



**FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP**

**Fifth Sunday in Lent**

**March 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

Holy God, we wait for you and in your Word we trust. Lead us today, O God, into a fresh encounter with Jesus. Let us be not just followers, but disciples, learning to live and to love like Jesus so that we can be bearers of the good news of new life. As we worship, startle us with insights that break open our calloused hearts and pour your Spirit into them, filling us with your grace to overflowing. Amen.

WELCOME

PRELUDE "Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley" American Spiritual

\*CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>††</sup>

In the buds on the trees eager to burst;  
in the flowers poking their heads out of the dirt;  
in the children chalking spring on the sidewalks:  
**we see how you love us, God of steadfast love.**

In the tears of a worried father over his son's illness;  
in the weariness of a mother facing a long shift at work;  
in the woman who anoints her grandbaby with baby lotion:  
**we see how you love us, our Resurrection and our Life.**

In the touch of a wife on her husband's papery skin;  
in the birds which rush into the sky before spiraling down;  
in the words we are given to offer to the empty-hearted:  
**we see how you love us, Breath of our souls.**

Creator of life:

**bring us light, we pray.**

Mourner of the dead:

**take away our grief, we pray.**

Refresher of dry lives:

**Pour your Spirit into the cracks in our hearts.**

Meet us here as we worship, and bring us back to life.

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN - NO. 800 "Sometimes a Light Surprises"

**Sometimes a light surprises the child of God who sings; it is the Lord who rises with healing in his wings; when comforts are declining, he grants the soul again a season of clear shining to cheer it after rain.**

**In holy contemplation we sweetly then pursue the theme of God's salvation and find it ever new; set free from present sorrow, we cheerfully can say, "Let the unknown tomorrow bring with it what it may."**

**It can bring with it nothing but he will bear us through; who gives the lilies clothing will clothe his people, too; beneath the spreading heavens no creature but is fed; and he who feeds the ravens will give his children bread.**

**Though vine nor fig tree neither their longed for fruit should bear, though all the fields should wither, nor flocks nor herds be there, yet God the same abiding, his praise shall tune my voice; for while in him confiding, I cannot but rejoice.**

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Jesus of Nazareth, we confess that we forget that you lived as we live. You know the feeling of loss and grief. You have been falsely accused. You know the consequence of human desire for power. Forgive us for creating distance, imagining you could never understand how we feel. Forgive us for seeking peace through war and security in weapons. Forgive us for abandoning the hungry, sick, and dying and for pursuing wealth by making others poor.**

**Allow the valley of dry bones in our lives to be a sea of grace between us. Pour yourself into the cracks of our hearts.**

*(A time of silent prayer)*

KYRIE

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

\*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

Elizabeth 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

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 37:1-7; 11-14

The hand of the Lord was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?"

I said, "Sovereign Lord, you alone know."

Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord.'"

So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone.

Then he said to me: “Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.’ Therefore prophesy and say to them: “This is what the Sovereign Lord says: My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. Then you, my people, will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the Lord have spoken, and I have done it, declares the Lord.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

SECOND READING

John 11:17-45

On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

“Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.”

us said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

“Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”

After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. “The Teacher is here,” she said, “and is asking for you.” When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.

When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. “Where have you laid him?” he asked.

“Come and see, Lord,” they replied.

Jesus wept.

Then the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”

But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. “Take away the stone,” he said.

“But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.”

Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?”

So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.”

When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”

Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in 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 “Where Have You Laid Him?”

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 “Seek Ye the Lord”

J.V. Roberts

Dr. William Compton, tenor

Seek ye the Lord while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near; Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts, and return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy, and abundantly pardon. (*Isaiah 4: 6, 7*)

\*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 life where 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 pouring out your healing grace for those who do not know your love, who dwell in the desert of despair, whose hearts are closed to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

\*HYMN - No. 286 “Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

**Breathe on me, Breath of God; fill me with life anew, that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.**

**Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure, until with thee I will one will, to do and to endure.**

**Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am wholly thine, until this earthly part of me glows with thy fire divine.**

**Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I never die, but live with thee the perfect life of thine eternity.**

\*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 Prelude in a minor

J.S. Bach

\*Stand as able.

**Bold Type** – congregation in unison

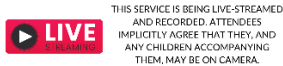
†Throughout Lent, we are utilizing Sanctified Art's "Seeking: honest questions for deeper faith." Some liturgy is adapted from prayers by Rev, Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

‡Adapted from "A Litany for Lent" by Rev. Thom M. Shuman.

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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  
Laurinda Ingram, Liturgist  
Elizabeth Luter, Children's Moment  
Roland Mittag and Charlie Smithers, Ushers  
Gavin Perkins, Acolyte  
Chancel Choir  
Dr. William Compton, tenor



## 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

**Flowers** this morning are given to the glory of God of God by Cooper & Kay 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.

**The Farmington Women** will be meeting today, Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup> 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. Zoom Meeting ID: 527 795 3657; Passcode: grace

**Youth Fellowship** this Sunday (March 26<sup>th</sup>) from 2-4pm. We will start work on our Easter Sunrise Sunday banners. Come create a visual for the Easter message, "Who are you looking for?" If you would like to get text reminders for upcoming Farmington Youth events, text "@farmyo" to "81010."

**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 Salisbury Steak with mushroom gravy & mashed potatoes. 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!

**Annual PW Spring Gathering** will be held at Idlewild Presbyterian Church on Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. 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 31<sup>st</sup>.

**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 explore the story of Palm Sunday with Sparkhouse curriculum from 10-10:45am in Room A6. **Youth Sunday School** will be used to prepare for the Easter Sunrise Service 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 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.”

**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 “@farmfam” 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 thank you note from Lauren Thomas. In it she shared that she will always remember the wonderful people at Farmington Presbyterian. She is now working as an ICU nurse at the VA Hospital in Birmingham, AL. She says, “Ever since my family moved out of Germantown, I have missed going to this church. Hopefully in the near future I will find a new church in Birmingham.”

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

**Sympathies...**to the family and friends of Cecil Baker, father of Polly Knight.

## FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

8245 Farmington Blvd.  
Germantown, TN 38139  
901-754-2794

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