



**FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP**

**Fourth Sunday in Lent  
March 10, 2024**

Worship Online at 11:00am Sunday Mornings

[www.farmingtonpres.org](http://www.farmingtonpres.org)

Click "Worship Together"

**ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME**

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Holy God, you see possibility in us and have hope for our world beyond our imagining, so as we gather today to worship you, we open our minds and souls and hearts to your guidance that we may be inclined to notice and respond to the nudges and whispers of your Spirit in our lives. Help us follow your way, for it leads to life as you created and intend for us: for all to dwell in right relationship with you, with creation, and with one another. In Jesus' name, Amen.

WELCOME

PRELUDE "The Lord Is My Shepherd"

Goodall

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

With the Psalmist, let us declare that everything that breathes should praise the Lord.

**The earth and skies, creatures and people all sing God's praises.**

As sure as the sun makes its journey across the sky, the Son of Man set his face to journey to Jerusalem.

**God's love for us will always be deeper than we can imagine.**

We sing God's praises because through every storm and trial, joy and celebration,

**we remember God's presence with us.**

We sing God's praises because in this moment, as we come to worship, God is as close as our next breath,

**We are never without God's presence.**

We sing God's praises because God calls us to follow, to deny ourselves and have God's vision for humanity as our guide and our goal.

**God will always be present to us. God will never abandon hope. God's steadfast love will never falter. God's glory will never fade.**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE – No. 806 “I'll Praise My Maker”

**I'll praise my Maker while I've breath; and when my voice is lost in death, praise shall employ my nobler powers. My days of praise shall ne'er be past while life and thought and being last, or immortality endures.**

**How happy they whose hopes rely on Israel's God, who made the sky and earth and seas with all their train; whose truth forever stands secure, who saves the oppressed and feeds the poor, and none shall find God's promise vain.**

**The Lord pours eyesight on the blind; the Lord supports the fainting mind and sends the laboring conscience peace. God helps the stranger in distress, the widowed and the parentless, and grants the prisoner sweet release.**

**I'll praise my Maker while I've breath; and when my voice is lost in death, praise shall employ my nobler powers. My days of praise shall ne'er be past while life and thought and being last, or immortality endures.**

*(Please be seated.)*

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God, you call us to follow; to turn away from our own selfish interests, and to take up our cross and follow you, even if the path is difficult to see, or is heading in a direction we would never have chosen for ourselves.**

**Forgive us for being so quick to question and so hesitant to follow. We know that fear and doubt are part of the journey of faith. For the times our hearts wander far from you, we ask your tender grace to lead us back to you. Help us to see with the eyes of faith, rather than from our own human point of view. Teach us to follow, trusting that you are always with us, leading the way.**

*(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

**We believe in God, maker of all that is, who meets us on  
mountaintops and walks with us through valleys. God never  
stops seeking us.**

**We believe in Jesus, the Christ, who sees us for who we are  
and calls us to be like him, and who heals the wounds and  
forgives the wandering of our hearts. His death and  
resurrection reveal to us the depth of God's love.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, who calls us to follow Christ's  
way of self-giving love and knits us together as the church,  
the Body of Christ in the world.**

**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to  
serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives,  
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,  
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"**

THROUGH CHILDREN'S EYES

Jennifer Young

*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

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

**Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.  
Let the redeemed of the LORD tell their story—those he redeemed  
from the hand of the foe, those he gathered from the lands, from  
east and west, from north and south. Some became fools through  
their rebellious ways and suffered affliction because of their  
iniquities. They loathed all food and drew near the gates of death.  
Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved  
them from their distress. He sent out his word and healed them; he**

rescued them from the grave. Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind. Let them sacrifice thank offerings and tell of his works with songs of joy.

This is the Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

SECOND READING

Matthew 16:21-23

From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. Never, Lord! he said. This shall never happen to you! Jesus turned and said to Peter, Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.

This is the Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

RESPONSE NO. 475

Verse 3

***O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be! Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.***

SERMON "When Faith Hits a Wall"

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

Our lives overflow with the goodness of God. Sharing what we

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Musselman

**"Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"**

Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace: streams of mercy, never ceasing call for songs of loudest

praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above; praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love. Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come; and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home. Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God; he, to rescue me from danger, bought me with His precious blood. Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be! Let Thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee. Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it prone to leave the God I love; here's my heart, O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

**\*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**

**God of unwavering love, you have held nothing back in your love for us, not even your Son. How we marvel at that kind of love, and how we long to reflect a portion of that devotion back to you. As we dedicate our offerings to you, lead us away from our tendency to hold back and worry that there will not be enough. Help us to live as the people of love and abundance you have called us to be. In Christ, we pray. Amen.**

**\*HYMN - No. 653**

Verses 1, 2, 5, and 6

**"Give Thanks to God Who Hears Our Cries"**

**Give thanks to God who hears our cries and saves in troubled days with wondrous works to humankind that call for highest praise. Let all who know God's saving love sing grateful songs always.**

**If you have ever wandered where no human help was near, and in your trouble cried to God, who rescued you from fear, then thank the God of steadfast love who dries your every tear.**

**If you have felt your courage fail before a violent sea and cried to God, who stilled the storm, and made the wild wind flee, then in the congregation praise, the One who heard you plea.**

**So praise the One whose love is great, whose kindness is well-known. Consider well the healing hand and help you have been shown, and tell the world what God has done. Praise God and God alone!**

\*CHARGE AND BLESSING

\*SENDING FORTH HYMN - No. 543

Verse 1

“God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me”

**God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to  
move my voice; God, be the strength to now uphold me; O  
Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.**

\*POSTLUDE Prelude and Fugue in a minor

J.S. Bach

\*Stand as able.

