



**FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP**

**First Sunday of Advent
December 3, 2023**

Worship Online at 11:00am Sunday Mornings

www.farmingtonpres.org

Click "Worship Together"

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Lord Jesus Christ, we await your coming. We wait filled with hope, knowing that in the fullness of time your light will shine in the darkness and confident that the darkness will never overcome it. We wait anticipating your peace, believing that one day justice will roll in like the tide and peace will be left in its wake. We await joy with expectation, recognizing that contentment comes and goes, happiness ebbs and flows, but our joy is like a spring bubbling up from within as we realize the depth of your love for us. We wait your coming, Lord Jesus, making the space in our lives where love might be born. Amen.

WELCOME

PRELUDE "Oh Come, Oh Come Emmanuel"

Anonymous

*CALL TO WORSHIP†

He did not wait till the world was ready,
till men and nations were at peace.

**He came when the Heavens were unsteady,
and prisoners cried out for release.**

He did not wait for the perfect time.

He came when the need was deep and great.

**He dined with sinners in all their grime
turned water into wine.**

He did not wait till hearts were pure.

In joy he came to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.

**To a world like ours, of anguished shame
he came, and his Light would not go out.**

He came to a world which did not mesh,
to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.

**In the mystery of the Word made Flesh
the Maker of the stars was born.**

We cannot wait till the world is sane
to raise our songs with joyful voice,
**for to share our grief, to touch our pain,
He came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!**

*HYMN OF PRAISE – No. 82 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou
art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.**

**Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king, born
to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring. By
thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine
all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.**

(Please be seated.)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Bryant Family

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious God, we are weary. Our bodies are weary: Forgive
us for pushing ourselves to hard. Remind us that you
designed us to observe Sabbath rest. Our minds are weary:
Forgive us for engaging in constant consumption of
information and news. Forgive us for creating distractions to
fill every second of every day. Remind us that in the quiet, we
can hear you. Our hearts are weary: Forgive us for being
impatient with ourselves. Remind us that healing takes time,
and that joy and grief can co-exist. Our faith is weary:
Forgive us for giving up hope. Remind us of Zechariah and
Elizabeth. Remind us that your good news knows no bounds.**

(A time of silent prayer.)

KYRIE—NO. 123 “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

Verse 3

**Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered
long; beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled two thousand
years of wrong; and we at war on earth hear not the tidings
that they bring; O, hush the noise and cease the strife to hear
the angels sing!**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*GLORIA—NO. 119 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” Verse 3

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings. Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in Jesus Christ, born to us all so long ago in Bethlehem of Judea.

We believe in Him whose birth glorified Bethlehem, but for whom there was no room in the inn.

We believe in Him whose guiding star can bring together the humble and wise everywhere.

We believe in Him who walked among the common people, and was welcomed by those with open minds and yearning hearts.

We believe in Him whose life changed the course of history, over whom kings had no power, whose life humbled the proud, toppled the mighty, and elevated those of low degree.

We believe in Him whose love changed human hearts, and whose life and death on the cross proved that it is more important to serve than to be served.

We believe in Him who is the Prince of Peace, whose spirit makes for justice and peace among all peoples.

We believe in Him who is Emmanuel, whose presence changes the world through the power of love, faith and hope.

THROUGH CHILDREN’S EYES

Charlie Smithers

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 64:1-9

Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you! As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to

quake before you! For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him. You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways. But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry. How then can we be saved? All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and have given us over to our sins. Yet you, LORD, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be angry beyond measure, LORD; do not remember our sins forever. Oh, look on us, we pray, for we are all your people.

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

SECOND READING

Luke 1:1-23

Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught. In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly. But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old. Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside. Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. But the angel said to him: Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice

because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord. Zechariah asked the angel, How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years. The angel said to him, I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time. Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple. When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak. When his time of service was completed, he returned home.

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

RESPONSE NO. 587 “Alleluia!”

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

SERMON “Daring to Hope”

Rev. Rebecca Luter

RESPOND TO GOD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please remember those on our prayer list.

Come Lord, **come among us and make us whole.**

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Marrolli/Vaughan Williams

“Love, Come Down”

Love, come down when the road is paved with grief and pain abounds. Love, come down when all is lost, assure us we are found. When the cold winds wail and defenses fail, help us find the strength to know light will prevail. Love, come down when the world is clothed in loss in sorrow crowned, love come down. Let us hear your voice and rise to greet the sound. When our souls cry out, all but crushed by doubt, send your gentle breeze to calm the

noise without. Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine, and visit it with thine own ardor glowing. O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear, and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing. Love come down when all has come unraveled and unwound. Love, come down. Help us stand secure upon the trembling ground. Now we call on you: let your light break through. Help us find the strength to greet the day anew. Guide us toward the path to journey home to you. And let thy glorious light shine ever on my sight, and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

*DOXOLOGY—No. 108 “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” Verse 6
Christ, to thee with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost to thee, hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be. Honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory, evermore and evermore! Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy God, we offer you these gifts and our lives. Use them, and us, to change the world so that it is more like you intend. Show us opportunities to share hope, to establish peace, to bring joy, and to express love as we make room in our lives for Jesus’s coming even now. Amen.

THE INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

God is with us

We are not alone

Christ is present here

The Spirit moves among us

Let us give thanks to God

In memory and in hope...

SUNG RESPONSES

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice:
Alleluia! Alleluia! sounds through the earth and skies.
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!**

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray,
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell:
O come to us abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

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.

