



FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 24, 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 "Impromptu in A-flat Major"

Schubert

*CALL TO WORSHIP

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Your glory outshines the sun and is declared by the cry of a newborn.

When we see your creation, the vastness of the galaxies, we wonder:

What are human beings that you think about them, and mortals that you care for them?

The Lord has made us only slightly less than divine and commissioned us to steward all that God created.

We are responsible for the earth, for the animals of the sky and sea and of the prairies and forests.

The Lord calls all nations to serve and all in power to kneel before the Lord.

Those who listen and obey the Lord deliver the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper. They have compassion on the weak.

Listen to my teaching, declares the Lord, and remember my glorious deeds and wonders.

Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands.

*HYMN OF PRAISE – No. 490

Verses 1 and 3

“Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters”

Wash, O God, your sons and daughters, newborn creatures of your womb. Number them among your people, raised like Christ from death and tomb. Weave them garments bright and sparkling; compass them with love and light. Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit, holy dove and heart’s delight.

O how deep your holy wisdom! Unimagined, all your ways! To your name be glory, honor! With our lives we worship, praise! We your people stand before you, water-washed and Spirit-born. By your grace, our lives we offer. Recreate us; God, transform!

(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 Sandy Hilliard and Rebecca Hutchins

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

Amos 5:4, 10-14

This is what the LORD says to Israel: Seek me and live; There are those who hate the one who upholds justice in court and detest the one who tells the truth. You levy a straw tax on the poor and impose a tax on their grain. Therefore, though you have built stone mansions, you will not live in them; though you have planted lush vineyards, you will not drink their wine. For I know how many are your offenses and how great your sins. There are those who oppress the innocent and take bribes and deprive the poor of justice in the courts. Therefore the prudent keep quiet in such times, for the times are evil. Seek good, not evil, that you may live.

Then the LORD God Almighty will be with you, just as you say he is.

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

SECOND READING

Luke 18:15-27

People were also bringing babies to Jesus for him to place his hands on them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. But Jesus called the children to him and said, Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it. A certain ruler asked him, Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life? Why do you call me good? Jesus answered. No one is good—except God alone. You know the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, honor your father and mother. All these I have kept since I was a boy, he said. When Jesus heard this, he said to him, You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me. When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was very wealthy. Jesus looked at him and said, How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God! Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God. Those who heard this asked, Who then can be saved? Jesus replied, What is impossible with man is possible with God.

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

RESPONSE NO. 587 “Alleluia!”

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

SERMON “God Claims You as a Dependent”

Rev. Rebecca Luter

RESPOND TO GOD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please remember those on our prayer list.

RESPONSE: We are your children. **Hear our prayer.**

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 “God Be In My Head” Daniel E. Schwandt
God be in my head, and in my understanding; God be in mine eyes, and in my looking; God be in my mouth, and in my speaking; God be in my heart, and in my thinking; God be at mine end, and at my departing.

*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 “Lord of All Hopefulness” Verses 1, 2, and 4
Tune: “Be Thou My Vision”

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy, whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy: be there at our waking and give us, we pray, your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith, whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe: be there at our labors and give us, we pray, your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm, whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm: be there at our sleeping and give us, we pray, your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

*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 “Toccata in F Major”

Buxtehude

*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

Elizabeth Demaree, Liturgist

Sandy Hilliard and Rebecca Hutchins, Children’s Moment

Leslie McNamara and Nadine Oest, Ushers

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.

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... FPDS families enjoyed a community-building picnic on the grounds Thursday evening. Parents enjoyed getting to know one another while the children enjoyed playing outside on a nice fall evening.

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, 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: First Presbyterian Church, Rosemark, TN.

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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8245 Farmington Blvd.

Germantown, TN 38139

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