



FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 17, 2023

Worship Online at 11:00am Sunday Mornings

www.farmingtonpres.org

Click "Worship Together"

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Holy God, your steadfast love rushes for us as reliably as water flows to the lowest point. You fill our lives to the brim and overflowing with your grace. As we hear again the interactions of people with Jesus, may we learn to live and interact as he did. Bring the tributaries of our lives together as a people to live as a river of righteousness powerfully flowing with justice and peace. Through us, renew your earth and restore your people. Amen.

WELCOME

PRELUDE "Sarabande"

J.S. Bach

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, let us worship God together!

We are gathered in the presence of Almighty God.

Come, notice God's wonders and proclaim God's praise.

We are called by the Lord Jesus Christ.

Come, respond to grace undeserved.

We are united by the Spirit of the Lord.

Come, let us taste and see that the Lord is good.

We have come here to have our vision restored.

*HYMN OF PRAISE – No. 620 "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven; to his feet your tribute bring; ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, evermore his praises sing: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King.

Praise him for his grace and favor to his people in distress; praise him still the same as ever, slow to chide, and swift to bless: Alleluia! Alleluia! Glorious is his faithfulness.

Father-like, he tends and spares us; well our feeble frame he knows; in his hands he gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes. Alleluia! Alleluia! Widely yet his mercy flows.

Angels, help us to adore him; you behold him face to face. Sun and moon, bow down before him, dwellers all in time and space; Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace.

(Please be seated.)

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, in Jesus, our risen Lord, we have seen your glory. Yet our sinfulness often blocks out the light of Christ. We are quick to accuse and slow to confess. We find faults easily in others while ignoring our own shortcomings. We have squandered your gifts. We have turned from your ways. We have ignored your Word. Have mercy on us, compassionate God. Pour out your Holy Spirit on our sinful lives. Wash us with your love and cleanse us with your grace that day by day we might see more clearly the people you would have us be.

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

We belong to God, creator of all that is and all that is to come. It is God alone who gives life, and God's love is abundant beyond measure.

We follow Jesus, the Christ, the Revealer of God, who taught us to love by showing us the depth of God's love. In his life and ministry, and his death and resurrection, he has shown us that in losing our claim on our own lives and our ways, we

find true purpose as we follow his way. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

We trust in the Holy Spirit, who sets us free by grace through faith to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, who binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray, to witness to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries, to listen and hear the voices of those long silenced, and to work together for justice, freedom, and peace.

Therefore, we devote ourselves to disciplined practice of the Way of Jesus in our daily lives, so that we may grow in faithfulness, and serve God in humble, confident love for the sake of the healing of the world. 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 35:1-10

The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God. Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you." Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow. And highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness; it will be for those who walk on that Way. The unclean will not journey on it; wicked fools will not go about on it. No lion will be there, nor any ravenous beast; they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk

there, and those the LORD has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

SECOND READING

Mark 10:46-52

Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." So they called to the blind man, "Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you." Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus. "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him. The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see." "Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

RESPONSE NO. 587 "Alleluia!"

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

SERMON "What do you want me to do?"

Rev. Rebecca Luter

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 "All is Gift, All is Grace"

Marty Haugen

All is gift and all is grace: joys that we treasure, sorrows we must face. Blessed the pilgrim who learns to embrace that all is gift and all is grace. O Holy One, your blessings make holy all our days through those who form and love us in rich and countless ways. So make us ever grateful for all we did not earn, and emptied, humbled, open, new wisdom we might learn.

***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, we offer you these gifts and our lives. Use them, and us, to accomplish your purposes as we follow the example of your Son. Meeting needs, healing hurts, bringing justice, and providing nurture so that all of creation might live into your vision of peaceable Kingdom. Amen.

***HYMN - No. 753**

Verses 1, 2, and 4

“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”

Make me a channel of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me bring your love. Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord, and where there’s doubt, true faith in you.

Make me a channel of your peace. Where there’s despair in life, let me bring hope. Where there is darkness only light, and where there’s sadness, ever joy.

