



**FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP**

**First Sunday in Lent**

**February 26, 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

based on Joel 2

Even now, we turn back our hearts and rededicate ourselves to you, God. We show our repentance by fasting, weeping, and mourning. Rip the wickedness out of our hearts; don't let us just display our Lenten practices on the surface.

We already know you are gracious and compassionate. You do not anger easily and love faithfully and steadfastly. You are willing to forgive and not punish us.

We wait with anticipation those days when you will pour the Spirit into all humanity; when your children will boldly and prophetically speak the word of God and all will hear, when our elders will dream dreams and our young will see visions. No one will be left out. In those days you, O God, will offer the Spirit to all who serve you. We pray for that day to come. Amen.

WELCOME

PRELUDE Vocalise

Rachmaninoff

Cooper Patterson, double bass

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

In a world full of noise, we stop to listen

**And we hear – water in the desert, the wind of the Spirit, the laughter of children – God is speaking.**

In a world full of chaos, we pause to look

**And we see – flowers in the sidewalk, the community of the Spirit, the welcome of children – God is healing.**

Church, what are you seeking?

**Clarity, wisdom, and a love that makes us whole.**

Church, what do you hear?

**We hear the longing for God in our souls.**

Church, what is holding you back?

**Nothing could ever separate us from God's love.**

Therefore, with joy in our hearts, we come to worship, praying,

**“Speak, Lord, your servants are listening.”**

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN - NO. 796

“We Come to You for Healing, Lord”

**We come to you for healing, Lord, of body, mind and soul, and pray that by your Spirit's touch we may again be whole.**

**As once you walked through ancient streets and reached toward those in pain, we know you come among us still with power to heal again.**

**You touch us through physicians' skills, through nurses' gifts of care, and through the love of faithful friends who lift our lives in prayer.**

**Through nights of pain and wakefulness, through days when strength runs low, grant us your gift of patience, Lord, your calming peace to know.**

**We come to you, O loving Lord, in our distress and pain, in trust that through our nights and days your grace will heal, sustain.**

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God, too often we treat your Word like a streaming service – something we can tune in and out of when it's convenient. We are tempted to create a playlist of just the things we want to hear. We tend to gravitate toward the voices that think like us – ignoring the voices being silenced, ignoring the voices that challenge us.**

**Forgive us for failing to listen. Drain the distractions and bulldoze the barriers from our minds. Give us courage to listen, really listen, for your Word. Then let us hear with not just our ears, but also our hearts, O God.**

*(A time of silent prayer)*

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

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THROUGH CHILDREN'S EYES

Laurinda Ingram

*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

Ezekiel 2:8-3:11

But you, son of man, listen to what I say to you. Do not rebel like that rebellious people; open your mouth and eat what I give you."

Then I looked, and I saw a hand stretched out to me. In it was a scroll, which he unrolled before me. On both sides of it were written words of lament and mourning and woe. And he said to me, "Son of man, eat what is before you, eat this scroll; then go and speak to the people of Israel." So I opened my mouth, and he gave me the scroll to eat.

Then he said to me, "Son of man, eat this scroll I am giving you and fill your stomach with it." So I ate it, and it tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth.

He then said to me: "Son of man, go now to the people of Israel and speak my words to them. You are not being sent to a people of obscure speech and strange language, but to the people of Israel—not to many peoples of obscure speech and strange language, whose words you cannot understand. Surely if I had sent

you to them, they would have listened to you. But the people of Israel are not willing to listen to you because they are not willing to listen to me, for all the Israelites are hardened and obstinate. But I will make you as unyielding and hardened as they are. I will make your forehead like the hardest stone, harder than flint. Do not be afraid of them or terrified by them, though they are a rebellious people.”

And he said to me, “Son of man, listen carefully and take to heart all the words I speak to you. Go now to your people in exile and speak to them. Say to them, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says,’ whether they listen or fail to listen.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

SECOND READING

Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”

Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written:

“‘He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’”

Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”

Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”

Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

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 “Who will you listen to?”

