



**FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP**

Second Sunday of Advent

December 4, 2022

Worship Online at 11:00am Sunday Mornings

www.farmingtonpres.org

Click "Worship Together"

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Holy One, you are just and righteous. Therefore, your ways bring peace. Breathe your breath of life, your Spirit of prophecy, your hope, your passion, your creative imagination on us this Advent season. Wake us up; clear our eyes; perk our ears to hear, to see, to believe, to choose your ways over the ways of the world and welcome your will on earth. Amen.

WELCOME

PRELUDE Meditation on "The Coventry Carol"

David Lasky

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING[†]

*CALL TO WORSHIP

God is here. Even so, do not be afraid.

God speaks, and the world changes. There is light where once there was only darkness; life where once there was only chaos.

God speaks, and all that is formed by God's Word is good. Do not be afraid.

God comes, and the world rejects him. There is vulnerability in the manger and on the cross; life that has been broken.

God comes, and all that is blessing and all that is curse is known by God's Word. Do not be afraid.

God calls, and we gather as one. There is hope in knowing we are God's people, with all of our variety and uniqueness.

God calls, and all that separates us is removed. Do not be afraid.

Emmanuel, “God with us”, come to us. Order our chaos and bring us new life; heal our brokenness and grant us forgiveness; hold our fears and fill us with hope.

*HYMN OF PRAISE – No. 347 “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand; ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood, Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood, he will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way, as the Light of light descendeth from realms of endless day, that the powers of hell may vanish as the shadows clear away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim, with sleepless eye, veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry, “Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord most high!”

(Please be seated.)

CALL TO RECONCILIATION†

PRAYER OF CONFESSION†

Patient God, you know just how often we make decisions from a place of fear rather than love. You know just how often we allow fear to take the place of logic, fanning unhealthy fires in our lives. You know just how often we tuck your words, “Do not be afraid” on dusty shelves and in the back of closets, stubbornly holding onto our own point of view. Forgive us for giving fear the microphone. Silence the voices of scarcity, shame, and rejection, which spark and feed so much of our fear, to re-center us in love. With hope we pray.

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 God who knows our fears.
We believe in God who says, “Be not afraid.”
We believe in God who kicks off her shoes
and wades into the muck of our lives with us.
We believe in God who stitches herself to our heels,
and invites us to dance.
We believe in God who hemmed stars into the night sky
so that we can find our way home,
And who sends us friends with open doors,
so we can find our way to love.
We believe in God who finds us in our fear
and does not leave us alone.
Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.**

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

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 1:26-38

One month later God sent the angel Gabriel to the town of Nazareth in Galilee with a message for a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to Joseph from the family of King David. The angel greeted Mary and said, "You are truly blessed! The Lord is with you."

Mary was confused by the angel's words and wondered what they meant. Then the angel told Mary, "Don't be afraid! God is pleased with you, and you will have a son. His name will be Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of God Most High. The Lord God will make him king, as his ancestor David was. He will rule the people of Israel forever, and his kingdom will never end."

Mary asked the angel, "How can this happen? I am not even married!"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come down to you, and God's power will come over you. So your child will be called the holy Son of God. Your relative Elizabeth is also going to have a son, even though she is old. No one thought she could ever have a baby, but in three months she will have a son. Nothing is impossible for God!"

Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant! Let it happen as you have said." And the angel left her.

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

"There's Hope for Every Fear"

Rev. Rebecca Luter

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please remember those on our prayer list.

RESPOND TO GOD

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

arr. Karen Marrolli

"My Heart Shall Sing"

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. The loud shall fall silent, the silent shall speak, the weak be made mighty, the mighty made weak. When tyrants shake with wrath, O lift us, meek and mild, to walk the peaceful path to the Holy Child. The unseen shall be seen; the unheard shall be heard! 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. The wealthy, you humble. The hungry, you fill. The prideful, you scatter. The anxious, you still. When darkness holds all sway, and the world falls into night, O lead us into day, to the Child of Light. Disrupt our world! Disturb our souls! Let those in comfort feel affliction! Unsettle all who have ever dwelt secure! Secure the frail in firm conviction! From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone. Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne. The unseen shall be seen; the unheard shall be heard. (*Rory Cooney*)

*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

Holy God, we tell the old, old story of your love, born in a humble cattle stall to uncertain parents passing it on from generation to generation, like a tapestry woven throughout time, with room for every story. Without fail, it continues to change us, to calm our fears and offer hope, to expand our love. This day we give thanks for the ways your work is unfolding in and through us, even now. Use us and our resources to bring the news of great joy to the world. Amen.

