



**FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP**

**Third Sunday of Advent**

**December 11, 2022**

Worship Online at 11:00am Sunday Mornings

[www.farmingtonpres.org](http://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 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Prichard

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

God approaches – gathering the ignored, accomplishing the unexpected, restoring the shattered creation, filling our emptiness with immeasurable grace.

**The time is coming when we will celebrate the birth, when we will sing with joy!**

But for now, be patient, in this time of preparation.

**We wait for the time when the desert will burst forth in bloom and the light of dawn will erupt on the horizon.**

Rejoice! The Lord's compassion is with us. Believe in the power of God in all things.

**God's mercy and love overflows and splashes as it surges into our parched souls.**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE – No. 88

Verses 1, 5, 6, 7

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O Come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind; bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

*(Please be seated.)*

CALL TO RECONCILIATION†

PRAYER OF CONFESSION†

God of mercy, a million times a day we have the opportunity to be gracious, to assume the best in others, to give the benefit of the doubt. A million times a day we could choose the better way, but so often we don't. Fear and greed kick in. Assumptions and insecurities take the wheel. Comparison and critique lead the charge.

Forgive us for forgetting that we are descendants of Joseph. Forgive us for forgetting that grace and mercy are in our blood. Forgive us for forgetting that all belong to you. Give us the courage to love even bigger than before, and the wisdom to choose a better way.

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 offers second chances and does not hold grudges. We believe in God who opens the door to new life and leaves the porch light on for us when we get lost. We believe in God who believes in us – believes that we can make a difference, that we can choose grace over comparison, love over hate, peace over war.**

**And so we strive to live our lives in love. We strive to listen as Joseph listened, and to be the people that God calls us to be. It's all that easy, and it's all that hard. This we believe. Amen.**

THE STORY OF CHRISTMAS

Told by the Children and Youth of Farmington Presbyterian

*All are invited to participate in the Story of Christmas  
by providing a soundscape for the reading.*

Caesar Augustus – **Trumpet Fanfare**

Baby – **Ahh**

Shepherds – **Baa**

Manger – **Moo**

Angel – **Hallelujah!**

**PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION†

FIRST READING

Isaiah 35:1-10

The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God. Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you." Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow. And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness; it will be for those who walk on that Way. The unclean will not journey on it; wicked fools

will not go about on it. No lion will be there, nor any ravenous beast; they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk there, and those the LORD has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

#### SECOND READING

Matthew 1:18-25

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

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 Courage for Every Choice" 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** “Once He Came in Blessing” Wilbur Held  
Once He came in blessing, all our sins redressing; came in likeness lowly, Son of God most holy; bore the cross to save us; hope and freedom gave us.

### \*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.**

### \*HYMN - No. 104 “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

**O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright?  
Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight!  
O kindle, Lord most holy, a lamp within my breast,  
to do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.  
Love caused your incarnation; love brought you down to me;  
your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.  
O love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace  
in love, all loves excelling, our lost and fallen race.  
You come, O Lord, with gladness, in mercy and goodwill,  
to bring an end to sadness and bid our fears be still.  
In patient expectation we live for that great day  
when your renewed creation your glory shall display.**

### \*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 “Good King Wenceslas”

\*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  
Susan Bryant, Liturgist  
Gerry and Gerrie Wilder, Ushers  
Hadley Barr, 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:church@farmingtonpres.org)

## Happenings AT FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN

**Join us for Fellowship Coffee** immediately following the service in the Fellowship Hall. Refreshments provided by Elizabeth Demaree. Sign up to host Fellowship Coffee on our website to provide refreshments following worship, [www.farmingtonpres.org](http://www.farmingtonpres.org) Please keep it simple-something sweet and something salty.

### HOLIDAY DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

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- **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 immediately after worship today, Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Caroling Caravan** Do you love Christmas carols? Are there Farmington members you have missed seeing because they have limited mobility? Come, spread some Christmas joy today, Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>! We will leave from the back parking lot at 1pm. Those who prefer to drive will be in a caravan. We will also be taking the church bus. We will be finished by 4pm.

**No Youth Fellowship** today (December 11<sup>th</sup>). Please join the Caroling Caravan that leaves the church back parking lot at 1pm. We will caravan to those in the Farmington family who are not able to come to worship in person.

**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.

**Sunday School for Youth & Children** will be together in the Youth Room for a celebration of the Christmas Story, together from 10-10:45am.

**PW Holiday Bake Sale** is this Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> from 10am-6pm. Most individually packaged treats will be \$1. Full pies and cakes available for your Christmas Dinner.

**Wednesday Night Dinner and Program** Dinner is “Breakfast for Dinner”. 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 make star ornaments and reflect on the shepherds and the magi coming to worship the baby Jesus.

**Farmington Christmas Party** All are invited this Friday night, December 16<sup>th</sup> from 7-9pm, for a time of fellowship and fun. Doug Barr has a Farmington Family game planned! Heavy hors d’oeuvres provided; BYOB. Childcare available at the church 6:30-9:30pm. RSVP to [shelley@farmingtonpres.org](mailto:shelley@farmingtonpres.org).

**Lessons and Carols and Christmas Lunch** Be sure to invite your family and friends to attend worship next Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, as the choir leads us in this special service of music and Scripture. Scott Hutchins will be catering a full Christmas Lunch following worship for all.

**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...**The FPDS Christmas Programs this week included “Go Tell It on the Mountain.” While the programs were well-attended in person, on Tuesday and Wednesday, there were also 358 views by Thursday morning on the private link provided to families of the recording so that loved ones who were not able to be here in person could also view. Truly, we are going and telling it on the mountain!

**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, George Patterson, Bob Pointer, Bill Renfrow, Jack Scherer, JoAnne Simpkins, Patti Simpkins, Mary Elizabeth Simpson, Williams Stevens, Susan St. John, Judy Tobey, Kathy VanderEcken, Joan Wallace, Jim Waller, Frank Whited, Laura Anne Whitmore, Andrew Woods, Faye Woods, Rev. Mark Wright, and from our Presbytery: Human Rights.

**Sympathy...**to the family and friends of Kate Morrison, friend of MaryShelley Ritchey.

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