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

THE PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

*HYMN - No. 106 "Prepare the Way, O Zion"

Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near! Let every hill and valley a level way appear. Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story. O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.

He brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above. His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love. Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding. Refrain.

Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior's rule embrace, and tidings of salvation proclaim in every place. All lands will bow rejoicing, their adoration voicing. Refrain.

*BLESSING AND CHARGE

*SENDING FORTH HYMN - No. 100

Verse 1

"My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout"

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great, and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait. You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn? My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.

*POSTLUDE "Come Now, Savior of the Gentiles"

J.S. Bach

*Stand as able.

Bold Type – congregation in unison

†“First Coming” by Madeleine L’Engle in *Cry Like a Bell*.

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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
Ann Erickson, Liturgist
Charlie Smithers, Children’s Moment
Kasi Wann and Sandy Wann, Ushers
Ann Erickson, Liv Palmer, MaryShelley Ritchey,
Sandy Wann, Jennifer Young, Communion Servers
Hadley Barr, 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

No Fellowship Coffee today, Sunday, December 3rd. Please shop at the Ten Thousand Villages Fair Trade Market right after worship. Please consider signing up to host Fellowship Coffee on our website to provide refreshments following worship, www.farmingtonpres.org Simply-something sweet and something salty.

Ten Thousand Villages Fair Trade Market Come and shop, invite your co-workers and friends, and share on social media that we are hosting a market of artisan goods from around the world, all purchased at fair prices from the artists. You will find jewelry, accessories, kitchenware, toys, home décor, holiday decorations, and more! The last day for the Market will be today, Dec. 3rd from 12-3pm.

Youth Fellowship today, Sunday, December 3rd from 4:30-6:30pm. Youth will gather for Dinner & Discipleship. We will be making Spaghetti!

This Week

Christmas Carol Sing-along and Dinner A Christmas Carol Sing-along with Tom Bryant will begin at 6:45pm in the Sanctuary on Wednesday, December 6th. Come ready to request your favorites. Dinner will be Chicken & Dumplings' and will begin at 6pm. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children (under 12) with \$30 family maximum. Please RSVP by Monday, December 4th to church@farmingtonpres.org.

Pinecrest Christmas Events: Cinnamon Roll-Out. Place your order for packaged cinnamon rolls to give as gifts or enjoy for yourself. Deadline to order is December 8th. Pickup is December 15th. To place an order call 878-1247. **The Light**, a day retreat at Pinecrest is December 13th from 9:30am-2pm. Pray, practice, wander, contemplate, create. \$20 includes light lunch. To make reservations call 878-1247.

Christmas Overnight Camp December 21-22 beginning 3pm and pickup next day at 5pm, for grades 3rd through 8th. \$150 per camper. Register at pinecrest.campbrainregistration.com.

Next Sunday

Youth and Children will be together in the Sanctuary as we prepare for our Christmas presentation during the Children's moment on Sunday, December 10th. All are welcome to participate.

Adult Sunday School Class 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 December 10th. The books are available on Amazon.

Caroling Caravan Do you love Christmas carols? Are there Farmington members you have missed seeing because they have limited mobility? Come, spread some Christmas joy on Sunday, December 10th at 2pm. We will leave from the back parking lot at 2pm. Those who prefer to drive will be in a caravan. We will also be taking the church bus.

Youth Fellowship next Sunday, December 10th will join the Caroling Caravan at 2pm to take Christmas joy to the homes of those with mobility issues. Join us on the bus for a day of singing in the season.

Announcements

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 on: December 31st.

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@farmingtonrpres.org with your information and how many.

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 December 14th from 6-8pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Farmington Christmas Party All are invited December 15th from 7-9pm, for a time of fellowship and fun. Heavy hors d'oeuvres provided; BYOB. Childcare available at the church 6:30-9:30pm. RSVP to church@farmingtonpres.org

Room in the Inn Farmington Presbyterian will be hosting on December 16th 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.

Lessons and Carols and Christmas Lunch Be sure to invite your family and friends to attend worship Sunday, December 17th, as the choir leads us in this special service of music and Scripture.

Presbyterian Women's Holiday Bake Sale is December 20th from 10am -6pm. Please make plans to stock up for the holidays.

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.

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 received a letter from Room in the Inn about the impact this ministry is having. Our involvement is one way that Farmington is changing the world, poking holes of hope in the darkness. The letter included this story from Lisa Anderson, the Executive Director: "Just a few weeks ago, one of our Recuperative Care guests met his housing goal that had seemed impossible for 25

years! M came to us from a stay in a local hospital after the amputation of his legs. Without our Recuperative Care Center, he would have been discharged back to living outside while recovering from major surgery. It is difficult to imagine trying to navigate that recovery while living on the street again. With the assistance of our dedicated staff, M was approved for both supportive income and housing. The night before he moved into his new place, he thanked me for all that Room in the Inn had done and said, 'I thought God had forgotten about me until I was able to come here.'"

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, Logan Knight, Ches Latham, Dawn McKenzie, Faye McKenzie, Sara Millar, Susan Odom, Nancy & Dennis Palmer, Bob and Sarah Pointer, Sara and Penelope Read, Bill Renfrow, Jack Scherer, JoAnne Simpkins, Patti Simpkins, Williams Stevens, Kathy VanderEcken, Jim Waller, Kasi Wann, Frank Whited, Faye Woods, and from our Presbytery: The Presbyterian Church USA/Presbyterian Mission Agency.

Congratulations... to Paula Gale on the birth of a granddaughter, Penelope Read, November 27th.



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

FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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