



A Service of Lessons and Carols
2023

FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



**FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP**

**Third Sunday of Advent
December 17, 2023**

Worship Online at 11:00am Sunday Mornings

www.farmingtonpres.org

Click "Worship Together"

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Holy God, as music fills the air, flow into the cracks of our hearts with your peace. Place your song on our lips, a song of hope, a song that sparks joy. Carve out space for your love in the center of our beings so that no matter what weariness, no matter what worry, no matter what sadness we carry, we might trust the angels' song, "Be not afraid," for "joy to the world, the Lord is come." Amen.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

arr. Hal Hopson

"Three French Carols for Harpsichord and Organ"

Sing We Now of Christmas
What is This Lovely Fragrance
Pat-a-Pan

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

The Oest Family

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN—No. 133

Verses 1 & 2

"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!*

True God from true God, Light from light eternal, born of a virgin, a mortal he comes; very God, begotten, not created!
Refrain.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 96

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Sing to the Lord and praise God's name;

Tell the good news of salvation from day to day.

Declare God's glory among the nations, God's marvelous works among all peoples,

For great is the Lord, and most worthy of our praise.

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad.

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world, and those who live in it.

Let the whole creation sing for joy before the presence of God, who is coming.

God is coming indeed, to judge the world with righteousness.

Come, ye faithful, let us sing praises to God!

*THE HYMN CONCLUDES—No. 133

Verses 3 & 4

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

(Chancel Choir)

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation; sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest! *Refrain.*

(Congregation rejoins the hymn.)

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be all glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! *Refrain.*

*THE FIRST LESSON

John 1:1-14

Rev. Rebecca Luter

*HYMN—No. 108 “Of the Father's Love Begotten” Verses 1 & 2

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be, he is Alpha and Omega; he the source, the ending he, of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore! Amen.

By his Word was all created; he commanded; it was done: heaven and earth and depths of ocean, universe of three in one, all that sees the moon's soft shining, all that breathes beneath the sun, evermore and evermore! Amen.

(Please be seated.)

THE SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 8:7-13

Elizabeth Moots

CAROL “Love Has Come”

French Melody

Love has come: a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies. See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises: Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

Love is born! Come, share in the wonder. Love is God now asleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his mother; what is the name

her heart is saying? Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers.
Love! Love! Jesus, Emmanuel.

Love has come and never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free. Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking. Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

THE THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Ann Erickson

CAROL

American Folk Melody

“Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old”

Isaiah the prophet has written of old how God’s new creation shall come. Instead of the thorn tree, the fir trees shall grow; the wolf shall lie down with the lamb. The mountains and hills shall burst forth into song, the peoples be led forth in peace, for the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of God as the waters cover the sea.

Yet nations still prey on the meek of the world, and conflict turns parent from child. Your people despoil all the sweetness of earth; the briar and the thorn tree grow wild. God, bring to fruition your will for the earth, that no one shall hurt or destroy, that wisdom and justice shall reign in the land and your people shall go forth in joy.

THE FOURTH LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-9

Nic Luter

CAROL “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

arr. Helvey

Lo, how a Rose e’er blooming from tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse’s lineage coming, as those of old have sung. It came, a blossom bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.

Isaiah ‘twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind; with Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind. To show God’s love aright, she bore to us a Savior, when half spent was the night.

O Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air, dispel in glorious splendor the darkness everywhere; true man, yet very God, from sin and death now save us, and share our every load.

THE FIFTH LESSON

Luke 1:26-35, 38

Sandy Wann

*HYMN— No. 145 “What Child Is This”

Verses 1 & 2

**What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds**

watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding? Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading. Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you. Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!

THE SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2:1, 3-7

Roland Mittag

CAROL “The Blessed Son of God”

Ralph Vaughan Williams

The blessed son of God only in a crib full poor did lie; with our poor flesh and our poor blood was clothed that everlasting good. Kyrie eleison.

The Lord Christ Jesu, God’s son dear, was a guest and a stranger here; us for to bring from misery, that we might live eternally. Kyrie eleison.

All this did he for us freely, for to declare his great mercy; all Christendom be merry therefore, and give him thanks forevermore, Kyrie eleison.

THE SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-16

Tom Bryant

CAROL

16th Century French Melody

“Ding Dong! Merrily on High”

Ding dong! merrily on high in heav’n the bells are ringing: Ding dong! verily the sky is riv’n with angel singing. Gloria Hosanna in excelsis!

