



**FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP**  
**Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**  
**January 28, 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

Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth, with you all things are possible. Help us to trust in the promises that you have made to us and to be satisfied with your vision for our lives. Give us patience to remain faithful when your time is not our time, knowing that you will act in us and through us when the time is right. Give us hearts open to hearing and following your call in our lives. We come into your presence to worship and praise you, O God, and for our lives to be changed. Amen

WELCOME

PRELUDE "Jesus, Remember Me"

J. Berthier

FIRST READING

Genesis 12:1-4

The Lord had said to Abram, Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you. So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran.

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather as heirs of God's covenant with Abraham.

**The promises of God will never be broken.**

God asked Abram to leave all he knew, to make his home among foreigners, and share the blessing that was to come.

**With God as our light, what is there to fear?**

We assemble as living proof that God's love for humanity knows no limits.

**Blessed is each one who comes to worship in the name of the Lord!**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE – No. 714 “God of the Fertile Fields”

**God of the fertile fields, shaper of earth that yields our daily bread: forth from you bounteous hand come gifts your love has planned, that all in every land be clothed and fed.**

**We would be stewards true, holding in trust from you all that you give; help us in love to share, teach us like you to care for people everywhere, that all may live.**

**As grows the hidden seed to fruit that serves our need, so your reign grows. Let all our toil be used, no gift of yours abused, no humble task refused your love bestows.**

**God of the countryside, dear to the Christ who died to make us one: we pledge our lives anew in faithful love to you. Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.**

*(Please be seated.)*

SECOND READING

Genesis 13:5-6, 14-17; 15:5-6

Now Lot, who was moving about with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents. But the land could not support them while they stayed together, for their possessions were so great that they were not able to stay together. The Lord said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, Look around from where you are, to the north and south, to the east and west. All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever. I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted. Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you. He took him outside and said, Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them. Then he said to him, So shall your offspring be. Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Eternal God, we are quick to join Abram's doubt and impatience, but we find it difficult to copy Abraham's faith and trust. We want to believe your promises, but the here-and-now problems of daily life consume our focus and erode our faith.**

Open our eyes to your light. Open our hearts to your love.  
Open our minds to your possibilities. Speak to us today, O  
God, and strengthen our faith, that we, too, may know the  
everlasting power of your 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

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

Doug Barr

*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

THIRD READING

Genesis 15:7-18

He also said to him, I am the Lord, who brought you out of Ur of  
the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it. But  
Abram said, Sovereign Lord, how can I know that I will gain  
possession of it? So the Lord said to him, Bring me a heifer, a goat  
and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young  
pigeon. Abram brought all these to him, cut them in two and

arranged the halves opposite each other; the birds, however, he did not cut in half. Then birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away. As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him. Then the LORD said to him, Know for certain that for four hundred years your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own and that they will be enslaved and mistreated there. But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions. You, however, will go to your ancestors in peace and be buried at a good old age. In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here, for the sin of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure. When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram and said, To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates

This is the Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

FOURTH READING

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers. Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.

This is the Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

RESPONSE NO. 587 “Alleluia!”

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

SERMON “A Covenant of Blessing”

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

Fettke

“And the Father will Dance over You with Joy”

And the Father will dance over you in joy! He will take delight in whom He loves. Is that a choir I hear, singing the praises of God? No, the Lord God Himself is exulting o'er you in song! And He will joy over you in song; My soul will make its boast in God, for He has answered all my cries, His faithfulness in me is as sure as the dawn of a new day. Awake my soul! Awake, my soul, and sing! Let my spirit rejoice, let my spirit rejoice in God! Sing, o daughter of Zion, with all of your heart! Cast away fear for you have been restored! Put on the garment of praise as on a festival day. Join with the Father in glorious, jubilant song!

\*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. 74 “When God Restored Our Common Life”

**When God restored our common life, our hope, our liberty, at first it seemed a passing dream, a waking fantasy; a shock of**

joy swept over us, for we had wept so long; the seeds we watered once with tears sprang up into a song.

We went forth weeping, sowing seeds in hard, unyielding soil; with laughing hearts we carry home the fruit of all our toil. We praise the One who gave the growth, with voices full and strong. The seeds we watered once with tears sprang up into a song.

Great liberating God, we pray for all who are oppressed. May those who long for what is right with justice now be blest. We pray for those who mourn this day, and all who suffer wrong; may seeds they water now with tears spring up into a song.

\*BLESSING AND CHARGE

\*SENDING FORTH HYMN - No. 80 “You Shall Go Out with Joy”

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace; the mountains and the hills will break forth before you; there'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field will clap, will clap their hands.

\*POSTLUDE “Finale in d minor” Thiman

\*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  
Chris Luter, Liturgist  
Doug Barr, Children’s Moment  
Thomas & Stephanie Nagel, Ushers  
Hudson Barr, Acolyte  
Chancel Choir



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](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

**Flowers** this morning are given to the glory of God by John Hazen in memory of his mother, Mary Louise Hazen.

**Congregation Meeting** Session has called a congregational meeting on today, 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.

**Fellowship Coffee** immediately following worship today, January 28<sup>th</sup>, Fellowship Coffee is hosted by Paula Patterson. Sign up to host Fellowship Coffee on our website to provide refreshments following worship, [www.farmingtonpres.org](http://www.farmingtonpres.org) Please keep it simple-something sweet and something salty.

**Presbyterian Women** today, January 28<sup>th</sup> at 12:30pm. We will be continuing the Horizons Bible Study: Sacred Encounters. The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts 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.

**Youth Fellowship** will meet today, 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.

### **This Week**

**Guess Who's Coming to Dinner** will return Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6pm. Signup on our website by January 31<sup>st</sup> with your preference for Mulan Bistro, Rotolo's, Los Cabos, or Commissary BBQ. You will be notified regarding your reservation by 1pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Sign up to enjoy this opportunity to see old friends and meet new ones!

### **Next Sunday**

**Children's Sunday School** will study Jesus and the storm. 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.

**Youth Fellowship** will meet on Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup> from 2-4pm at the church for a quick run for ice cream and games!

### **Announcements**

**Potluck Lunch** next 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.

**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 February 8<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm in the Fellowship Hall.

**"Soup 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 signing up on our website. Pick up your order 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 blessed at the Adult Ministries Luncheon by Sandy Wann sharing her story of how God has worked in and through her life. Thank you to the Adult Ministries Team for their work coordinating these lunches. If you have not been to one, make plans to attend the next one during your lunch hour! We grow closer as we share our stories, and we are more aware of how God is working in our own lives!

**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, Kathryn Moots Newhouse, 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: UKirk and Campus Ministry.

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

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