



FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 25, 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 "There Is a Balm in Gilead"

Spiritual

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather to worship the King of Glory, to sing of God's power and love.

If we are truthful, we must admit that at times our spirits are weighed down.

We gather as God's frail children of dust, hungry for healing and hope.

As we acknowledge our pain and suffering, we must admit that at times we struggle to hope for the future.

In faith, we gather as God's invited, anticipating the mercy of God's radical transformation of us and this world.

When God formed us in God's image, within each of us God placed a seed of imagination and creativity to bring about God's vision of beloved community in which justice, peace and righteousness flourish.

We gather to nurture those seeds;
**To partner with God, our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and
Friend, in bringing forth a bountiful harvest.**

*HYMN OF PRAISE – NO. 41

Verse 1, 4, 5

“O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!”

**O worship the King, all glorious above! O gratefully sing God’s
power and God’s love: our shield and defender, the Ancient of
Days, pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.**

**Your bountiful care what tongue can recite? It breathes in the
air; it shines in the light; it streams from the hills; it descends
to the plain, and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.**

**Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail, in you do we trust, nor
find you to fail; your mercies, how tender, how firm to the end,
our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.**

(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

Shelley Wann

*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

Mark 4:13-20, 30-32

Then Jesus said to them, "Don't you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable? The farmer sows the word. Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them. Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown."

Again he said, “What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SECOND READING

Lamentations 3:1-24, NRSV

I am one who has seen affliction under the rod of God’s wrath; he has driven and brought me into darkness without any light; against me alone he turns his hand, again and again, all day long.

He has made my flesh and my skin waste away; he has broken my bones; he has besieged and enveloped me with bitterness and tribulation; he has made me sit in darkness like the dead of long ago.

He has walled me about so that I cannot escape; he has put heavy chains on me; though I call and cry for help, he shuts out my prayer; he has blocked my ways with hewn stones; he has made my paths crooked.

He is a bear lying in wait for me, a lion in hiding; he led me off my way and tore me to pieces; he has made me desolate; he bent his bow and set me as a mark for his arrow.

He shot into my vitals the arrows of his quiver; I have become the laughingstock of all my people, the object of their taunt songs all day long. He has filled me with bitterness; he has sated me with wormwood.

He has made my teeth grind on gravel; he has made me cower in ashes; my soul is bereft of peace; I have forgotten what happiness is; so I say, “Gone is my glory and all that I had hoped for from the LORD.”

The thought of my affliction and my homelessness is wormwood and gall! My soul continually thinks of it and is bowed down within me.

But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. “The LORD is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.”

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.

From Brokenness to Hope:
A Seed Planted

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please remember those on our prayer list.

This morning, you are invited to offer your prayers for God's creation on the cross. You may write those concerns on the leaf in your bulletin or simply hold the leaf 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 "With a Voice of Singing" Martin Shaw

With a voice of singing declare you this, and let it be heard, Alleluia. Utter it even unto the ends of the earth. The Lord hath delivered his people, Alleluia. O be joyful in God, all ye lands, O sing praises to the honor of his name, make his praise to be glorious.

*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. 792 "There is a Balm in Gilead"

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole; there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain, but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again. Refrain

Don't ever feel discouraged, for Jesus in your friend, and if you lack for knowledge, he'll not refuse to lend. Refrain

If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul, you can tell the love of Jesus and say, "He died for all." Refrain

*BENEDICTION

*SENDING FORTH HYMN - No.769 "For Everyone Born" Verse 1

For everyone born, a place at the table, for everyone born, clean water and bread, a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing, for everyone born, a star overhead, 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 "By Gracious Powers" Hubert H. Parry

*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
Shelley Wann, Children's Moment
Bonnie Blair and Jackie Hall, Ushers
Hudson Barr, 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

Join us for Fellowship Coffee immediately following the service in the Fellowship Hall. Refreshments provided by Shelley Wann. 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 Ten Commandments from 10-10:45am. Youth Sunday school will put Corinthians 10:13 ("God won't give you more than you can handle") 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.

Presbyterian Women will meet in the East Room this afternoon, Sunday, September 25, at 12:30pm. Kirsten King will guide us through Lessons 1 & 2 of our Bible Study, *Celebrating Sabbath*.

Wednesday Night Dinner and Program Rev. Ruth Lovell Bradham will begin a 4-week study of who we are as Presbyterians. Dinner is Smothered Chicken & mashed potatoes 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-22 Children are encouraged to

attend dinner and will have their own program, learning to use their Bible, 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!

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...we are excited that our Cub Scout Pack is restarting post-COVID. Our Boy Scout Troop continued to meet by meeting outside during much of the pandemic. If you have elementary age boys in your family or neighborhood who might be interested in scouting, encourage them to join Farmington’s Cub or Boy Scout Troop 368.

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, Skip Flannery, 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: First Presbyterian Church, Rosemark, TN.

Sympathies...to the family and friends of Kenneth Jack, father of MaryShelley Ritchey, grandfather of Jack and Cole Ritchey and to the family and friends of Dorothy Chambers, mother of Tracy Riddle.

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Germantown, TN 38139

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