



**FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP**  
**Twenty-fourth Sunday of Pentecost**  
**November 12, 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, you are worthy of our praise. Your goodness knows no limit. Your faithfulness toward us is without boundaries. Your majesty and glory surround us here. We've come together to celebrate your presence and to offer songs of praise and worship. We've come to rejoice in your mighty acts, and to retell the story of your goodness throughout history and in our own lives. We've come together to be your Beloved Community and to offer ourselves as a living sacrifice to do your will in the world. Move among us as we worship together; may your Spirit guide and inspire our thoughts and actions as we spend this time in your presence. In the name of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

WELCOME

PRELUDE "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

W. Croft

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

We come to praise God, whose Word gives hope and shapes our dreams.

**We gather as a community, overwhelmed by the hunger and suffering of people far and near.**

We come to cry out to God, who hears us, holds us, and helps us.

**We gather to be transformed, awakened to the ways God calls us to change the world.**

We come to offer ourselves to God, who offers new life and new blessings as we come together in the unity of one purpose – to glorify God.

**We gather to glorify God, claimed as God's own beloved children.**

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE – No. 14 “For the Beauty of the Earth”**

**For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us lies: Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.**

**For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night, hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light: Refrain**

**For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight, for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight: Refrain**

**For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child, friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild. Refrain**

**For thyself, best gift divine to the world so freely given; for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven: Refrain**

*(Please be seated.)*

**CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**We are sure we do not have enough to end hunger, Bountiful God. Forgive us that we forget that, by your presence and power, very little can do so much.**

**We believe we are the only ones who carry heartache around with us. Forgive us, Compassionate God, that we do not see, or comfort the despair of those around us.**

**We think we do not have the words with which to offer welcome and hope to people we don't know. Forgive us, Hospitable God, for not having the courage to run up to them with your grace.**

**We convince ourselves that we need to devote all our time, our energy, our resources, our lives to keeping up with others. Forgive us for not living the joyful and sacrificially loving life modeled for us by you, Jesus our Brother.**

*(A time of silent prayer.)*

**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

Psalms 145:8-9, 14-21

The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. The LORD is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made. The LORD upholds all who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down. The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time. You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing. The LORD is righteous in all his ways

and faithful in all he does. The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them. The LORD watches over all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy. My mouth will speak in praise of the LORD. Let every creature praise his holy name for ever and ever.

This is the Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

SECOND READING

Matthew 14:13-21

When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick. As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food. Jesus replied, They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat. We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish, they answered. Bring them here to me, he said. And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

This is the Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

RESPONSE NO. 587 "Alleluia!"

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

SERMON

Rev. Rebecca Luter

"To Be Like Jesus = To Be Compassionate"

**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.**

**\*CELEBRATION OF STEWARDSHIP**

**HYMN No. 694 “Great God of Every Blessing”** Verses 1 & 2

**Great God of every blessing, of faithful, loving care, you are the fount of goodness, the daily bread we share. How can we hope to thank you? Our praise is but a start: sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.**

**Your Word is our salvation, the source of endless grace, in death and life extending your covenant embrace. In Christ we are one body; each member has a part: sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.**

**INTERLUDE FOR PRAYER  
AND BRINGING FORWARD  
ESTIMATES OF GIVING FOR 2024  
(*the hymn concludes.*)**

**Verse 3**

**Your Spirit is our teacher, the light that guides our search, transforming broken people into the holy church. For feeding us with mercy, for wisdom you impart: sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.**

**PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM “Sound the Trumpet”**

**Wright**

**\*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**

**Generous God, you have given us more blessings than we can name. In response we give of our offerings and ourselves. What we have to give is so small in comparison to the vast needs in our world—nowhere near enough to meet the needs of all who are suffering around the world, or even to meet the needs of the hungry in our city. Yet, in faith we offer them to you, O God, as a community, knowing that what we offer you in love becomes more, not simply added together, but**

multiplied in its impact, and through them the world is changed and your will is accomplished. Amen.

