



FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
July 16, 2023

Worship Online at 11:00am Sunday Mornings
www.farmingtonpres.org
Click "Worship Together"

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

God of mercy, grant that the Word you speak this day may take root in our hearts, and bear fruit to your honor and glory, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WELCOME

PRELUDE Aria

Craig Phillips

*CALL TO WORSHIP

This is the day the Lord has made!
Let us be glad and rejoice in it!
Come and glorify the Lord with me.
Let us exalt His name together!

*HYMN OF PRAISE – No. 54 “Make a Joyful Noise to God!”

Make a joyful noise to God! All creation sings your praise!
Great your wonders here displayed, unexcelled throughout
our days. Glorious is your sacred name, ages old, yet still the
same.

Come and see what God has done, great the blessings to the
just: walked the chosen through the sea, brought their
enemies to dust. Let us lift a thankful voice for God's mercies,
and rejoice!

Bless the Lord, our refuge sure; let our songs of praise be
heard! By whose justice, we are tried; by whose grace, our
guilt deferred. When our life's sure end shall come, bring us
to your heavenly home.

(Please be seated.)

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God, in every age there have been men and women who have lived faithful and obedient lives. We confess that we are not always in harmony with your will. You call us to proclaim the truth in love, but there are times when we are silent. You command us to do what is just, but too often we are idle. You beckon us to live faithfully, but minor matters distract us. Forgive us and transform us, so that we may follow your guidance and share Christ-like love with the world. Amen.

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

Doug 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

Isaiah 55:10-13

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. Instead of the thornbush will grow the juniper, and instead of briars the myrtle will grow. This will be for the Lord's renown, for an everlasting sign, that will endure forever."

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

SECOND READING

Matthew 13:1-9, 19-23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. Whoever has ears, let them hear."

When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

RESPONSE NO. 587 “Alleluia!”

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

SERMON “Watching a Seed Grow”

Tom Sauer

RESPOND TO GOD

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.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

John Horman

“A Sower Came from Ancient Hills”

A Sower came from ancient hills and cast good seed abroad: his field, ten thousand human hearts; his seed, the word of God. And some who listened would not hear, and some who heard forgot. But some received in fertile soil the truth the Sower taught.

A Sower walked throughout the land, and everywhere he trod, he sowed his life because he was himself the Seed of God. But then, atop a barren hill, beneath a darkening sky, they threw God’s Seed on stony ground and left it there to die.

O Christ, you come among us still, the Sower and the Seed. As once you sowed the truth of God in glowing word and deed, implant your Word in waiting hearts, and let it there take hold, until it bears in fruitful lives a harvest hundred fold.

*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, you have given each of us gifts to use as members of the body of Christ. Here are our gifts – the work of our hands, our hearts, and our lives. We pray that they may help to bring the

Good News of Jesus Christ to our world, today and always,
here and everywhere. Amen.

*HYMN - No. 365 “God Reigns! Let Earth Rejoice!”

**God reigns! Let earth rejoice! Let oceans shout God’s might!
Borne up by truth and righteousness, God’s throne is our
delight! Rejoice! Rejoice! God reigns! Let earth rejoice!**

**God’s fire ignites the clouds with judgment swift and just; the
evil find their deeds in vain; God’s foes are brought to dust.
Rejoice! Rejoice! God reigns! Let earth rejoice!**

**False idols rise to claim the weakness of our pride, but cannot
touch the faithful ones, for God stands at our side. Rejoice!
Rejoice! God reigns! Let earth rejoice!**

**The radiance of God’s light beams joy into our days; now
filled with God’s own peace and love, our hearts resound with
praise. Rejoice! Rejoice! God reigns! Let earth rejoice!**

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*SENDING FORTH HYMN - No. 80 “You Shall Go Out with Joy”

**You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace; the
mountains and the hills will break forth before you; there’ll be
shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field will clap, will clap
their hands. And all the trees of the field will clap their hands;
the trees of the field will clap their hands; the trees of the field
will clap their hands while you go out with joy.**

*POSTLUDE Allegro Moderato

Flor Peeters

*Stand as able.

