



FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP
Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 19, 2023

Worship Online at 11:00am Sunday Mornings

www.farmingtonpres.org

Click "Worship Together"

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Lead us today, O God, into a fresh encounter with Jesus. Give us faith in your capacity and confidence in your creativity for you are able to bring forth life from dirt. Let us be disciples, following Jesus's example of welcoming the wholesome and the polluted, the virtuous and the vulgar. As we worship, startle us with insights that break open our calloused hearts and cause us to see and love as you do. Amen.

WELCOME

PRELUDE Dedication

Schumann

*CALL TO WORSHIP

God does not see as mortals see.
We look on the outward appearance;
God looks on the heart
Jesus, Light of the World,
give us eyes to see as you see!
Once we lived in darkness, but now—
as children of light, we are called
to what is good and right and true.
Jesus, Light of the World,
give us eyes to see as you see!

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN - NO. 684 "Faith Begins by letting Go"

**Faith begins by letting go, giving up what had seemed
sure, taking risks and pressing on, though the way feels less**

secure: pilgrimage both right and odd, trusting all our life to God.

Faith endures by holding on, keeping memory's roots alive so that hope may bear its fruit; promise-fed, our souls will thrive, not through merit we possess but by God's great faithfulness.

Faith matures by reaching out, stretching minds, enlarging hearts, sharing struggles, living prayer, binding up the broken parts; till we find the common place ripe with witness to God's grace.

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we are people who still love darkness rather than light. We keep shameful deeds secret, but flaunt our occasional acts of virtue. We see ourselves as blameless, but pass judgment on others. We do not stand firmly enough with those who are vulnerable, but step back, protecting ourselves. Forgive us, we pray. Bring us into your light that we may see ourselves rightly, know ourselves loved, and live more fruitful lives. Keep raising us, we pray, from the deadness of sin, and shine upon us with your grace.

(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.

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

John 9:1-41

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was

born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent).

Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am he.” But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath.” Others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” They said to

him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from."

The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

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 "Steadfast Witness"

Paul King

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Selected text from The Confession of 1967

In Jesus Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself. Jesus Christ is God with humankind. He is the eternal Son of the Father, who became human and lived among us to fulfill the work of reconciliation. He is present in the church by the power of the Holy Spirit to continue and complete his mission. This work of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is the foundation of all confessional statements about God, humanity, and the world. Therefore, the church calls all people to be reconciled to God and to one another.

The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind. His cross and resurrection become personal

crisis and present hope for women and men when the gospel is proclaimed and believed. In this experience, the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to all, moves people to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ.

The new life takes shape in a community in which people know that God loves and accepts them in spite of what they are. They therefore accept themselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand, except God's grace.

Amen

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 "I Will Be A Child of Peace" Hagenberg

O Holy Father I will be a child of peace and purity for well I know
Thy hand will bless the seeker after righteousness.

*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

Holy God, you are capable of seeing what we cannot. You even see potential in us that we do not. We offer ourselves to you and ask that you would dedicate us and our offerings to bringing healing to those who do not see your love, who dwell in the darkness of despair, whose eyes are closed to your mercy. Use them and us to shine light on your path of love and grace that all may see and follow your way, shown to us in Jesus. Amen.

*HYMN - No. 817 "We Walk by Faith"

Verses 1, 2 and 3

We walk by faith and not by sight; with gracious words draw near, O Christ, who spoke as none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."

We may not touch your hands and side, nor follow where you trod; but in your promise we rejoice and cry, "My Lord and God!"

Help then, O Lord our unbelief; and may our faith abound to call on you when you are near and seek where you are found.

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*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 Fantasy and Fugue

Fischer

*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

Paul King, Guest Speaker

Doug Barr, Director of Christian Education

Jim Thrash, Director of Music

Tom Bryant, Accompanist

Jinney Hart, Liturgist

Rachel Barr, Children's Moment

Thomas and Stephanie Nagel, 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 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

Flowers this morning are given to the glory of God by Charlie & Mo Smithers in honor of their grandchildren, Xavier and Autumn Mason.

Join us for Fellowship Coffee following the service in the Fellowship Hall. Refreshments provided by Ann Erickson, Paula Patterson and Pat Sherman.

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 Please keep it simple - something sweet and something salty.

Youth Fellowship this Sunday (March 19th) from 2-4pm. We will be exploring music and liturgy for the Easter Sunrise service.

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 Spaghetti Pie. 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!

Adult Ministries Luncheon Each month a member or friend of the Farmington family shares the story of God's faithfulness through their life story. On March 23 at noon, we will have lunch in the East Room as Sam Waweru shares his story. Sam moved to Germantown last year from Nairobi, Kenya, to earn his Commercial Pilot License. Lunch is catered by Scott Hutchins and is \$13. Please RSVP to Sandy Wann by Monday, March 20th.

UKirk Open House Come meet some of the students involved in our Presbytery's College Ministry in the place where they meet! March 25, 2-4pm, 449 Patterson St., Memphis. Refreshments will be provided and students will be present to answer questions. More information about this ministry can be found at ukirkmemphis.com.

The Farmington Women will be meeting next Sunday, March 26th at 12:30pm. All women are invited to attend by Zoom or in the East Room. We will be discussing Chapter 7 of Celebrating Sabbath, Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight. Brenda Guise and Mary Lou Collins will share their blessings for one another. Come see what the PW are doing to share God's love and blessings.

Annual PW Spring Gathering will be held at Idlewild Presbyterian Church on Saturday, April 22nd. The event begins at 9am with fellowship, pastries, program, and a lunch to follow. Contact Melissa Still to register or with any questions. Deadline to register is March 31st.

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 look at the Transfiguration of Jesus from 10-10:45am in Room A6. **Youth Sunday School** will explore the Scripture being read in worship 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. Rev. Rebecca Luter's class will not meet March 12 and 19. On March 26, she 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. 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 worshiping 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... With joy, we welcome Paul King to lead us in worship this Sunday. Paul has been a member of Farmington Presbyterian Church for 21 years, is a ruling elder and currently serves on Farmington’s session. He retired from International Paper in 2021 after a 29-year finance and strategy career. Paul is currently completing his second year of a four year degree program at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, GA. He is pursuing Master of Divinity and Master of Practical Theology degrees with a May 2025 target graduation date. He is also under care of the Presbytery of the Mid-South as an inquirer in the PC(USA) preparation for ministry process. Paul and his wife Kirsten (KK) call Collierville home.

Remember in Prayer...Our Farmington Family, Session and Staff; Cecil Baker, Jackie Baker, Bruce Bennett, Betty Boyd, Jeanne Carr, Martha Carr, Ralph Carr, Judith Cassidy, Mary Lou Collins, Brenda Fisher, Skip Flannery, Bill Harrington, Martha Hart, Vanessa Howard, Gary Hutchins, Sherry Knight, Julia Lively, Dawn McKenzie, Sara Millar, 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 VanderEcken, Joan Wallace, Jim Waller, Billy Wann, Kasi Wann, Craig Warvel, Frank Whited, Larry Williams, Faye Woods, and from our Presbytery: Cordova Presbyterian Church, Cordova, TN.

Sympathies...to a Forest Hill Elementary student and family in the loss of the student's father, requested by Madison Lewis.

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