



**FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP**

**Christmas Day
December 25, 2022**

Worship Online at 11:00am Sunday Mornings

www.farmingtonpres.org

Click "Worship Together"

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. – Isaiah 9:2

WELCOME

GATHERING HYMN NO. 133

Verse 4

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be all glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Arise, people of God, and shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.

We were kneeling in the darkness, waiting with hope-filled hearts to see God's light emerge.

Lift up your eyes and look around. All assemble and come to worship. Nations come to the night, peoples come from afar.

The light of Christ has come into the world. Immanuel. God with us.

As Christ's image grows within us and shows us life, our hearts throb and swell with joy.

We will follow the light as he speaks to us and teaches us love, until we open our hearts to be his home.

All will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the Lord.

When our journey brings us, finally, to the heart of God, may our hands open in generous sharing and our mouths in generous praise.

*HYMN OF PRAISE – No. 132

Verse 1

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today; ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now. Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

(Please be seated.)

CALL TO RECONCILIATION†

PRAYER OF CONFESSION†

Holy God, too often we feel as if change is hopeless. The problems of this world feel too big, the path forward is unclear, and we are not confident that we can truly make a difference. Forgive us for extinguishing hope.

Holy God, too often we believe that peace is a thing of fairy tales. Our spirits are anxious. Our bodies are weary. Our world is fractured. Instead of praying for peace – both in ourselves and in our society – we assume that peace is no longer on the table. Forgive us for extinguishing peace.

Holy God, too often we paint joy as naïve – a luxury reserved for children and pets. We forget that you ate with friends, that you went to weddings, that you laughed and rested and hiked mountains. We forget that you knew joy, and that you want joy for us in this fractured world. Forgive us for turning away from your light. Forgive us for extinguishing joy.

Holy God, too often we treat love like a vending machine. We put some coins in and assume that we’ll get something back. However, in our wiser moments, we know that love is not meant for keeping score. Love is meant to overflow, to spill out to our neighbors, to transform our world. Forgive us for holding love so tightly. Forgive us for extinguishing love.

KYRIE

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Verse 4

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON†

*GLORIA – NO. 119 “Hark the Herald Angels Sing” Verse 3

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!”

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH†

Like Mary, we believe in pondering what Christ’s birth means for us. Like the angels, we believe in singing God’s praise. Like the shepherds, we believe that God’s presence in our life is something worth talking about. Like generations before, we believe that God is with us. God is here. God is love. We believe. Thanks be to God!

A LOOK THROUGH CHILDREN’S EYES

Nic Luter

*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†

POETIC READING OF JOHN 1:1-5

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 “The Tradition of the Christingle” 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

*DOXOLOGY No. 113

Verse 3

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

**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

**Holy God, we tell the old, old story of your love, born in a
humble cattle stall to uncertain parents. We passing on the
story from generation to generation, like a tapestry woven
throughout time, with room for everyone’s 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. 134 “Joy to the World”

**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.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the
sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the
sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the
ground; he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is
found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.**

**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.**

*BENEDICTION

*SENDING FORTH HYMN No. 136

Verse 3

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

***Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go,
tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!***

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born, and God sent us salvation, that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain.*

*POSTLUDE

*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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Participating in the service today:

Rev. Rebecca Luter, Pastor
Doug Barr, Director of Christian Education
Jim Thrash, Director of Music
Tom Bryant, Accompanist
Chris Luter, Liturgist
Nic Luter, Children's Moment
Rachel Barr, Usher
Hudson 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 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.

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Germantown, TN 38139

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