

EVERY YEAR

My heart and I have an agreement.
Every year we show up here -
here in the sanctuary,
here with the candles and the tall ceilings,
here with the creaky church pews
and the songs of silent nights.

My heart and I have an agreement.
Every year we show up here -
at the end of the year,
after another 12 months
of humanity, of me
trying to
keep it all together,
trying to
keep my head above water,
trying to
keep up appearances.

Every year we show up here.
We drop it all.
We leave it at the door.
We come into this space
and I could swear it feels different.

Maybe it's God.
Maybe it's hope.
Maybe it's love.
But whatever it is,
I need it
every year,
so we show up here.
Tell us again the story of tonight.

My heart needs it.

-Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed



SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP

6:00 PM
DECEMBER 24, 2022
CHRISTMAS EVE



**FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP**

**Christmas Eve
December 24, 2022**

Worship Online at 6:00pm
www.farmingtonpres.org
Click "Worship Together"

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

WELCOME

PRELUDE "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" with "Away in a Manger"

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH†

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 119

Verses 1 & 2

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"**

**Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity,
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.**

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, hear the story once again. Pay attention to the message of the angels in this place, in this time, in your heart.

Unto us is born this day a Savior, Christ the Lord.

God is telling quite a story in our lives, a story of promise, full of grace and truth.

We struggle to trust this story, full of hard endings and unexpected new beginnings. We struggle to believe it has anything to do with our story.

The angels proclaimed to the shepherds, “You shall find the baby - the Word made flesh, Grace swaddled in mystery – wrapped gently by his mother and laid in a manger.”

Where do we find God now?

God meets us here, as we approach with our honest doubts and questions, our anger and disappointments, our hopes and our needs.

Like the shepherds, may we be drawn to come and worship that we may see and know this good news of great joy for all people.

(The hymn concludes.)

*HYMN OF PRAISE – No. 119

Verse 3

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings. Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

(Please be seated.)

CALL TO RECONCILIATION†

PRAYER OF CONFESSION†

Holy God, we admit – we don’t fully understand the Christmas story. We are not often visited by angels in our dreams. We have not been forced to walk mile after mile to be counted, so we could pay taxes to an occupying government. We are not familiar with angel choruses lighting up the night sky. We don’t fully understand this story, so we admit, sometimes we hesitate to tell it.

Instead of sharing that there is a love bigger than we could imagine, we wave politely to our neighbors. Instead of throwing the doors of the church open and inviting people in, we simply unlock them and hope folks will figure it out. Instead of telling our children and grandchild and great-grandchildren why this night matters so much, we stay quiet, afraid of creating pressure or feeling awkward.

Forgive us for our silence. Forgive us for our hesitation. Settle your story of love so deep in our bones that we cannot help but share it.

KYRIE

**Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON†

*GLORIA – NO. 110

Verses 1 & 3

Love has come: a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies. See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises: Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

Love has come and never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free. Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking. Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH†

We believe that for generations people have gathered together on this holy night, because there is something about this story that speaks to the deepest parts of us.

We believe in bundling up this hope, this good news, and passing it on – to our children, to our neighbors, to the world around us.

I believe my voice can make a difference, just like I believe this story can make a difference, so I will not stay silent.

I will tell this story – of a love that makes room for all.

I will sing this story – of a love that knows our name.

I will live this story – because love has come again.

I believe that words have power.

I will not stay quiet.

Amen.

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2-7a

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder. For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod

of their oppressor. Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

SECOND READING

Luke 2:1-20

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But

Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

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 “Waiting Through the Night” Rev. Rebecca Luter

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please remember those on our prayer list.

RESPOND TO GOD

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Ebberling, 1666

“All My Heart Today Rejoices”

All my heart today rejoices, as I hear, far and near, sweetest angel voices: “Christ is born,” their choirs are singing, till the air, everywhere, now with joy is ringing.

Hark! A voice from yonder manger, soft and sweet, does entreat: “Flee from woe and danger; Come and see; from all that grieves you, you are freed; All you need I will surely give you.”

Come, then, let us hasten yonder; Here let all, great and small, kneel in awe and wonder; Love Him who with love is yearning; Hail the star that from far bright with hope is burning!

