



FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 18, 2022

Worship Online at 11:00am Sunday Mornings

www.farmingtonpres.org

Click "Worship Together"

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Holy God, you are near. Therefore, we will not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with gratitude, we will lift our prayers to you. We center our minds on what is true, what is honorable, what is just and pure, what is pleasing and commendable, on what is excellent and worthy of praise. May your gentleness be known to everyone through our actions. From our brokenness, bring forth hope as your peace, which defies explanation or description, guards our faith in Christ Jesus. Amen.

WELCOME

PRELUDE "Prelude in E Minor"

Chopin

*CALL TO WORSHIP

based on Psalm 113

Servants of God, give praise. Raise your voices to praise the name of the Lord.

Let the Lord our God be worshiped now and forever.

Children of God, give thanks. Prioritize your affairs to exalt the Lord above all other allegiances.

To whom can we compare the Lord our God? There is no comparison.

The Lord, enthroned on high, stoops to see heaven and earth, and even us.

The least and greatest are equal in the sight of our God.

The Lord lifts up the needy from the garbage heap to set them with the leaders of the nations.

O Lord, our Lord, when we consider the intricacies of your creation, the depth of your love, and the extravagant grace of

your kingdom, we worship you with awe and bow before you in wonder, seeking to live according to your will.

*HYMN OF PRAISE – NO. 771

Verses 1, 2, 3, 4

“What is the World Like”

What is the world like when God’s will is done? Mustard seeds grow more than we can conceive: roots thread the soil; branches reach for the sun. This is how God moves us each to believe.

What is the world like when God’s will is done? Witness the wandering child coming home; watch as the parent breaks into a run. This is how God longs for us when we roam.

What is the world like the God’s will is done? No more is neighbor just ally or friend; peace thrives in places where once there was none. This is how God works when rivalries end.

What is the world like when God’s will is done? Ready for feasting, we watch through the night, tending our lamps till the new day’s begun. This is how God readies us for the light.

(Please be seated.)

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Mercy, amidst the violence and tears, the sickness and anger of our world, we confess our fears. We confess that sometimes we fear the power of evil and wonder where you are. We confess sometimes we want revenge and to punish and hate those who have hurt us deeply and wonder when you will judge. We confess that even as we struggle to keep from being immersed in news coverage of tragedies, and we are quick to post our sympathy, we are becoming calloused to feeling, to truly caring, to responding, to changing. Forgive us, God. Redirect our attention to all that you provide for life abundant that is positive and good. Remind us that our hope is in you and in following your way shown to us in Jesus. Forgive us – and help us to forgive – for your love and mercy are without end.

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

from the Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.

But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation.

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

THROUGH CHILDREN'S EYES

Jennifer Young

All children are invited to come to the Chancel steps.

Afterward, young children may remain or proceed to the nursery.

Worship bags are available beside the entrance to the Sanctuary.

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

I John 1:8-2:6

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us. My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. Whoever says, "I know him," but does not do what he

commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SECOND READING

Lamentations 2 & 4, selected verses

Oh! With his anger the Lord clouds over Ms. Zion. He threw down Israel's splendor from the heavens to the earth. He was not mindful of his footstool on the day of anger.

The Lord became like an enemy; he swallowed up Israel. He swallowed up all her citadels, destroyed her strongholds. He made great in Ms. Judah the mourning and moaning.

The Lord rejected his altar, abandoned his sanctuary. He gave over the walls of its citadels into the great enemy's hand. They gave voice in Yahweh's house as on the day of a set occasion.

My eyes are spent with tears, my insides churn. My heart pours out to the earth on account of the shattering of my dear people, while infant and suckling faint in the town's squares.

To their mothers they say, "Where are grain and wine?" as they faint like someone wounded in the city's squares, as their life pours out at their mothers' breast.

What can I testify, what can I liken to you, Ms. Jerusalem? What can I compare with you so I may comfort you, fair Ms. Zion? Because your shattering is as vast as the sea; who can heal you?

