



**FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP**  
**Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
**May 7, 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

Unbounded God, we come to worship with awe, for though you are God, with all the influence and status that the name implies, you refused to come with bravado or ostentation and parade your power among us. Instead, you chose to step down into our experience, living among us, as one of us, with all the boundaries, struggle, and suffering that go with being human. More than that, you bound yourself in the role of servant, washing feet, serving people of no reputation or social standing, and giving of yourself completely.

As incredible as it sounds, as incredible as it is, you are God who serves, and we can respond in no other way than to give ourselves to you in praise. Amen.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Alice Jordan

“Communion on Two American Folk Hymns”

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

With reverent awe we come to worship our glorious God.  
**The Lord our God is revealed to us in many ways—even in the radiant beams of the sun and the stars of night that poke holes in the darkness.**

With joy and delight we gather to worship our loving God.  
**The truths about our God are spoken to our hearts—as we study Scripture and through God's Word who was with God in the beginning and became flesh to dwell among us.**

With praise and rejoicing we come to respond to God.

The presence of God's Holy Spirit can be experienced each day—sustaining us, encouraging us, challenging us, drawing us together in community, changing our lives.

\*HYMN OF PRAISE – No. 366 “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven, to earth come down, fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown. Jesus, thou art all compassion; pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast; let us all in thee inherit; let us find the promised rest. Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive; suddenly return, and never, never more thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above, pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be; let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee: changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

*(Please be seated.)*

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, we have sought after things, but we have not sought after you. We have expected generosity, but we have not shown generosity. We have expected grace, but we have not shown grace. Forgive us. Fill our hearts with gratitude for your generosity and grace and excitement to seek you by living as an outpouring of them.

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.

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus:

**Though he was in the form of God, he did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in human likeness.**

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus:

**Being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross. Therefore, God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name.**

At the name of Jesus every knee should bend,  
**in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

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

PSALTER

Psalm 19

The firmament is telling the glory of God;  
the skies proclaim God's handiwork.

**Day after day speech pours forth;  
night after night knowledge is revealed.**

They have no speech, they use no words;  
no sound is heard from them.

**Yet their declaration goes out into all the earth,  
their words to the ends of the world.**

In the firmament God has pitched a tent for the sun.  
It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber,  
like a champion rejoicing to run his course.

**It rises at one end of the skies  
and makes its circuit to the other;  
nothing is deprived of its warmth.**

The law of the LORD is perfect,  
reviving the soul.

**The decrees of the LORD are trustworthy,  
making wise the simple.**

The doctrines of the LORD are right,  
giving joy to the heart.

**The commands of the LORD are radiant,  
enlightening the eyes.**

The awe of the LORD is pure,  
enduring forever.

**The ordinances of the LORD are true,  
and all of them are righteous.**

They are more to be desired than gold,  
than even much pure gold;

**they are sweeter, too, than honey,  
than honey dripping from the honeycomb.**

By them your servant is warned;  
in keeping them there is great reward.

**But who can realize their own errors?  
Forgive my hidden faults.**

Keep your servant also from willful sins;  
may they not rule over me.

**Then I will be blameless,  
innocent of great transgression.**

**May these words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
be pleasing in your sight,  
LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.**

This is the Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

SECOND READING

Philippians 3:4-14

If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

This is the Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

RESPONSE NO. 587 “Alleluia!”

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

SERMON “Striving for Transformation”

Rev. Rebecca Luter

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Please remember those on our prayer list.*

### **RESPOND TO GOD**

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM “The Garden Hymn”

David W. Music

The Lord into his garden comes, the spices yield a rich perfume, the lilies grow and thrive; refreshing showers of grace divine from Jesus flow to every vine, and make the dead revive. O that this dry and barren ground in springs of water may abound, a fruitful soil become; the desert blossom as the rose, when Jesus conquers all his foes, and make his people one.

\*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 Resurrection, you transform darkness to light, death to life, despair to hope. Every element of our lives that is good is a gift from you. How can we possibly respond? We offer you our lives and our resources. Show your compassion through us. Tell your story through us. Reveal your love through us. Transform this world through us. In Jesus’s name. Amen.**

THE INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

## THE 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 to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise...**

SUNG RESPONSES – No. 552, 553, & 554

## 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.**

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

## THE PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

\*HYMN - No. 846 “Fight the Good Fight”

**Fight the good fight with all thy might. Christ is thy strength and Christ thy right. Lay hold on life, and it shall be thy joy and crown eternally.**

**Run the straight race through God's good grace; lift up thine eyes, and seek Christ's face. Life with its way before us lies; Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.**

**Cast care aside; lean on thy guide. God's boundless mercy will provide. Trust, and thy trusting soul shall prove Christ is its life, and Christ its love.**

**Faint not nor fear: God's arms are near. God changeth not, and thou art dear. Only believe, and thou shalt see that Christ is all in all to thee.**

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*SENDING FORTH HYMN - No. 761

Verse 1

“Called As Partners in Christ's Service”

**Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace, we respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace. May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend, equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.**

\*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  
Shelley Wann, Liturgist  
Laurinda Ingram, Children's Moment  
Scott Hutchins and Jack Ingram, Ushers  
Doug Barr, Roland Mittag, Jerry Renfrow, Sandy Wann,  
Shelley Wann, Communion Servers  
Gavin Perkins, 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

**Flowers** this morning are given to the glory of God by Roland Mittag in celebration of Olivia's upcoming birthday and high school graduation this week.

