



**FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP**

**Epiphany of the Lord  
January 8, 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**

Light of Christ, allow us to see the glory of your presence in our midst. Shine among us in such a way that the darkness within us and around us may be pushed back, that we might truly see what is truly real. Help us to recognize our sin for what it is. Enable us to behold the world as you created it to be, as you created us to be. May your light within us guide us from darkness to light, from sin to new life. This we pray in the name of the Word made flesh, the light which is the light of all people, Jesus Christ. Amen.

**WELCOME**

**PRELUDE "We Three Kings"**

John Henry Hopkins

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Let us arise and shine, for our Lord has come.

**We come seeking to worship, and yet we are not sure where we will find God. We aren't sure we have ever really experienced God's presence.**

Even when our path is unsure, God reassures us, "Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine."

**Even when our path is difficult, God promises us, "When you cross deep rivers, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned."**

Even when we don't know the way, God commits to us, "No matter where you are scattered, I will bring you home. For I am your God, the Holy One, your Savior. You are precious in my sight and I love you."

**God created us for God's glory. We belong to God. We will not fear, for God is here with us.**

Bring your questions, your hopes, your faith, and your fear into this space.

**God is here.**

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 141

Verses 1, 3 and 4

**"On This Day Earth Shall Ring"**

**On this day earth shall ring with the song children sing to the Lord, Christ our King, born on earth to save us; him the Father gave us. Ideo -o-o, Ideo -o-o, Ideo Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**God's bright star, o'er his head, wise men three to him led; kneel they low by his bed, lay their gifts before him, praise him and adore him. Ideo -o-o, Ideo -o-o, Ideo Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**On this day angels sing; with their song earth shall ring, praising Christ, heaven's King, born on earth to save us; peace and love he gave us. Ideo -o-o, Ideo -o-o, Ideo Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

*(Please be seated.)*

CALL TO RECONCILIATION<sup>†</sup>

PRAYER OF CONFESSION<sup>†</sup>

**God of starlight, we know that faith isn't a vending machine. Good news can't be bought or manufactured. It does not arrive with a push of a button. Instead, in this noisy world, we have to look for you in our midst. We have to walk toward you, just as the Magi did. We have to believe that love really can change the world. We have to seek the stars beyond the city lights.**

**Forgive us for forgetting that. Forgive us for seeking you with only part of our hearts. We long to be more like the Magi; may we walk your way every single day.**

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<sup>†</sup>

\*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<sup>†</sup>**

**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**

Elizabeth Demaree

*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<sup>†</sup>**

**FIRST READING**

Psalm 72:1-2, 4-7, 10-14

Endow the king with your justice, O God, the royal son with your righteousness. May he judge your people in righteousness, your afflicted ones with justice. May he defend the afflicted among the people and save the children of the needy; may he crush the oppressor. May he endure as long as the sun, as long as the moon, through all generations. May he be like rain falling on a mown field, like showers watering the earth. In his days may the righteous flourish and prosperity abound till the moon is no more.

May the kings of Tarshish and of distant shores bring tribute to him. May the kings of Sheba and Seba present him gifts. May all kings bow down to him and all nations serve him. For he will deliver the needy who cry out, the afflicted who have no one to help. He will take pity on the weak and the needy and save the needy from death. He will rescue them from oppression and violence, for precious is their blood in his sight.

This is the Word of the Lord.

## Thanks be to God!

### SECOND READING

Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: "'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

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

"Let Us Keep Seeking"

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 “Walk in the Light” arr. Andre’ Thomas  
We’ll walk in the light, beautiful light, come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright. Shine all around us by day and by night, Jesus, the Light of the world.

Hark! The herald angels sing, Jesus, the Light of the world; Glory to the newborn King, Jesus, the Light of the world.

Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace! Jesus, the Light of the world; Christ the everlasting Lord! Jesus, the Light of the world.

