



**FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP**

**First Sunday of Christmas  
January 1, 2023**

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 Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from everlasting to everlasting you are God, and your mercies are new each morning. Let the radiance of your Spirit shine anew in our lives, warming our hearts and giving light to our minds, that we may enter the new year in joyful obedience and firm faith; through him who is the beginning and the end, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRELUDE "In the Bleak Midwinter"

Holst

WELCOME

GATHERING HYMN NO. 143

Verses 1 & 2

"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

**Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth; you, who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth: come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!**

**Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night, God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light: come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!**

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

We come to worship as the new year begins, giving thanks, for God is with us.

**Unto us a child has been given, a Savior who is Christ, the Lord.**

We gather knowing our deep need of God's grace and recommitting ourselves to attending to our relationship with God.

**For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.**

God has put a sense of past and future into our minds, giving a right and suitable time for everything.

**In the fullness of time, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, to unite all things in heaven and on earth.**

God has done this so that all creation should stand in awe at the mystery of the Holy One, whatever God does endures forever.

**We heed the voice that cries out, “In the wilderness and desert places of your life, prepare a way for the Lord to come to you.”**

Behold, the time has come, when he will save us. Now is the day of salvation.

**Whatever God does endures forever, and he was born so that we might be adopted as God’s own children.**

\*THE HYMN CONCLUDES NO. 143

Verses 3 & 4

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

**Sages, leave your contemplations; brighter visions beam afar;  
seek the great desire of nations; you have seen his natal star:  
come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the  
newborn king!**

**All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
evermore your voices raising to th’eternal Three in One: come  
and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn  
king!**

*(Please be seated.)*

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION<sup>†</sup>

**Merciful God, in great love you have claimed us as your children. We confess that we have not loved you as we should. We have not participated fully in your purposes and plans; we grow weary and give up when the way is hard. We have not loved our brothers and sisters as you intend. Complacent in the presence of injustice and violence, we fail to recognize our own complicity.**

**Forgive us, especially when we fail to protect children so vulnerable and precious in your sight. Forgive our misuse of power against people and against your creation. Help us to praise you by living in harmony and peace. Do not be ashamed of us, we pray, but strengthen us in our time of testing. Set us**

free from fear that we may wholly trust in you. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who shared our flesh and blood.

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 son 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†

**We believe that faith is active, found on long walks, and in long talks, in future days, and down memory lane. We believe that those who seek will find, although it may not be what they expected. We believe that God finds us first. We believe that God drops breadcrumbs along our way in the shape of people, invitations, and even starlight. We believe that being a seeker – of God, of justice, of community – is a holy thing. So we strive to live with an open spirit, with soft hearts, with room to grow. May it be so. This we believe. Amen.**

THROUGH CHILDREN’S EYES

Rachel Barr

*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 63:7-9

I will tell of the kindnesses of the LORD, the deeds for which he is to be praised, according to all the LORD has done for us—yes, the many good things he has done for Israel, according to his compassion and many kindnesses. He said, “Surely they are my people, children who will be true to me”; and so he became their Savior. In all their distress he too was distressed, and the angel of his

presence saved them. In his love and mercy he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

SECOND READING

Galatians 4:4-7

But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

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

"Children of God"

Rev. Rebecca Luter

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Please remember those on our prayer list.*

## RESPOND TO GOD

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Vaughn-Williams

\*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, in this season of giving, we are grateful for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ. Receive, we pray, these offerings we bring. 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:

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten” No. 108 v. 1

**Of the Father’s love begotten, ere the worlds began to be, he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he, of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore!**

“Silent Night” No. 122, verse 3

**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.**

“On Christmas Night All Christians Sing” No. 112 verse 4

**All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night; all out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night: “Glory to God in highest heaven; peace on earth and goodwill. Amen!”**

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 we share this morning are gluten, sugar, nut, and dairy-free bread and white grape juice.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

\*HYMN - No. 127 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

**Hark! the herald angels sing. Jesus, the light of the world.  
Glory to the newborn King. Jesus, the light of the world.**

*We’ll walk in the light, beautiful light. Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright. O, shine all around us by day and by night. Jesus, the light of the world.*

Joyful, all you nations, rise. Jesus, the light of the world.  
Join the triumph of the skies. Jesus, the light of the world.  
*Refrain.*

Christ by highest heaven adored; Jesus, the light of the world.  
Christ, the everlasting Lord; Jesus, the light of the world.  
*Refrain.*

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Jesus, the light of the world.

Hail, the Sun of Righteousness! Jesus, the light of the world.  
*Refrain.*

\*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

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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  
Rebecca Hutchins, Liturgist  
Rachel Barr, Children’s Moment  
Scott Hutchins and Melissa Still, Ushers  
Doug Barr, Rebecca Hutchins, Roland Mittag, Nadine Oest,  
Pat Sherman, Communion Servers  
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](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

### **Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**

- Our next Sunday School classes will be January 8<sup>th</sup>, 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 8<sup>th</sup>, immediately following the service in Fellowship Hall.
- Youth Fellowship will gather again on January 8<sup>th</sup> from 2-4pm.

**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 1<sup>st</sup> will be applied to your 2023 Giving Statement.

**Session Retreat** Farmington Presbyterian's Session will be spending the weekend together at Pinecrest January 20-22. The purpose of this time together will be to pray and seek God's vision and mission for Farmington in the next 5-10 years. Please pray for this time and for God's guidance in this exciting time of possibility.

**Fellowship Coffee** 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.

**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](mailto: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...**the hallways, Narthex, and Fellowship Hall restrooms have been painted and new flooring has been installed. If you would like to be involved with choosing furniture and decoration for the Narthex, please let Rev. Rebecca know.

**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, 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, and from our Presbytery: The Presbyterian Church (USA), Synods, Presbyteries & Churches.

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Germantown, TN 38139  
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