\*HYMN - No. 460 “Break Thou the Bread of Life”

**Break thou the bread of life, dear Lord, to me, as thou didst break the loaves beside the sea. Beyond the sacred page I seek thee, Lord. My spirit pants for thee, O living Word!**

**Bless thou the truth, dear Lord, now unto me, as thou didst bless the bread by Galilee. Then shall all bondage cease, all fetters fall. And I shall find my peace, my all in all.**

\*BLESSING AND CHARGE

\*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 you 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 “Sinfonia”

J.S. Bach

\*Stand as able.

**Bold Type** – congregation in unison

Reprinted with permission under One License #731533-A and CCLI #1162543-A. All rights reserved.

### **Participating in the service today:**

Rev. Rebecca Luter, Pastor  
Doug Barr, Director of Christian Education  
Jim Thrash, Director of Music  
Tom Bryant, Accompanist  
Sandy Hilliard, Liturgist  
Doug Barr, Children’s Moment  
Thomas and Stephanie Nagel, Ushers  
Hudson Barr, 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](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)

**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](mailto: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](mailto:rluter@farmingtonpres.org).

## Happenings AT FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN

### This Sunday

**Flowers** this morning are given to the glory of God by Melanie Oest in celebration of Nadine's birthday.

**Stewardship Sunday** is today, Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>. We will bring forward our dedication cards with estimates of giving for 2024 and place them in the model church building during worship. In deciding your gift, prayerfully consider how Farmington Presbyterian has helped you see Christ and how you are being called to partner with God in helping others see Christ.

**No Fellowship Coffee** today, Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>. Sign up to host Fellowship Coffee on our website to provide refreshments following worship, [www.farmingtonpres.org](http://www.farmingtonpres.org) Please keep it simple-something sweet and something salty.

**Youth Fellowship** today, Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, will meet at the Barr house for a Bonfire night from 4:30-6:30pm. Bring a dish, salty or

sweet, to share. S'mores, hot dogs and drinks will be provided. In case of rain we will meet at the church for games and sharing dishes.

### **This Week**

**Thanksgiving Dinner and Worship** Wednesday evening, November 15<sup>th</sup>, the Farmington family will gather for a full, traditional Thanksgiving feast and to worship. Dinner is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children (under 12) with \$30 family maximum and will be served buffet-style at 6pm with a Service of Gratitude in the Sanctuary and livestreamed at 6:45pm. Reservations will need to be made by Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup> by emailing [church@farmingtonpres.org](mailto:church@farmingtonpres.org).

**MOPS** Mothers of Preschoolers, is a new program at Farmington Presbyterian intended to give much needed support to mothers of students at our day school. MOPS will be offered in the evenings so working moms can gather for fun, support, and fellowship throughout the school year. Jenn Paine will lead a gathering this Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm in the Fellowship Hall.

**Room in the Inn** Farmington Presbyterian will be hosting on November 18<sup>th</sup> at The Cottage at Germantown United Methodist Church. This ministry provides housing for homeless persons from November - March. Each time we host, we will need a group of people to prepare a meal for the evening: a casserole or meat, side(s), salad, bread, and dessert. The meal should serve our 12-14 guests and the 6-8 of us hosting them. We will need 6-8 people to host our guests each evening. The time frame will be 5:00 - 9:30pm. These people will prepare the beds, warm and serve the dinner, monitor showers and laundry, and fellowship with our guests. We will need 2 people to spend the night at GUMC with our guests. The time frame will be 9:00 pm - 7:00 am. Lights out is 10pm. These people will also prepare coffee in the morning, put out a to-go breakfast for our guests, and clean up in the morning. These people can serve as one of the evening hosts as well. We prefer one male and one female for this position. We will need 2 people to volunteer to launder the sheets, pillow cases, and blankets each Sunday afternoon after we host our guests. This is a great way for someone who cannot be there in the evenings to still be a part of this ministry.

### **Next Sunday**

**Children's Sunday School** will explore the message of the prophets proclaiming a ruler from Bethlehem. 10-10:45am in classroom A6.

**Youth Sunday School** will continue our walk through the Bible, placing ourselves IN the stories to see what God is revealing and then expressing new insight through art. 10-10:45am in the Youth Room.



**Adult Sunday School Classes** Cooper Patterson is leading a study of the book of Romans for men in the Fellowship Hall from 9:30-10:30am. Rev. Rebecca Luter is leading a discussion of Chapters 9 & 10 of the book More than Enough (by Lee Hull Moses) at 10am on November 19<sup>th</sup>. The books are available on Amazon.