THE INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE 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 to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise...

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.

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

THE PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

*HYMN - No. 89

Verses 1, 2 and 3

“For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits”

For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits; truly my hope is in you.

O Lord of Light, our only hope of glory, your radiance shines in all who look to you; come light the hearts of all in dark and shadow. *Refrain*

O Spring of Joy, rain down upon our spirits; our thirsty hearts are yearning for your word; come, make us whole, be comfort to our hearts. *Refrain*

O Root of Life, implant your seed within us, and in your advent, draw us all to you, our hope reborn in dying and in rising. *Refrain*

*BENEDICTION

*SENDING FORTH HYMN – NO. 80 “You Shall Go Out with Joy”

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace; the mountains and the hills will break forth before you; there’ll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field will clap, will clap their hands.

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands; the trees of the field will clap their hands; the trees of the field will clap their hands while you go out with joy. (*Sing twice*)

*POSTLUDE “Sleepers Awake for Night is Flying”

J.S. Bach

*Stand as able.

Bold Type – congregation in unison

†Prayers by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed, A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org.

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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
Rev. Ruth Lovell Bradham, Liturgist
Shelley Wann, Children's Moment
John Hazen and MaryShelley Ritchey, Ushers
Rev. Ruth Lovell Bradham, Roland Mittag, Lance & Liv Palmer,
Shelley Wann, Communion Servers
Abigail Palmer, Acolyte
Chancel Choir



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 Pat Rush Davis and Catherine Johnson. 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.

Youth Fellowship is today (December 4th) from 2-4pm. Join us for a Nativity Escape Room!

Children & Youth Sunday School The Children and Youth will be practicing for the Christmas Pageant from 10-10:45am. The Pageant will during worship on December 11th.

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 leads a class for anyone interested in the East Room from 10-10:45am. Topics are chosen by participants. We will be discussing C.S. Lewis's *The Great Divorce*, an allegory about visiting heaven and hell. Join us as we discuss the story and dig into what the Bible teaches us about good and evil.

Wednesday Night Dinner and Program Dinner is One & Only BBQ. The cost is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children (under 12) with \$25 family maximum. Dinner is from 5:45-6:30. Join us as we ponder the story of John the Baptist (in Elizabeth's womb) leaping for joy in recognition of the Messiah (in Mary's womb) and consider who has shown us the light of God's love.

HOLIDAY DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

- **Children's Christmas Pageant** during Worship, Dec. 11th, 11am.
- **Caroling Caravan** to Members with Limited Mobility, Dec. 11th, 1pm.
- **PW Holiday Bake Sale**, Dec. 14th, 10am-6pm.
- **Farmington Christmas Party** at Halle Plantation, Dec. 16th, 7-9pm
Childcare at the Church, 6:30pm-9:30pm
- **Lessons and Carols and Christmas Lunch**, Dec. 18th, 11am.

Renovation Planning Join us after worship on Sunday, December 11th in the East Room for an open meeting for deciding paint colors and flooring for the hallways and the bathrooms across from the Fellowship Hall and the Narthex. All who are interested are encouraged to attend.

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 had a wonderful time singing Christmas carols Wednesday night! Thank you to Tom Bryant for leading us and playing everything from “All I Want for Christmas Is My Two Front Teeth” to “Angels We Have Heard on High” and from “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” to “We Three Kings.” If you would like to have a chance to sing your favorite carols, join us next Sunday afternoon for the Caroling Caravan to members who are not able to attend service in person due to limited mobility. We will meet in the back parking lot December 11th at 1pm.

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, Martha Hart, Vanessa Howard, The Humber family, Gary Hutchins, Jeannie, Peter, and Lara Kendall, Julia Lively, Dale Lowery, Jennifer Magill, Sara Millar, Sue Odom, Meredith Oest, Nancy & Dennis Palmer, Bob Pointer, Bill Renfrow, Jack Scherer, JoAnne Simpkins, Patti Simpkins, Mary Elizabeth Simpson, Williams Stevens, Susan St. John, Judy Tobey, Joan Wallace, Jim Waller, Frank Whited, Laura Anne Whitmore, Faye Woods, Rev. Mark Wright, and from our Presbytery: The Presbyterian Church USA/Presbyterian Mission Agency.

Sympathies...to the family and friends of Jonathan Riley, relative of Emma Van Frank, to the family and friends of Susan Smith, mother of Matthew (and Cristaldawn) Smith and to the family and friends of Kate Morrison, friend of MaryShelley Ritchey.

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Germantown, TN 38139

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