



FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP
Third Sunday of Advent
December 12, 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 "Ave Maria"

Bach/Gounod

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH†

Steve & Carolyn Demaree
Elizabeth Demaree

*CALL TO WORSHIP††

He did not wait till the world was ready,
till men and nations were at peace.

**He came when the Heavens were unsteady,
and prisoners cried out for release.**

He did not wait for the perfect time.
He came when the need was deep and great.

**He dined with sinners in all their grime
turned water into wine.**

He did not wait till hearts were pure.
In joy he came to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.

**To a world like ours, of anguished shame
he came, and his Light would not go out.**

He came to a world which did not mesh,
to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.

**In the mystery of the Word made Flesh
the Maker of the stars was born.**

We cannot wait till the world is sane
to raise our songs with joyful voice,
**for to share our grief, to touch our pain,
He came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!**

*HYMN OF PRAISE – No. 82 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou
art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.**

**Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king, born
to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring. By
thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine
all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.**

(Please be seated.)

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Graham Perkins, son of John and Kristan Perkins

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

**With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you into Christ’s
church to share with us in his ministry, for we are all one in
Christ.**

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

The Story of Christ's Birth

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

Isaiah 12:2-6

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The Lord, the Lord himself, is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation." With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

In that day you will say: "Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing to the Lord, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world. Shout aloud and

sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you.”

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

SECOND READING

Luke 1:39-43

At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?”

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 God’s Presence”

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 ANTHEM “Song of Mary”

Douglas

*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.

*HYMN – No. 100

Verses 1 & 2

“My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout”

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great, and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait. You fixed your sight on your servant’s plight, and my weakness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.

Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me, and your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be. Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn. **Refrain.**

*DEDICATION OF ADVENT WREATH

In Memory of Leah Demaree Douglas

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

* Stand as able.

Bold Type – congregation in unison

†Advent Wreath Liturgy by Rev. Ruth Lovell Bradham

‡“First Coming” by Madeleine L’Engle in *Cry Like a Bell*.

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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
Gerry and Gerrie Wilder, Ushers
Delilah Davis, 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 Liv Palmer.

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 not meet today.

Advent in Plain Sight Come next Sunday, December 19th 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.

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.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion On December 24th at 5pm we will gather to worship the Christ Child. Make your plans now to attend either in person or on the livestream. Many hearts are yearning for an invitation to come and worship. Please let your friends and family know you would like for them to join you.

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.”

Worshiping 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... we rejoiced to be able to sing and present a Christmas Program. The program included some traditional favorites: Up on the Housetop, Joy to the World, and We Wish You a Merry Christmas. A crowd favorite, though, was the children "baaing," "mooing," and "hee-hawing" in "Oh What a Special Night."

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, Judith Cassidy, Jelena Colasurdo, Mary Lou Collins, Rev. Rodais Cox, D.J. Davis, Jane Egan, Virginia Elting, 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, Mary Short, Patti Simpkins, Williams Stevens, Susan St. John, Joan Wallace, Faye Woods, and from our Presbytery: Human Rights.

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