Bold Type – congregation in unison

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THIS SERVICE IS BEING LIVE-STREAMED
AND RECORDED. ATTENDEES
IMPLICITLY AGREE THAT THEY, AND
ANY CHILDREN ACCOMPANYING
THEM, MAY BE ON CAMERA.

Participating in the service today:

Rev. Rebecca Luter, Pastor

Tom Sauer, CRE

Doug Barr, Director of Christian Education

Jim Thrash, Director of Music

Tom Bryant, Accompanist

Jinney Hart, Liturgist

Doug Barr, Children's Moment

Gerry and Gerrie Wilder, Ushers

Delilah Davis, Acolyte

Chancel Choir

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.

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

How do I join the church? Members are received by Profession of Faith, Reaffirmation of Faith, and Transfer of Membership from another congregation. If you are interested in joining, please email church@farmingtonpres.org. We look forward to officially welcoming you into the Farmington Presbyterian Church family!

Prayer Concerns and Pastoral Care You are encouraged to complete a Prayer Concern card in the pew rack to add someone to the church's prayer list. Copies of the complete list are available in the folder under the Prayer Board in the office. While Rev. Luter is on Sabbatical, Tom Sauer will be serving Farmington Presbyterian as a Commissioned Ruling Elder. He is available to visit and provide pastoral care. You may contact him at (901)651-7133 or GermantownTom@gmail.com.

Happenings AT FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN

Summer Break: Adult Sunday School Classes, Children's Sunday School Classes, Youth Sunday School Classes, Fellowship Coffee, and Sunday Afternoon Youth Fellowship.

Take Me Out to the Ballgame Join the Farmington family and friends for a night at the ole ballpark for a Redbirds game on July 26th at 7pm. Tickets are \$25 per person/\$100 family maximum. Signup on our website and please pay for your tickets in the church office. The deadline to pay for tickets is July 21st. Doug Barr will be driving a bus, leaving the church at 6pm, so reserve your spot if needed. Indoor/outdoor seating, A/C, soft drinks, nachos and popcorn!

Food Pantry Collection Farmington is collecting food pantry items for the Oakland Presbyterian Church Food Pantry. Canned meats, vegetables, pasta sauce, peanut butter, etc. can be dropped off in the basket by the West entrance of the church.

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 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

worshipping online and would like to be added to 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 “@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.

Rev. Rebecca Luter Our pastor is on Sabbatical for the summer months. She will return September 5th, 2023. We pray for rest and renewal as she spends time with family and continues her doctoral work. If you are in need of a pastor during this time, please contact Tom Sauer, who has been commissioned to serve Farmington Presbyterian while Rev. Luter is on leave. You may contact him at (901)651-7133 or GermantownTom@gmail.com.

Remember in Prayer...Our Farmington Family, Session and Staff; Jackie Baker, David Blakemore, Betty Boyd, Cathy Burch, Rev. Margaret Burnett, Kitty Cannon, Jeanne Carr, Martha Carr, Ralph Carr, Judith Cassidy, Mary Lou Collins, Skip Flannery, Charlotte Franklin, Robert Hall, Bill Harrington, Martha Hart, Vanessa Howard, Gary Hutchins, Steve Johnson, Anthony Jones, Bill Knight, Jim Mabile, Dawn McKenzie, Sara Millar, Susan Odom, Nancy & Dennis Palmer, Larry Pickler, Bob and Sarah Pointer, Shirley Pommer, Bill Renfrow, Jack Scherer, JoAnne Simpkins, Patti Simpkins, Williams Stevens, Susan St. John, Margaret Ueleke, Kathy VanderEcken, Jim Waller, Kasi Wann, Frank Whited, Faye Woods, and from our Presbytery: Evergreen Presbyterian Church, Memphis, TN.

Sympathies...to the family and friends of Craig Warvel, brother of Vesta Andrews, and to the family and friends of Barbara Taylor, member of Farmington Presbyterian Church.

Funeral Service for Tim Lewis will be held on Saturday, July 22nd at 10:30am in the Sanctuary with a reception to follow. Please keep Madison Lewis and her family in your prayers.

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Germantown, TN 38139
901-754-2794 www.farmingtonpres.org