\*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

God of promise, accept these gifts of money and time, indeed, the gift of our very selves. May our gifts bring your light to those overwhelmed by darkness, pain, and loneliness. Let them shine for all to see, that all may come to know your love and mercy and live according to your will. In the name of the Christ Child we pray, Amen.

\*HYMN - No. 150 “As with Gladness Men of Old”

**As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold; as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright; so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to thee.**

**As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to thy lowly bed, there to bend the knee before thee, whom heaven and earth adore; so may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat.**

**As they offered gifts most rare at thy manger, rude and bare, so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin’s alloy, all our costliest treasures bring, Christ to thee, our heavenly king.**

**Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way; and when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.**

\*BENEDICTION

\*SENDING FORTH HYMN “O Star of Wonder, Star of Light”

**O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,**

**westward leading, still proceeding guide us to thy perfect light.**

\*POSTLUDE “Rise Up Shepherds, and Follow” Traditional Spiritual

\*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

Paul King, Liturgist

Elizabeth Demaree, Children’s Moment

Scott Hutchins and Jennifer Young, 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 Paula Patterson. 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.

**Youth Fellowship ILLUMA-PAINT:** a life-changing invention that leads to some spiritual questions. We will explore what it is from 2-4pm (Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>).

**Children & Youth Sunday School** Children will meet from 10-10:45am. Youth will be exploring the mystery of the Trinity beginning with the first person of the three. Youth will meet from 10-10:45am.

**FPDS Registration** Current families will be invited to apply Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup>. Open registration for Summer Camp 2023 and the 2023-24 School Year begins at 7am, January 21<sup>st</sup>, on our website [www.farmingtonpres.org](http://www.farmingtonpres.org). Please share this information with families who may be interested in being part of the Farmington family at FPDS.

**Adult Ministry Luncheon** If you haven't yet attended, you will want to add this month's luncheon to your calendar. Paul King will be sharing his story which many know includes leaving a successful career in business to attend seminary. What else might we not know about who and what has shaped and formed Paul? Lunch will be \$13, at noon on January 19<sup>th</sup> in the East Room. of any age are encouraged to attend.

**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.

**Congregational Meeting** Session has called a Congregational Meeting following worship on February 5<sup>th</sup> for the purposes of receiving the 2022 Annual Report, considering the Pastoral Terms of Call, and electing the 2023 Nominating Committee. The meeting will be followed by a Potluck Luncheon.

**2023 Nominating Committee** Please consider serving or asking someone to serve on the Nominating Committee. This group is elected each year for a one year term to pray and select the leadership for our congregation. It is important that all groups are represented. No immediate family can be represented in consecutive years, so those who are not eligible are the immediate families of the 2022 Nominating Committee: Paul King, Doug Barr, Roland Mittag, Stephanie Nagel, and Pat Sherman.

**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...**we have received multiple expressions of appreciation for the crosses that Jerry Hosier and Cooper Patterson crafted for each family. Sharing our gifts is one way we serve God, even as we care for one another. Thanks were also expressed at Worship Committee for Olivia Mittag’s faithfulness in creating graphics and running the livestream of worship each Sunday. Her schedule this semester has forced her to relinquish some of the responsibilities she has taken on and additional volunteers will be needed. Please thank Olivia, Jerry, and Cooper when you see them!

**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, Stephanie Marr, Sara Millar, Sue Odom, Meredith Oest, Nancy & Dennis Palmer, George Patterson, Bob Pointer, Susan Pope, Bill Renfrow, Jack Scherer, JoAnne Simpkins, Patti Simpkins, Mary Elizabeth Simpson, Williams Stevens, Susan St. John, Judy Tobey, Margaret Ueleke, Kathy VanderEcken, Joan Wallace, Jim Waller, Craig Warvel, Frank Whited, Laura Anne Whitmore, Faye Woods, and from our Presbytery: The Presbytery of the Mid-South, Staff & Volunteers.

**Sympathy...** to the family and friends of Diane Hudson, aunt of Terri Neeley.

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