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 "They That Wait Upon the Lord"

They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint, they shall walk and not faint. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has not might he increases strength. (Isaiah 40: 31, 29)

### \*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

**God of the wilderness, we give these offerings in gratitude that you never leave us alone, even in the places we struggle. We rejoice in the abundance of your gifts to us and trust you with our needs. We give our offerings and our lives in hope, knowing you will use them to show your love in this word for the sake of Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

### \*HYMN - No. 175 "Seek Ye First"

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you. Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek, and you shall find; knock and the door shall be opened unto you. Alleluia, alleluia!**

**You shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

### \*BENEDICTION

\*SENDING FORTH HYMN - No. 453

“Open Your Ears, O Faithful People”

Open your ears, O faithful people; open your ears and hear God’s word. Open your hearts, O royal priesthood, God has come to you.

**God has spoken to the people, hallelujah! God has spoken words of wisdom, hallelujah! God has spoken to the people, hallelujah! God has spoken words of wisdom, hallelujah!**

\*POSTLUDE Fugue in a minor

Bach

\*Stand as able.

**Bold Type** – congregation in unison

†Throughout Lent, we are utilizing Sanctified Art’s “Seeking: honest questions for deeper faith.” Some liturgy is adapted from prayers by Rev, Sarah A. 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

Rachel Barr, Liturgist

Laurinda Ingram, Children’s Moment

Jamie & Carol Jameson, Ushers

Hudson Barr, Acolyte

Chancel Choir

Cooper Patterson, double bass



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 Paula Patterson.

**Fellowship Coffee** Each Sunday members take turns hosting providing refreshments following worship. Paula Patterson is available to assist and answer any questions you may have. Sign up to host Fellowship Coffee on our website [www.farmingtonpres.org](http://www.farmingtonpres.org) Please keep it simple - something sweet and something salty.

**No Youth Fellowship** this Sunday (February 26<sup>th</sup>).

**The Farmington Women** will be meeting in the East Room today, February 26 to discuss Chapter 6 of Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight. We will meet at 12:30 pm so feel free to bring snacks. Kirsten King will lead our discussion and Nadine Oest and Charlene Still will share their blessings for each other. Come join us in fellowship as well as planning for our many outreach projects. All women are invited!

**Lenten Wednesday Evening Dinners** Come enjoy mid-week fellowship and leave renewed for the rest of the week! Dinners will be at 6pm with a brief devotion in the Sanctuary that is both in-person and live-streamed from 6:45-7pm. Dinner this Wednesday will be from One & Only BBQ. Dinner is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children (under 12) with \$25 family maximum. Choir will be at 7:15pm. Now is a great time to join the choir as we prepare for Easter!

**Mission Trip to Xpujil, Mexico** Our next opportunity to assist with building cisterns in the Yucatan is July 31-August 5. Let Rev. Rebecca or Jinney Hart know if you are interested in knowing more. The cost is shared between the church budget, fundraisers, and the individual (approximately \$500 per person).

**Children's Sunday School** will hear the story of Jesus' healing two blind men from 10-10:45am in Room A6. **Youth Sunday School** will explore the season of Lent through artistic expression from 10-10:45am in the Youth Room.

**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. Beginning February 26<sup>th</sup>, Rev. Rebecca Luter will be facilitating an opportunity to engage with the

New Testament passage and our weekly Lenten themes at 10am in the East Room.

**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.”

**FPDS Registration** It is time to register for Summer Camp 2023 and the 2023-24 School Year at FPDS. Classes are filling up fast! The link to apply is available 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.

**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 received a letter of appreciation from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for the \$1,530 we received at our Friendsgiving for hurricane relief.

**Remember in Prayer...**Our Farmington Family, Session and Staff; Cecil Baker, Jackie Baker, Bruce Bennett, Shirley Berry, Betty Boyd, Jeanne Carr, Martha Carr, Ralph Carr, Judith Cassidy, Jelena Colasurdo, Mary Lou Collins, Skip Flannery, Bill Harrington, Martha Hart, Vanessa Howard, Gary Hutchins, Sherry Knight, Julia Lively, Dawn McKenzie, Sara Millar, Steve Moore, Bill Novick, Susan Odom, Nancy & Dennis Palmer, Bob and Sarah Pointer, Rita Priscock, Bill Renfrow, Jack Scherer, JoAnne Simpkins, Patti Simpkins, Mary Elizabeth Simpson, Williams Stevens, Susan St. John, Kathy Tessin, Kathy VanderEcken, Joan Wallace, Jim Waller, Kasi Wann, Craig Warvel, Frank Whited, Larry Williams, Faye Woods, and from our Presbytery: Pleasant Ridge Presbyterian Church, Big Sandy, TN and the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Ministry.

## FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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