



**FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP**

**Second Sunday of Advent
December 10, 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 "Baloo, Lammy"

17th century Scottish Carol

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Holy God, we have come to worship you.

Fill our minds with your wisdom and our hearts with your love,

That our worship together would open us to the challenge of your dream of wholeness for all.

Come, Holy Spirit, and weave us together in joy, a sacred community strong from our interlacing.

Rejoice! God is with us.

Emmanuel comes to us.

*HYMN OF PRAISE – No. 88

Verses 1, 6, and 7

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

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.*

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. *Refrain*

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind; bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace. *Refrain*

(Please be seated.)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Paine Family

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of welcome, God of laughter, God of reunions, we confess that we often don't trust enough to be vulnerable. We move through this world waiting for something bad to happen, expecting the other shoe to drop, anxiously anticipating crisis. Instead of leaning into joy, we lean into fear. We lean into scarcity. We lean into isolation. Forgive us for the walls of separation we have built around ourselves. Heal the wounds we have from past hurts, and teach us how to throw open our doors like Elizabeth. Show us how to find joy in connection.

(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.

THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

O Little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

“Away in a Manger”

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head. The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant; O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem! Come, and behold him, born the King of angels! *O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!*

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born! While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,

behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.
Refrain

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. A voice of one calling: In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken. A voice says, Cry out. And I said, What shall I cry? All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field. The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass. The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever. You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, Here is your God! See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

SECOND READING

Luke 1:24-45

After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. The Lord has done this for me, she said. "In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people. In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you. Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered

what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end. How will this be, Mary asked the angel, since I am a virgin? The angel answered, The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail. I am the Lord's servant, Mary answered. May your word to me be fulfilled. Then the angel left her. At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

RESPONSE NO. 587 "Alleluia!"

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

SERMON "Holding Joy for Each Other"

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 “Torches”

John Joubert

*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.

*HYMN - No. 104 “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright? Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart’s delight! O kindle, Lord most holy, a lamp within my breast, to do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.

Love caused your incarnation; love brought you down to me; Your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty. O love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace in love, all loves excelling, our lost and fallen race.

You come, O Lord, with gladness, in mercy and goodwill, to bring an end to sadness and bid our fears be still. In patient expectation we live for that great day when your renewed creation your glory shall display.

*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 “Noel Angevin”

Franck

*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
Laurinda Ingram, Liturgist
Mike Colley and Jennifer Young, Ushers
Abigail Palmer, 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

Fellowship Coffee today, Sunday, December 10th. Hosted by Carol Jameson, Liv Palmer, and Ellen & Jerry Renfrow. 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.

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 today, 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 today, 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.

This Week

Pinecrest Christmas Events: 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.

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

Farmington Christmas Party at Halle Plantation Club House, 2490 Dibrell Trail Drive, Collierville. 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 this Saturday, 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.

Next Sunday

No Youth and Children Sunday School for remainder of December. We will begin again in January 2024.

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. We will be collecting the Joy Offering during worship; this offering provides assistance to retired missionaries and church workers in need and supports students attending Presbyterian-affiliated colleges. Scott Hutchins will be catering a full Christmas Lunch following worship for all.

Youth Fellowship next Sunday, December 17th from 4:30-6:30pm for games, gags, and gifts. Pizza will be provided as we celebrate Christmas as only the Farmington Youth Group can. \$10 gift exchange limit.

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.

Presbyterian Women's Holiday Bake Sale is December 20th from 10am -6pm. Please make plans to stock up for the holidays. We will also be selling Rise Against Hunger Christmas cards for a \$5 donation. Please contact Jinney Hart or Leslie McNamara if wanting to purchase a card sooner.

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...was festive with the construction of the outdoor nativity, Hanging of the Green, Caroling Sing-a-Long, and the 10,000 Villages Market. Over \$7,000 of fair trade goods were sold, a gift both to those who will receive the Christmas presents and to artisans around the world.

Remember in Prayer...Our Farmington Family, Session and Staff; Jackie Baker, Barbara Beard, Kevin Beard, Bonnie Blair, Betty Boyd, 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: Human Rights.

Sympathy... to the family and friends of Cathy Burch, mother-in-law of Gretchen Burch.

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

8245 Farmington Blvd.

Germantown, TN 38139

901-754-2794 www.farmingtonpres.org