Make me a channel of your peace. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned, in giving of ourselves that we receive, and in dying that we’re born to eternal life.

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

***SENDING FORTH HYMN - No. 726**

Verses 1 and 2

“Will You Come and Follow Me”

“Will you come and follow me if I but call your name? Will you go where you don’t know and never be the same? Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known; will your let my life be grown in you and you in me?”

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name. Let me turn and follow you and never be the same. In your company I’ll go where your love and footsteps show. Thus I’ll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

*POSTLUDE “March in G”

Cramer

*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

Liv Palmer, Liturgist

Doug Barr, Children’s Moment

Charlie Smithers and Jennifer Young, Ushers

Delilah Davis, 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.

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 let Rev. Rebecca know or 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. You may reach Rev. Rebecca Luter at (901)674-8000 or rluter@farmingtonpres.org.

Happenings AT FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN

Flowers this morning are given to the glory of God by Kay & Cooper Patterson in celebration of Rev. Rebecca Luter's birthday.

No Fellowship Coffee today, Please sign up to host Fellowship Coffee on our website to provide refreshments following worship, www.farmingtonpres.org Please keep it simple-something sweet and something salty.

Youth Fellowship will meet today, September 17th, to go bowling at Cordova Bowling Center from 2-4pm. We'll be taking the church bus.

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.

Children's Sunday School will be learning the story of the Burning Bush. 10-10:45am in classroom A6.

Youth Sunday School will continue our walk through the Bible and explore it with artistic expression. 10-10:45am in the Youth Room.

Adult Sunday School Classes Cooper Patterson will be leading a study of the book of Romans for men in the Fellowship Hall from 9:30-10:30am. Rev. Rebecca Luter will be leading a discussion of Kate Bowler's Podcast, "Everything Happens." Next Sunday we will discuss Season 1, Episode 3 "Awkward" with Alexandra Petri, Washington Post columnist and author of "A Field Guide to Awkward Silences." All are welcome.

Youth Fellowship next Sunday, September 24th from 4:30-6:30pm, for Dinner and Discipleship.

FPDS Book Fair Do you love books and children? You have an opportunity to help children and families as they discover new books! If you are interested in volunteering for a few hours the week of September 18th-22nd, please let Ms. Gretchen, Gretchen@farmingtonpres.org, know! Afternoons from 4pm-6pm tend to be the busiest time.

Active Shooter Training What would you do if you were in a situation with an active shooter? On Saturday, September 23rd, at 10am, Germantown Police Department will be conducting a training for our congregation and our community in the Sanctuary. Please plan to attend and invite your friends, family, and neighbors.

PW Meeting All women of the church are invited to attend the Horizon's Bible Study: Sacred Encounters Sunday, September 24th at 12:30pm in the East Room for Lesson 1 from this series. Ann Erickson, Kay Patterson, and Jinney Hart will be leading the Bible study for the 2023-2024 series. This will be a study of Luke-Acts which is actually 2 volumes of the same book and is considered to have been written by the same author, Luke. Through this interactive Bible study series, we will investigate ways the 21st century church can exhibit mercy and compassion within and beyond the traditional congregation. Come join us as we learn about the sacred encounters of the characters of the stories and how they were transformed by their experience. We too may be transformed!

Adult Ministries Luncheon will be on September 28th at Noon in the Youth Room. The speaker will be Jim Collins. Jim has an interesting life story to share with us. Lunch will be prepared by Chef Scott Hutchins. The cost is \$13. Please contact Sandy Wann at srwann@bellsouth.net to make a reservation by Monday, September 25th.

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.

This week at Farmington... we welcomed Rev. Rebecca back with a Potluck lunch last Sunday. We ran out of chairs, but we didn’t run out of food! We will set up for more in October. “How good and pleasant it is when God’s people dwell together in unity!” – Psalm 133:1

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

Sympathies... to the family and friends of Susan St. John, niece of Bonnie Schwartz and to the family and friends of Cyndi Siegfried, mother of Ashleigh Williams.

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901-754-2794 www.farmingtonpres.org