



**FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP**

**Third Sunday after Epiphany  
January 21, 2024**

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

Creator Spirit, who broods over the chaos of this watery world and calls forth life, wash over us and reorder our lives. Remind us that in the times of damp dark uncertainty, in the ominous threat of the storm, a gentle arc of colors appears, the rainbow that remembers the light. Remind us that in the silent questions that go unanswered, in the disturbing disequilibrium of doubt, a still, quiet thought whispers the covenant of your perpetual presence. Receive our praise, Lord God, for rainbows and covenants and the hope and courage they inspire. Amen.

WELCOME

PRELUDE "Air" from *Water Music Suite*

Handel

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

based on Psalm 25:1-10

In hope, we come to worship, offering our lives to the Lord.

**We place our trust in you, O God.**

In humility, we gather to pray, seeking the way of the Lord.

**Lead us in your truth and guide us by your word, O God.**

With teachable hearts, we assemble as sinners to learn what is good and just and honorable.

**Forgive our sins and lead us in your paths of righteousness.**

In awe, we enter and stand before the Lord who extends covenant relationship to us.

**Eternal One, you are holy and worthy of our praise. We are here, waiting in expectation.**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE – No. 65 "Guide Me, Thou Great Jehovah"

**Guide Me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land. I am weak, but thou art mighty. Hold me with thy powerful hand. Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.**

**Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow. Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through. Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside. Death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side. Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to thee; I will ever give to thee.**

*(Please be seated.)*

#### CALL TO RECONCILIATION

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Redeeming God, like children standing in a sea of daffodils, on a brisk sunny day, Christ has brought us to stand among the abundance of your love. Do not allow familiarity to dull its wonder, or us to be blind to its beauty or fail to notice how shabby we are when surrounded by so much pristine love.**

**Bring us to recognize our spiritual impoverishment in the midst of so much generosity; to admit our mistakes, to accept responsibility, to want to change, and to open ourselves fully to your Spirit of forgiveness and transformation.**

**Coax us to explore and wander the expanses of your love, that we may be changed into the likeness of our divine surroundings, and reflect some of the beauty of your holy love in our thoughts and words and deeds.**

*(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

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

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

Romans 1:16-17; 3:22b-28

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: The righteous will live by faith. This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus. Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. Because of what law? The law that requires works? No, because of the law that requires faith. For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.

This is the Word of the Lord!

## **Thanks be to God!**

SECOND READING

Genesis 8:14-21; 9:1-17

By the twenty-seventh day of the second month the earth was completely dry. Then God said to Noah, Come out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and their wives. Bring out every kind of living creature that is with you—the birds, the animals, and all the creatures that move along the ground—so they can multiply on the earth and be fruitful and increase in number on it. So Noah came out, together with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives. All the animals and all the creatures that move along the ground and all the birds—everything that moves on land—came out of the ark, one kind after another. Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it. The LORD smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: Never again will I curse the ground because of humans, even though every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done. As for you, be fruitful and increase in number; multiply on the earth and increase upon it. Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you—the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you—every living creature on earth. I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth. And God said, This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth. So God said to Noah, This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth.

This is the Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

RESPONSE NO. 587 “Alleluia!”

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

SERMON “The Grace of a Rainbow”

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

Julian Rush

“In the Midst of New Dimensions”

In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways, who will lead the pilgrim peoples wandering in their separate ways? God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar, we your people, ours the journey now and ever, now and ever, now and evermore.

As we stand, a world divided by our own self-seeking schemes, grant that we, your global village, might envision wider dreams. Should the threats of dire predictions cause us to withdraw in pain, may your blazing phoenix spirit resurrect the church again.

\*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

**Covenant-making God, we are humbled as we try to do what is right and to walk in your ways. We believe that in Jesus Christ you show us that your vision is for justice to prevail and compassion to motivate so that earth is made new. Receive our offerings and our lives, and use them to accomplish your will, coloring the earth with the ways of**

peace until all creation dwells with you in completeness.  
Amen.