E’en so here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen, And io, io, io, by priest and people sungen. Gloria Hosanna in excelsis!

Pray you, dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers; May you beautifully rime your evetime song, ye singers. Gloria Hosanna in excelsis!

THE EIGHTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

Rachel Barr

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM “A Christmas Gloria!”

John A. Behnke

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

To us a child is born, to us a son is given. God comes to us as a tiny baby, looking so fragile and helpless to all. What we don’t see is the God of creation putting the plan of salvation in place.

Look on the beauty that shines in the darkness; see there the Holy, begotten from time, the Lamb of God who has come as our Savior. See in the manger God's Son born this night.

We hear the angels announce His arrival; we see the shepherds rejoicing this night. Now spread the Good News to all earth's people, the gift of new life is given today.

*DOXOLOGY – No. 113 “Angels We Have Heard on High” Verse 3
Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing; come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. *Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Emmanuel, shine your light and love upon these gifts and upon us. Dedicate them and us to changing 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 NINTH LESSON Mark 1:1-3 Rev. Rebecca Luter

*HYMN – No. 119 “Hark, the Herald Angels Sing!”

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king. Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled! Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies; with the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!” *Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”*

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord, late in time behold him come, off-spring of the virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the incarnate deity, pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. *Refrain.*

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. *Refrain.*

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.

*HYMN – No. 141 “On This Day Earth Shall Ring”

On this day earth shall ring with the song children sing to the Lord, Christ our King, born on earth to save us; him the Father gave us.

Id-e-o-o-o, Id-e-o-o-o, Id-e-o Gloria in excelsis Deo!

His the doom, ours the mirth; when he came down to earth Bethlehem saw his birth; ox and ass beside him from the cold would hide him. *Refrain.*

God’s bright star, o’er his head, wise men three to him led; kneel they low by his bed, lay their gifts before him, praise him and adore him. *Refrain.*

On this day angels sing; with their song earth shall ring, praising Christ, heaven’s King, born on earth to save us; peace and love he gave us. *Refrain.*

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE “In Dulci Jubilo”

J. S. Bach

*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

Doug & Rachel Barr, Liturgist

Ann Erickson and Leslie McNamara, Ushers

Gavin Perkins, Acolyte

Chancel Choir

Readers:

Rev. Rebecca Luter, Elizabeth Moots, Ann Erickson, Nic Luter,

Sandy Wann, Roland Mittag, Tom Bryant, Rachel Barr



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

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

Join us for a Christmas Lunch today, Sunday December 17th following the Lessons & Carols service.

Youth Fellowship today, 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. Bring a \$10 wrapped gift for a game.

This Week

Presbyterian Women's Holiday Bake Sale is this Wednesday, 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.

Pinecrest 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

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

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion is Sunday, December 24th at 5pm. Come to worship the newborn King!

Announcements

Angel Tree Collection Please stop by the Angel Tree in the Fellowship Hall to pull off a collection baby item to shop for and return to the tree. Diapers,

blankets, etc. These items will be donated to Room in the Inn and Family Inn.

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.

Holiday Schedule The Church Office and Day School will be closed December 25-29th. If you need Rev. Luter, please contact her on her cell phone – (901) 674-8000.

End of Year Gifts IRS requires that all gifts to the church applied to 2023 Giving Statements be postmarked by December 31, 2023. Gifts made in worship on January 1st will be applied to your 2024 Giving Statement.

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.

Fellowship Coffee 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.

2024 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 worshiping 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 worshiping 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...has been filled with Christmas music! Thank you to our Accompanist Dr. Tom Bryant for playing our favorite Christmas songs after dinner on the 6th. Thank you to our Director of Christian Education Doug Barr for driving the bus as we brought Christmas carols to our Farmington family members with limited mobility on the 10th. Thank you to our Director of Music Jim Thrash and the choir for leading us through the meaning of Christmas this morning in our Service of Lessons and Carols.

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, Sarah Pointer, 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: New Hope Presbyterian Church, McKenzie, TN.

Sympathies...to the family and friends of Cathy Burch, mother-in-law of Gretchen Burch and to the family and friends of Bob Pointer, uncle of Bo Bradham.

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

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8245 Farmington Blvd.

Germantown, TN 38139

901-754-2794 www.farmingtonpres.org