*DOXOLOGY NO. 113 “Angels We Have Heard on High” Verse 3

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing; come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. *Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*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 so that when the ringing of the bells fades and the candles are blown out, your light may continue to shine. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

PRAYER OF 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 for the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

SUNG RESPONSES – No. 552, 553, & 554

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.

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

*The Communion elements offered by the tree are
gluten, sugar, nut, and dairy-free bread and grape juice.*

LITANY OF LIGHT

Emmanuel, God-with-us,
interrupt and open our eyes to the wonder of this night,
that we might catch a glimpse of your glory.

May your light shine!

Emmanuel, God-with-us,
interrupt and soften our hearts to the message of this hour,
that we might prepare for your coming.

May your light shine!

Emmanuel, God-with-us,
interrupt and open our minds to truly listen to all
that we might hear your voice cry out from many lips.

May your light shine!

Emmanuel, God-with-us,
with eyes open, hearts softened, minds listening, and spirits full,
we rejoice that you interrupt and transform our world
that we might respond to your message of love.

May your light shine! Amen.

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

*HYMN - No. 122

“Silent Night, Holy Night!”

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright ‘round yon virgin mother and child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight; glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing “Al-le-lu-ia: Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born!”

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light; with the angels let us sing Al-le-lu-ia to our King: Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.

*INVITATION, CHARGE AND BLESSING

*SENDING FORTH HYMN – No. 134 “Joy to the World” Verses 1 & 4

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king; let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

*POSTLUDE Trumpet Tune on “Joy to the World” Helman

*Stand as able. **Bold Type** – congregation in unison

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

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THIS SERVICE IS BEING LIVE-STREAMED
AND RECORDED. ATTENDEES
IMPLICITLY AGREE THAT THEY, AND
ANY CHILDREN ACCOMPANYING
THEM, MAY BE ON CAMERA.

Participating in the service today:

Rev. Rebecca Luter, Pastor

Doug Barr, Director of Christian Education

Jim Thrash, Director of Music

Tom Bryant, Accompanist

Paul King, Liturgist

Nadine Oest and Paula Patterson, Ushers

Bonnie Blair, Stephanie Nagel, Paul King, Mike Schneider,

Shelley Wann, Communion Servers

Delilah Davis, Acolyte

Chancel Choir

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

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

- Our next Sunday School classes will be January 8th, the Men's Class meets at 9:30am, all other classes for adults, youth, and children are at 10am.
- Our next Fellowship Coffee will be January 8th, immediately following the service in Fellowship Hall.
- Youth Fellowship will gather again on January 8th from 2-4pm.

Holiday Schedule The Church Office and Day School will be closed December 26-30th. Painting and renovations will be taking place. If you need Rev. Luter, please contact her on her cell phone – (901) 674-8000.

End of Year Gifts IRS requires that all gifts to the church applied to 2022 Giving Statements be postmarked by December 31, 2022. Gifts made in worship on January 1st will be applied to your 2023 Giving Statement.

Fellowship Coffee 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.

Flower Calendar Giving flowers for worship is a way to remember those we love and celebrate significant moments in our lives. You may sign up on our website under “Sign-ups” or on the chart outside Fellowship Hall.

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... Thank you to all who made possible and participated in the Annual Farmington Family Christmas Party at Halle Plantation and Lessons and Carols with Christmas Lunch last weekend. Both gatherings were joyful celebrations of the love of God and God’s family.

Remember in Prayer... Our Farmington Family, Session and Staff; Robert Applewhite, Jack Arendt, Bruce Bennett, Shirley Berry, Bo Bradham, Bill Brown, Paulette Bukauskas, Renee Canter, Glenn Carr, Jeanne Carr, Martha Carr, Ralph Carr, Jelena Colasurdo, Mary Lou Collins, Bill Dyer, Skip Flannery, Bill Harrington, Martha Hart, John Hazen, 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, Craig Warvel, Frank Whited, Laura Anne Whitmore, Faye Woods, Rev. Mark Wright.

FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

8245 Farmington Blvd.
Germantown, TN 38139
901-754-2794
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