Yahweh did what he schemed, he accomplished his word, that which he's commanded long ago; he tore down and didn't spare. He let the enemy rejoice over you, exalted the horn of your foes.

Their soul cried out to the Lord; Ms. Zion's wall, let tears go down like a torrent, day and night. Don't give yourself respite; your dear eye must not stop.

Get up, resound at night, at the start of the watches. Pour out your soul like water in the presence of the Lord. Lift up your hands to him for the life of your infants, who faint with hunger at every street corner.

Look, Yahweh, pay attention, to the one with whom you've dealt hard like this.

You summon (as on the day of a set occasion) terrors for me from all around. On Yahweh's day of anger there was no one surviving or

escaping. Those whom I cradled and raised – my enemy finished them off.

Yahweh spent his rage, poured out his angry blazing. He kindled fire in Zion; it consumed its foundations.

The kings of the earth didn't believe, or all the world's inhabitants, that foe or enemy would come through Jerusalem's gateways.

Our pursuers became swifter than the eagles of the heavens. They chased us on the mountains, they lay in wait for us in the wilderness.

The breath of our lungs, Yahweh's anointed, was captured in their traps, the one of whom we had said, "In his shade we'll live among the nations."

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

Rev. Rebecca Luter

From Brokenness to Hope:
Parental Justice

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please remember those on our prayer list.

This morning, you are invited to offer the concerns of your heart on the cross. You may write those concerns on the heart in your bulletin or simply hold the heart as you pray and bring it to the cross.

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 "To Sing Once More"

Courtney

Awake our souls to sing once more the songs that long have silent been. From troubled nights and fearful days, our notes of praise and joy begin, inspired by hope, compelled by grace, we sing Your everlasting praise.

Most holy God, Your song we seek and trust in Your unchanging ways.

With comfort, Your eternal voice is music to our fainting soul. It speaks in times of hurt and wrong, it whispers peace, it makes us whole. Arise, His children, rise again, your God and maker now adore. No longer silent, lift your voice, awake your souls to sing once more.

(Jonathan Cook)

***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**

Faithful God, with gratitude we offer you our lives and the fruits of our labor, for you have brought us from death to life! You hear the cries of pain of our world, the heavy burdens of injustice and grief, and call us to respond with help and hope. Dedicate us and our offerings to be witnesses to your Spirit's gracious, healing power. In the name of Christ we pray, Amen.

***HYMN – No. 833 “O Love that Wilt Not Let Me Go”**

O Love that wilt not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee; I give thee back the life I owe, that in thine ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be.

O Light that followest all my way, I yield my flickering torch to thee; my heart restores its borrowed ray, that in thy sunshine's blaze its day may brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to thee; I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain that morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to fly from thee; I lay in dust life's glory dead, and from the ground there blossoms red life that shall endless be.

***BENEDICTION**

***SENDING FORTH HYMN - NO. 769 “For Everyone Born” Verse 5**

For everyone born, a place at the table, to live without fear, and simply to be, to work, to speak out, to witness and worship, for everyone born, the right to be free, and God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace: yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!

*POSTLUDE

Kristina Longlois

“O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High”

*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
Elizabeth Demaree, Liturgist
Jennifer Young, Children’s Moment
Scott Hutchins and Paula Patterson, 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. We are grateful for the visitors and friends of the Farmington family who add to our community each week.

Curious to know what church membership means? Wonder why a person would want to join or how a person joins? Our pastor, Rev. Rebecca Luter, would love to talk with you. You may reach her by email at rluter@farmingtonpres.org or by phone in the church office, 901-754-2794. She’ll answer questions you may have about Farmington or Presbyterianism and walk you through meeting our leadership and making your spot in our family official. Just let us know if this feels like the right step for you, or if you are curious to learn more.

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

Flowers this morning are given to the glory of God in celebration of Rev. Rebecca Luter's birthday.