**Youth Fellowship** next Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. Please make plans to go to the Soup Kitchen. We will leave on the church bus at 12:30pm. We usually return around 3pm.

**First Presbyterian Soup Kitchen** We will be making and taking bologna sandwiches and serving our neighbors again on November 19<sup>th</sup>. We will gather at the church at 12:30pm and return no later than 3pm. Please let Jinney Hart know if you can make sandwiches the morning of the event.

**Presbyterian Women Meeting** the next meeting will be November 19<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 pm in the East Room for Lesson 3 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.

### **Announcements**

**Poinsettias** The sanctuary will be decorated with poinsettias this Advent season. Please consider honoring or remembering a loved one. Poinsettias are \$12 each. Email [church@farmingtonpres.org](mailto:church@farmingtonpres.org) with your information and how many.

**How does a weary world rejoice?** If you want to prepare for Christmas more intentionally this year, mark your calendar for November 29<sup>th</sup>. As we move through Advent to Christmas, we will be focused on practicing joy in a weary world. We will begin our journey with a community dinner and a time of worship that invites us to take a deep breath and remember that the story of Christmas is the story of God coming to comfort us, to restore us, to be with us and never leave us. God loves you. Draw near and experience the joy of settling in God's peace. Dinner is at 6pm and worship begins at 6:45pm. Dinner is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children (under 12) with \$30 family maximum. Please make a reservation by emailing the church office at [church@farmingtonpres.org](mailto:church@farmingtonpres.org).

**Adult Ministries Luncheon** will be on November 30<sup>th</sup> at Noon in the Youth Room. The speaker will be Rev. Ruth Lovell Bradham. Lunch will be prepared by Chef Scott Hutchins. The cost is \$13. Please

contact Sandy Wann at [srwann@bellsouth.net](mailto:srwann@bellsouth.net) to make a reservation by Monday, November 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Hanging of the Green** is Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> beginning at 10am. Get in the holiday spirit as we deck the halls, doors, and Sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas season. The Nativity will be setup outdoors during this time. All ages are encouraged to participate! Lunch will be served afterwards. Contact Cooper Patterson for details about the Nativity setup.

**Advent Wreath Lighting** Your family is invited to participate in worship by lighting the Advent Wreath. Each year, we mark the weeks until Christmas by lighting the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love in anticipation of lighting the Christ Candle on Christmas Eve. Please let Rev. Rebecca know that you would like to light the candles and which Sunday(s) you are available: December 3, 10, 17, 24 at 11am and 5pm, 31.

**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](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...**the weather was perfect for an evening in the backyard with our friends! Thank you to all who planned, executed, and attended our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Friendsgiving. The event was well-attended

by school families, church members, and community friends. Donations for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance's humanitarian aid to Israel and Palestine totaled \$1,250. If you missed it, mark your colander for November 8, 2024.

**Remember in Prayer...**Our Farmington Family, Session and Staff; Jackie Baker, Barbara Beard, Kevin Beard, Bonnie Blair, Betty Boyd, Cathy Burch, Rev. Margaret Burnett, Kitty Cannon, Jeanne Carr, Ralph Carr, Judith Cassidy, Mary Lou Collins, Laurie Fisher, Mark Fisher, Skip Flannery, Charlotte Franklin, Bill Harrington, Martha Hart, Vanessa Howard, Gary Hutchins, Anthony Jones, Bill Knight, Dawn McKenzie, Faye McKenzie, Sara Millar, Susan Odom, Nancy & Dennis Palmer, Bob and Sarah Pointer, Bill Renfrow, Jack Scherer, JoAnne Simpkins, Patti Simpkins, Williams Stevens, Kathy VanderEcken, Jim Waller, Kasi Wann, Frank Whited, Faye Woods, and from our Presbytery: First Presbyterian Church, MO and Hunger & Homelessness.

**Sympathies...**to the family and friends of Skeet May, brother-in-law of Pat Sherman, friend of Terri Neeley, to the family and friends of David Blakemore, friend of Charlie Smithers and to the family and friends of Ray Bendall.

**FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
8245 Farmington Blvd.  
Germantown, TN 38139  
901-754-2794 [www.farmingtonpres.org](http://www.farmingtonpres.org)