



**FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP**

**Epiphany Sunday
January 7, 2024**

Worship Online at 11:00am Sunday Mornings

www.farmingtonpres.org

Click "Worship Together"

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRAYER OF PREPARATION[†]

Lord of yesterday, today and tomorrow, we gather here this first Sunday of the New Year, in a mixture of hope, anticipation, fear, excitement, and expectation. We do not know what the year holds for us. There are things we are afraid of: worries about health and family, job security and finances. There is much to look forward to – weddings or anniversaries or baptisms, holidays to enjoy, friends to laugh with.

Lord God, the coming year is full of uncertainty and hope. Whatever the year holds for us, though, we trust You, and we place every day of this year in your care knowing that, as in the past, You are with us, caring for us with constant love.

And so Lord, we place ourselves into your keeping and dedicate our lives to your service through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. Amen.

WELCOME

PRELUDE “A Stable Lamp Is Lighted”

D. Hurd

*CALL TO WORSHIP AND HYMN— No. 147 “The First Nowell”

Let all creation cry “Noel! Christ is born!”

Into the darkness of this world, the news resounds, “Noel!”

The first Nowell the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay, in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep. Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

Behold a star, radiant, gleams, “Noel! Come and See!”

Into the shadows of the night, the news glistens, “Noel!”
*This star drew night to the northwest; o’er Bethlehem it took
its rest, and there it did both stop and stay, right over the
place where Jesus lay. Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born
is the King of Israel.*

Let all with breath exclaim, “Noel! Praise to God who comes with
us to dwell.”

In the hollows of our hearts, the news resounds, “Noel!”
*They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond
them far; and to the earth it gave great light, and so it
continued both day and night. Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Nowell, born is the king of Israel.*

(Please be seated.)

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of justice, we confess that our actions are evil whenever
we remain passive while others are oppressed; whenever we
guard our prosperity at the expense of those who are poor; or
when we ignore the cries of those in need of help. Forgive us,
we pray, for hiding in the darkness of this world more than
loving the light of your righteousness made known to us in
Jesus Christ. Judge us with mercy, we pray, and extend your
grace to us. Strengthen our faithfulness to you and to all who
are precious in your sight. We pray in the name of Christ, our
Light.

(A time of silent prayer.)

KYRIE—NO. 121 “O Little Town of Bethlehem” Verse 4

O holy child of Bethlehem, descent 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!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*GLORIA—NO. 136 “Go, Tell It on the Mountain” Verse 3

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go,
tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born, and
God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go,
tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed (Ecumenical)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. 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

FIRST READING

Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him. When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. In Bethlehem in Judea, they replied, for this is what the prophet has written: But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people

Israel. Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him. After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

SECOND READING

Acts 11:1-18

The apostles and the believers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him and said, “You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them. Starting from the beginning, Peter told them the whole story: I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. I saw something like a large sheet being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to where I was. I looked into it and saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, reptiles and birds. Then I heard a voice telling me, Get up, Peter. Kill and eat. I replied, Surely not, Lord! Nothing impure or unclean has ever entered my mouth. The voice spoke from heaven a second time, Do not call anything impure that God has made clean. This happened three times, and then it was all pulled up to heaven again. Right then three men who had been sent to me from Caesarea stopped at the house where I was staying. The Spirit told me to have no hesitation about going with them. These six brothers also went with me, and we entered the man’s house. He told us how he had seen an angel appear in his house and say, Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. He will bring you a message through which you and all your household will be saved. As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. Then I remembered what the Lord had said: John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit. So if God gave them the same gift he gave us who

believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could stand in God's way? When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, So then, even to Gentiles God has granted repentance that leads to life.

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

RESPONSE NO. 587 "Alleluia!"

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

SERMON "Looking and Listening for God"

Rev. Rebecca Luter

RESPOND TO GOD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please remember those on our prayer list.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM "What Star is This, With Beams So Bright"

*DOXOLOGY—NO. 151 "We Three Kings of Orient Are" Verses 5

**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.**

*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 welcome Christ born
anew in our lives even now. Amen.**

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—No. 347, Verses 1 & 2, No. 274, Verse 3

**Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling
stand; ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his**

hand Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood, he
will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food.

