



FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP
Twenty-fifth Sunday of Pentecost
November 19, 2023

Worship Online at 11:00am Sunday Mornings

www.farmingtonpres.org

Click "Worship Together"

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Holy God, we come together to worship, a people who would like to think that we love you with all our hearts and souls, with all our might, but there are so many other things in our lives that clamor for our attention that we often relegate you to Sundays and times when we want you to rescue us.

Most of us really do want you to be the one in whom we live and move and have our being. We really do want to hear your voice above all of the other voices in our lives. But we get bogged down in the daily routine. We forget who we are. We forget who you are. We forget what the church is supposed to be.

So here we are, come to worship you today, with our human foibles and our short attention spans, asking that you would make yourself known to us, that you would help us to recognize the presence of the Holy, that you would continue to challenge us, inspire us, and make us into the people you want us to be. Amen.

WELCOME

PRELUDE "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

G. Elvey

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Come and give thanks!

God stretches out the heavens and shapes the earth. God raises up the mountains and pours water into the seas.

Come and give thanks!

God calls forth plants from the soil and forms animals in infinite variety. God breathes upon us and fills us with life.

Come lift your voices in praise!

God gives our lives meaning through laughter and tears. God touches our hearts through family and friends.

Come lift your voices in praise!

God loves us and overwhelms us with never-ending generosity.

Come and worship!

God loves us and surrounds us with love in abundance!

Come, let us love one another with the love of God.

Come and worship!

Let us join together in our love of God to worship and follow Jesus.

*HYMN OF PRAISE – No. 336 “We Gather Together”

We gather together to ask the Lord’s blessing; he chastens and hastens his will to make known; the wicked oppressing now cease from distressing. Sing praises to his name; he forgets not his own.

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining, ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine; so from the beginning the fight we were winning; thou, Lord, wast at our side; all glory be thine!

We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant, and pray that thou still our defender wilt be. Let thy congregation escape tribulation; thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

(Please be seated.)

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we know that you love us as a parent loves their child. Your purpose for us is to love you and to love our neighbors. Yet we give into the temptation to live for ourselves. Lord, you have found us in the ditch and have rescued us. You have come to us, and you sit with us to teach us. Now soften our hearts to do your will. Open our eyes to see our neighbor – the one we pass everyday - who struggles in the ditches of life. Open our ears to hear Jesus teaching us to pray for our enemies, to have compassion on those despised by society, and to serve all people as your hands of love.

(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

Elizabeth Demaree

*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

Colossians 1:9b-18

We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the

knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

SECOND READING

Luke 10:25-42

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. Teacher, he asked, what must I do to inherit eternal life? What is written in the Law? he replied. How do you read it? He answered, Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and, Love your neighbor as yourself. You have answered correctly, Jesus replied. Do this and you will live. But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, And who is my neighbor? In reply Jesus said: A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. Look after him, he said, and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have. Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers? The expert in the law replied, The one who had mercy on him. Jesus told him, Go and

do likewise. As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me! Martha, Martha, the Lord answered, you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

RESPONSE NO. 587 “Alleluia!”

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

SERMON “Three More Encounter Jesus”

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 “The Lord Is a Mighty God” Mendelssohn

*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 teaching and example of your Son Jesus. Meeting needs, healing hurts, bringing justice, and providing nurture so that

all of creation might live into your vision of the world where righteousness and justice prevail so that peace may reign.

*HYMN - No. 63 “The Lord is God”

The Lord is God, the Lord alone! Give honor, thanks, and praise to God, the maker of all things and giver of our days.

With all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and might, O people, love the Lord your God, the source of truth and light.

At night or day, at home, away, together and apart, O children, take these holy words and keep them in your heart.

The Lord is God, the Lord alone! Give honor, thanks, and praise to God, the maker of all things and giver of our days.

*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 “Now Thank We All Our God”

Karg-Elert

*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

Mike Schneider, Liturgist

Elizabeth Demaree, Children’s Moment

Elizabeth Demaree and Scott Hutchins, Ushers

Gavin Perkins, 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 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

This Sunday

Flowers this morning are given to the glory of God by Rev. Luter & Kay Patterson in celebration of family birthdays: Chris, Nic, Dee, Cooper & Lizzie.

No Fellowship Coffee today, Sunday, November 19th. 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 today, Sunday, November 19th. Please makes 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 today, November 19th. We will gather at the church at 12:30pm and return no later than 3pm.

Presbyterian Women Meeting is today, November 19th 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.

Next Sunday

Children's Sunday School will explore the message from the angels to the Shepherds. 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 11, 12, & 13 of the book More than Enough (by Lee Hull Moses) at 10am on November 26th. The books are available on Amazon.

No Youth Fellowship next Sunday, November 26th. Happy Thanksgiving.

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@farmingtonrpes.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 29th. 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 Spaghetti Pie and begins 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@farmingtonrpes.org.

Adult Ministries Luncheon will be on November 30th 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 to make a reservation by Monday, November 27th.

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 30th from 6-8pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Hanging of the Green is Saturday, December 2nd 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 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...almost 50 of us feasted Wednesday night on a full Thanksgiving meal prepared by Scott Hutchins and then gathered to “Thank We All Our God” as we were reminded to look beyond the shadows to the light (or at the donut instead of the hole).

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, Bill Harrington, Martha Hart, Vanessa Howard, Gary Hutchins, Anthony Jones, Bill Knight, Dawn McKenzie, Faye McKenzie, Sara Millar, Bill Novick, 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: Cistern Project/Clear Water for the World.

Sympathies... to the family and friends of Ray Bendall and to the family and friends of Max Holder, uncle of Jinney Hart.

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



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