\*HYMN - No. 22 “God of the Sparrow” Verses 1, 2, 3, and 6

**God of the sparrow God of the whale God of the swirling stars  
How does the Creature say Awe How does the creature say  
Praise**

**God of the earthquake God of the storm God of the trumpet  
blast How does the creature cry Woe How does the creature  
cry Save**

**God of the rainbow God of the cross God of the empty grave  
How does the creature say Grace How does the creature say  
Thanks**

**God of the ages God near at hand God of the loving heart  
How do your children say Joy How do your children say  
Home**

\*BLESSING AND CHARGE

\*SENDING FORTH HYMN - No. 546

“Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”

**Lord, dismiss us with your blessing; fill our hearts with joy  
and peace; let us each, your love possessing, triumph in  
redeeming grace. O refresh us, O refresh us, traveling  
through this wilderness.**

\*POSTLUDE “Allegro”

William Walond

\*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

Ann Erickson, Liturgist

Charlie Smithers, Children’s Moment

Tom and Elizabeth Moots, Ushers

Charlotte Moots, 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](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

**Youth Fellowship** will meet today, Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup> from 2-4pm at Riverdale Park to play pickleball. Dress warm! Contact Doug Barr for directions 901-606-6292.

### This Week

**Adult Ministries Luncheon** this Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at Noon in the Youth Room. The speaker will be Sandy Wann. 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, January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### Next Sunday

**Children's Sunday School** will study the Woman at the Well. 10-10:45am in classroom A6.

**Youth Sunday School** will continue our walk through the Hebrews Scriptures, imagining ourselves in the stories to see what God is revealing. 10-10:45am in the Youth Room.

**Congregation Meeting** Session has called a congregational meeting on Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup> immediately following worship for the purposes of receiving the 2023 Annual Report, considering Pastor Terms of Call for 2024, and electing the 2024 Nominating Committee. Each group in the congregation is encouraged to nominate a representative to the nominating committee; please ensure that the person whom you nominate is willing to serve prior to making the nomination at the meeting.

**Youth Fellowship** will meet on Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup> from 4:30-6:30pm in the Youth room for Dinner & Discipleship. Spaghetti is on the menu and lots of discussion.

**Presbyterian Women** will be continuing the Horizons Bible Study: Sacred Encounters. The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 in the East Room. We will be discussing the story of Mary and Martha's encounter with Jesus from a different perspective. All women of the church are invited to join in this study and learn about all we are doing to support our various mission goals.

### Announcements

**Potluck Lunch** Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, following worship. Please bring a dish to share. Please join us for a time of fellowship. There is always a gracious plenty.

**“Souper Bowl” Sunday Fundraiser** Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup>. Purchase your chili and dessert for the Super Bowl game and support the Soup Kitchen. Preorders only by February 7<sup>th</sup> by emailing [church@farmingtonpres.org](mailto:church@farmingtonpres.org) and pick up after church on Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup>. A quart of chili and dessert for two is \$20.

**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](http://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 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...**we were closed due to snow and ice. Special thanks go to Bob Plotner, who came to check on the building and shovel the sidewalks, and Shelley Wann, who came to print, fold, and mail bulletins.

**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, Skip Flannery, Bill Harrington, Martha Hart, Vanessa Howard, Gary Hutchins, Gene King, Bill Knight, Logan Knight, Iris Lawing, Dawn McKenzie, Faye McKenzie, Sara Millar, Susan Odom, Nancy & Dennis Palmer, Sarah Pointer, Bill Renfrow, Jack Scherer, JoAnne Simpkins, Williams Stevens, Kathy VanderEcken, Jim Waller, Kasi Wann, Frank Whited, Faye Woods, and from our Presbytery: Synod of Living Waters, Staff & Volunteers.

**Sympathy...**to the family and friends of Patti Simpkins, daughter of JoAnne Simpkins.



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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