in the East Room.

Youth Fellowship will meet today (Dec. 5) from 2-4pm in the Youth Room.

Advent in Plain Sight Come next Sunday, December 12th at 10am as we consider how God is at work in the ordinary stuff of life. The book, by Rev. Jill Duffield, is available on Amazon but not necessary for participation in the class. We will meet in the East Room and on Zoom Meeting ID 889 8485 9604; Passcode Farmington.

Young Adult Bible Study meets Mondays at 6:00pm in the Pinnacle Bank Starbucks.

Mid-Day Connection Throughout Advent, every day at 11am you are invited to worship with the Farmington family! Monday through Saturday, you are invited to join a short time of devotion on Zoom. Sundays you are encouraged to worship either in person or on the livestream from our website. What is this new Mid-Day Connection? Rev. Rebecca will be facilitating a time of gathering that incorporates Scripture, a music video of a favorite Christmas song or carol sung by a variety of artists, a chance to respond, and a prayer for our day. You are encouraged to share the link with friends and family via email and social media!

The devotions will also be available on our Facebook page if you can't attend at 11am. Go to www.Zoom.com and enter Meeting ID: 862 7770 2431 with Passcode: Connect. If you have any trouble, please let Rev. Rebecca know.

Advent Service of Healing and Wholeness December 8th at 6pm we will gather for this quiet service of reflection. Have you lost someone you love? Lost your way? Is the cheery buzz of Christmas just too much after this year? Come light a candle and pray. Receive God's blessing. Christ was born for you.

Women's Christmas Luncheon December 16th at the Ivy Tea Room Cedar Hall at 11am. The cost of lunch (with tip) is \$20, and we will have our own dining area. To RSVP, please email virginiahart2@comcast.net or let Jinney Hart know. Meet in the church parking lot at 10:10am if you wish to carpool.

Caroling Caravan Each year we visit those who are not able to come to worship at Christmastime and sing a few favorite carols together. You will not want to miss this time of fellowship and service that blesses both the givers and the receivers. Mark your calendars to meet in the back parking lot of the church to leave at 9:30am Saturday, December 18th! We will be finished by noon.

Farmington Presbyterian Women's Circle Our December meeting will be on the 19th at 2:00pm on Zoom (Meeting ID: 527 795 3657, Passcode: grace). We will be combining Lessons 4 & 5, both on the story of Ruth. All women are encouraged to join us as we learn from the women in Matthew's genealogy of Jesus.

Fellowship Coffee Sign up on our website to provide refreshments following worship, www.farmingtonpres.org. Please keep it simple-something sweet and something salty.

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.

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 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. Unvaccinated individuals are required to continue to wear masks. Masks are recommended but not required for Vaccinated individuals and children 13 and under.

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.

Summer Mission Trip Service Committee invites you to join the mission team traveling to Mexico June/July 2022 to build cisterns. We are in the process of setting the dates and want to include you if you are interested. For more info, contact Rev. Rebecca (rluter@farmingtonpres.org).

This week at Farmington...the Farmington Presbyterian Men assembled the Outdoor Nativity. It is heartwarming to watch children stop to see the baby Jesus as they leave the Day School. You may want to come and visit, too.

Remember in Prayer...Our Farmington Family, Session and Staff; Daysi Alda, Ryan Andrews, Jack Arendt, Mary Lou Barrentine, Bonnie Blair, Bill Brown, Kenny Buckner, Renee Cantor, Ralph Carr, Jelena Colasurdo, Mary Lou Collins, D.J. Davis, Jane Egan, Ed Gallagher, Rev. Jim Hamilton, Bill Harrington, Mary Hasemeier, Martha Noble Hathcock, Gary Hutchins, Meredith Oest, Nancy & Dennis Palmer, Rit Pangburn, Myrna Pickler, Bob Pointer, Jonathan Riley, Jimmy Robinson, Patti Simpkins, Williams Stevens, Susan St. John, Mary Thrash, Joan Wallace, Faye Woods, and from our Presbytery: The Presbyterian Church USA/Presbyterian Mission Agency.

Sympathy...to the family and friends of Rob Wentzel, friend of Charlie Smithers.

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Germantown, TN 38139

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