You, who walk each day beside us, sit in power at God's side.
You, who preach a way that's narrow, have a love that reaches
wide. You, the everlasting instant: you, who are our pilgrim
guide.

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. 127 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

**Hark! the herald angels sing. Jesus the Light of the World.
Glory to the newborn King, Jesus, the light of the world.**

*We'll walk in the light, beautiful light. Come where the
dewdrops of mercy shine bright. O, shine all around us by day
and by night. Jesus, the light of the world.*

Joyful all you nations, rise. Jesus, the light of the world. Join
the triumph of the skies. Jesus, the light of the world. *Refrain.*

Christ by highest heaven adored; Jesus, the light of the world.
Christ, the everlasting Lord; Jesus, the light of the world.
Refrain.

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Jesus, the light of the
world. Hail, the Sun of righteousness! Jesus, the light of the
world. *Refrain.*

*BENEDICTION

Like the Magi, we seek the Light of the World.

The Prince of Peace takes the path of establishing justice.

The Good Shepherd takes the path of offering comfort.

The King of Kings takes the path of securing freedom.

Rejoice, for the light has come to light the darkness!

Christ the Savior is born! Let us be the road he takes.

*SENDING FORTH HYMN - No. 156

Verse 1

“Sing of God Made Manifest”

Sing of God made manifest in a child robust and blest, to whose home in Bethlehem where a star had guided them, magi came and gifts unbound, signs mysterious and profound: myrrh and frankincense and gold grave and God and king foretold.

*POSTLUDE “Joy to the World”

arr. Gordon Young

*Stand as able.

Bold Type – congregation in unison

†Written by Rev. Ian Elston, Church of Scotland

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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

Jinney Hart, Liturgist

Doug Barr, Children’s Moment

Jackie Hall and Leslie McNamara, Ushers

Jinney Hart, Stephanie Nagel, Nadine Oest,

Melissa Still, Kasi Wann, Communion Servers

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

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

Flowers this morning are given to the glory of God by Nadine Oest in celebration of Melanie's birthday.

Potluck Lunch today, Sunday, January 7th, following worship. Please bring a dish to share. If you didn't, stay and eat! We always have a gracious plenty. What a wonderful time to begin fellowship for the New Year.

Boxing of the Green today, Sunday, January 7th, after Potluck Lunch. Join us as we "wrap up" Christmas 2023!

Youth Fellowship will meet today, Sunday, January 7th, to box up the Christmas decorations. Boxing of the Green will begin after Potluck lunch.

This Week

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 January 11th from 6-8pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Next Sunday

Children's Sunday School will study the Disciples. 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, January 14th from 2-4pm in the Youth room. Please RSVP to Doug so we have a head count.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration on Sunday, January 14th at 3pm at Parkway Gardens United Presbyterian Church with Attorney Van Turner, Jr., former Shelby County Commissioner speaking and the Cordova High School Choir performing.

Announcements

Room in the Inn Farmington Presbyterian will be hosting Saturday, January 20th at The Cottage at Germantown United Methodist Church. We still need 4 more people to host our guests. The time frame is 5:00 - 9:30pm. You will prepare the beds, warm and serve the dinner, monitor showers and laundry, and fellowship with our guests. We also need 2 people to spend the night at GUMC with our guests. The time frame is 9:00 pm - 7:00 am. Lights out is 10pm. You will also prepare coffee in the morning, put out a to-go breakfast for our guests, and clean up in the morning. We prefer one male and one female for this position.

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 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 are thankful that Anthony Jones, our Maintenance Technician, is well enough after his shoulder surgery and rehabilitation to return to work. Bob Plotner has graciously filled in during Anthony's leave and has agreed to continue working a few hours each week.

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, 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, Patti Simpkins, Williams Stevens, Kathy VanderEcken, Jim Waller, Kasi Wann, Frank Whited, Faye Woods, and from our Presbytery: The Presbytery of the Mid-South, Staff & Volunteers.

Sympathies... to the family and friends of Edith Langstone, family of Bonnie Schwartz, and to the family and friends of Lorraine Howarth, former member of Farmington Presbyterian.

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8245 Farmington Blvd.

Germantown, TN 38139

901-754-2794 www.farmingtonpres.org