Join us for Fellowship Coffee immediately following the service in the Fellowship Hall. Refreshments provided by Paula Patterson. Sign up to host Fellowship Coffee on our website to provide refreshments following worship, www.farmingtonpres.org Please keep it simple-something sweet and something salty.

Children & Youth Sunday School Children will explore the Hebrews crossing the Red Sea from 10-10:45am. Youth Sunday school will put Philippians 4:13 back in its place. 10-10:45am.

Adult Sunday School Classes Cooper Patterson is leading a study of the book of Acts for men in the Fellowship Hall from 9:30-10:30am. Rev. Rebecca is facilitating discussion based on *Gleanings: Old Testament Stories of Hospitality, Welcome and Hunger* in the East Room from 10-10:45am. Anyone interested in hunger concerns is encouraged to attend.

Youth Fellowship will gather in the youth room for fellowship, reflection, and preparation for the coming week. Come find out more 2-4pm.

Wednesday Night Dinner and Program Rev. Ruth Lovell Bradham will begin a 4-week study of who we are as Presbyterians with a look at how we are related to other Christian denominations. Dinner is a Lasagna and the cost is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children (under 12) with \$25 family maximum. Dinners are from 5:45-6:30 with a livestreamed program in the Sanctuary from 6:30-7pm. To access the livestream, www.farmingtonpres.org/wnp-09-14-22 Children are encouraged to attend dinner and will have their own program with Rev. Rebecca from 6:30-7pm. Choir begins at 7:15pm. Now is a great time to begin practicing with the choir – we will be getting ready for Christmas soon!

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner This Friday, September 23rd, enjoy a meal out with Farmington friends! Like Dinner for 8, only no one has to cook! Get the details and sign up on our website, and we will match you with others to share a table and fellowship at a local restaurant.

First Presbyterian Clothes Closet If it is time for you to clean out your closet, please bring your items that are comfortable to share with our homeless neighbors. Most needed: T-shirts, shorts, pants, comfortable shoes for walking, backpacks, and used bags (grocery sacks). Bring your items to the bin beside the West entry by September 28th.

Meals for UKirk Each Thursday evening of the school semester, there is a Presbyterian student gathering for Rhodes and U of M students with a meal and Bible study. You can support this ministry by signing up to provide dinner for 15 students on the Signup Genius on the church website.

Flowers for Worship It is a time-honored tradition to give flowers to grace the Sanctuary in honor or memory of our loved ones. The cost for the flowers is \$60. The Flower Calendar is located on our website and is posted on the bulletin board near Fellowship Hall.

Wednesday Night Dinner To-Go Scott and Becky Hutchins (Firehutch Fine Foods) will continue 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.”

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.

This week at Farmington...First Presbyterian Soup Kitchen was thankful for the SUV trunk full of bologna sandwiches made by Farmington family members. It is truly a blessing to feed those who are hungry.

Remember in Prayer...Our Farmington Family, Session and Staff; Jack Arendt, Bruce Bennett, Bill Brown, Renee Canter, Jeanne Carr, Martha Carr, Ralph Carr, Jelena Colasurdo, Mary Lou Collins, Jamecka Donley, Bill Dyer, Bill Harrington, Declan Hegarty, Sandy Hilliard, Juanice Hooker, Vanessa Howard, Gary Hutchins, Louise Jacobson, Julia Lively, Jennifer Magill, Sue Odom, Meredith Oest, Nancy & Dennis Palmer, Bob Pointer, Bill Renfrow, Jonathan Riley, Jack Scherer, JoAnne Simpkins, Patti Simpkins, Mary Elizabeth Simpson, Williams Stevens, Jon Still, Susan St. John, Barbara Taylor, Joan Wallace, Jim Waller, Frank Whited, Faye Woods, and from our Presbytery: Marl Bluff Church, Reagan, TN.

Sympathy...to the family and friends of Kenneth Jack, father of MaryShelley Ritchey, grandfather of Jack and Cole Ritchey.

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