**Join us for Potluck** in the Fellowship Hall immediately following worship. All are encouraged to stay – the Farmington family is known for always providing a gracious plenty.

**Mother's Day Cards and Honorarium Cards** are available for \$10 each during Fellowship Coffee to support Rise Against Hunger.

**Men's Adult Sunday School** class will resume in the fall.

**Pastor's Adult Sunday School** class meets in the East Room at 10am. Join us as we study Paul's letter to the Philippians.

**Children's Sunday School** will explore the story of Phillip and the Ethiopian from 10-10:45am in room A6 and **Youth Sunday School** will continue to discuss the "Animate series" on the Bible. Youth will meet 10-10:45am in the Youth Room.

**Youth Fellowship**, our last for a while as we have Mother's Day, Rise Against Hunger, and then the Summer months. Join us to celebrate the closing of the season today (May 7<sup>th</sup>) from 2-4pm.

**Church Picnic** is Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at Johnson Road Park at 6pm. All are encouraged to come and enjoy burgers from the grill with all the sides! If you have special dietary needs and are planning to attend, please email [church@farmingtonpres.org](mailto:church@farmingtonpres.org) and let us know. In addition to a wonderful time of fellowship, we will have our Second Annual Raffle for Rise Against Hunger and old-fashioned picnic games to play for a quarter, so bring your checkbooks and your change!

**Senior Recognition Sunday** If you have a senior in your family, or are graduating this year from high school, college, or graduate school, please let us know! We want to recognize you on May 21<sup>st</sup> in worship. You can email us at [church@farmingtonpres.org](mailto:church@farmingtonpres.org). Congratulations!

**Sabbatical Send-Off** All members and friends of the Farmington family are invited to a send-off event to offer Rev. Luter our prayers and good wishes as she begins her sabbatical leave. She will be on leave from May 26, 2023, through September 4, 2023. Please join us in the Youth Room after church on May 21, 2023, for a light informal lunch followed by packing of meals for Rise Against Hunger.

**Rise Against Hunger** Mark your calendar for our 6<sup>th</sup> packaging event on May 21<sup>st</sup>. We will have lunch here and begin packaging 20,000 meals. There are jobs for all – from 5 years up! Childcare is available for younger children. Please let us know what ages, and we will have fun planned for them. Jobs range from heavy lifting to standing and scooping and from "running" finished packets to sitting and measuring rice! Since 2016, Farmington has



given \$32,763.69 to Rise Against Hunger to fight mal-nourishment and provide emergency relief after disasters. This year, Jerry Hosier and Cooper Patterson are donating their time and resources to make personalized bread boards. These will be available to order each Sunday after worship until May 14<sup>th</sup> and at the church picnic on May 17<sup>th</sup>. The cost is \$60, and they make great gifts!

**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).

**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.

**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 worshiping online, 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 or if you are worshiping online and would like to be added to 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...**Rev. Kirsten King was ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament and installed as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Kennett, Missouri. Thank you to all who assisted in hosting the Service of Ordination. We pray God's blessings upon KK and God's ministry through her!

**Remember in Prayer...**Our Farmington Family, Session and Staff; Jackie Baker, Betty Boyd, Glen Carr, Jeanne Carr, Martha Carr, Ralph Carr, Judith Cassidy, Mary Lou Collins, Skip Flannery, Charlotte Franklin, Bill Harrington, Martha Hart, Deborah Hosier, Vanessa Howard, Gary Hutchins, Bill Knight, Tim Lewis, Julia Lively, Dawn McKenzie, Sara Millar, Susan Odom, Nancy & Dennis Palmer, Bob and Sarah Pointer, Bill Renfrow, Jack Scherer, JoAnne

Simpkins, Patti Simpkins, Mary Elizabeth Simpson, Williams Stevens, Susan St. John, Ellen Thearp, Margaret Ueleke, Kathy VanderEcken, Joan Wallace, Jim Waller, Kasi Wann, Craig Warvel, Frank Whited, Faye Woods, and from our Presbytery: First Presbyterian Church, Jackson, TN.

**Sympathy...** to the family and friends of Betty Jack, mother of MaryShelley Ritchey and grandmother of Jack and Cole Ritchey.

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