**Bold Type** – congregation in unison

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**Participating in the service today:**

Rev. Rebecca Luter, Pastor  
Jim Thrash, Director of Music  
Tom Bryant, Accompanist  
Sandy Hilliard, Liturgist  
Jennifer Young, Children’s Moment  
Paula Gale and Roland Mittag, Ushers  
Gavin Perkins, 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 Merry Bonner in loving memory of her husband, Joe.

**Fellowship Coffee** immediately following worship today, March 10<sup>th</sup>, Fellowship Coffee is hosted by Kay 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.

### This Week

**Room in the Inn** Farmington Presbyterian will be hosting the last RITI for the season this Saturday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at The Cottage at Germantown United Methodist Church. We still need 4 more evening hosts to host our guests. And 2 overnight 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.

**Nominating Committee** Our session is tasked with providing for the worship and nurture of the congregation. Elders serve on the session in 3 year terms. The nominating committee requests your nominations for consideration to serve in the Class of 2027. You may request a nomination form from an usher or find one in the March newsletter. You may also email your nominations to Rev. Rebecca Luter ([rluter@farmingtonpres.org](mailto:rluter@farmingtonpres.org)). Nominations must be received by March 18<sup>th</sup> to be considered.

**Candy Collection** We are collecting candy for the Easter Egg Hunt. Please drop off candy in the bin located at the West Entrance. Last day of collection is March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Deadline for Smoked BBQ Fundraiser Orders** is March 27<sup>th</sup>. Please visit [www.farmingtonpres.org](http://www.farmingtonpres.org) to place order.

**Volunteers Needed for Maundy Thursday Dinner!** There is a sign-up at [www.farmingtonpres.org](http://www.farmingtonpres.org) for men and women to help set up and clean up for the Maundy Thursday Dinner. Many hands make light work – if you are coming to the dinners, please take a look and see when you can help.

### Next Sunday

**Children's Sunday School** follows the story of Jesus through the Sparkhouse curriculum. 10-10:45am in classroom A6.

**Youth Sunday School** will join Rev. Rebecca's class in the East Room during the season of Lent for a reflection on the texts used in Worship. 10-10:45am in the Youth Room.

**Presbyterian Women Meeting** Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at 12:30pm. We will be continuing to discuss embracing diversity as we explore the topic of "borderline moments" in Lesson 7 of our Horizon's Bible Study book. Because of our experiences, ethnicity, and background, we offer a variety of views regarding scripture. However, through study and discussion we better understand the will God in our church and community. Come join us! All women are invited to attend the gathering in the East Room.

### Announcements

**Easter Lilies** Please consider ordering an Easter Lily to honor or remember a loved one this Easter Sunday. The lilies are \$17.50 for each honoree. Please make check payable to Farmington Presbyterian church. You can place an order by emailing [church@farmingtonpres.org](mailto:church@farmingtonpres.org).

**Adult Ministries Luncheon** March 21<sup>st</sup> at Noon in the Youth Room. The speaker will be Bob Plotner. 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, March 18<sup>th</sup>.

**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 on Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup> from 6-8pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will putting together Easter crafts for the Easter Egg Hunt. Free childcare is now being provided.

**Annual PW Spring Gathering** will be held at Germantown Presbyterian Church on Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. The event begins at 9:30am with fellowship, pastries, program, and a lunch to follow. Contact Melissa Still to register or with any questions. Deadline to register is March 22<sup>nd</sup>.



**Presbyterian Women's Spring Bake Sale** is March 27<sup>th</sup> from 10am -6pm. Please make plans to stock up for Easter. Most items will be packaged at \$1 each. Full pies and cakes will also be available. The proceeds are used to support our mission projects including: Mexico Cistern, Send a Kid to Camp (Pinecrest), Rise Against Hunger, Room in the Inn, and Church Health Center.

**Maundy Thursday Dinner & Worship** March 28<sup>th</sup>. Dinner will be at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall and Worship in the Sanctuary at 7pm. Dinner is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children (under 12) with \$30 family maximum. Roast Beef and Potatoes will be served.

**Smoked Pork BBQ Fundraiser** The Men of Farmington Presbyterian are smoking pork BBQ to support Rise Against Hunger. \$40 per order (approx. 3 lbs) Pickup date is March 30<sup>th</sup> from 10-11am. Place your order now by emailing [church@farmingtonpres.org](mailto:church@farmingtonpres.org). The order deadline is March 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Easter Egg Hunt** March 30<sup>th</sup>, 10am beginning in the Sanctuary. There will be an Easter Story, egg hunt, crafts and snacks, and pictures with the Easter Bunny. If you would like to help out during the hunt, please email [church@farmingtonpres.org](mailto:church@farmingtonpres.org).

**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 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](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 received a thank you note from First Presbyterian Church of Memphis's Love Your Neighbor Committee for the

\$1235 raised by our Souper Bowl Chili Fundraiser. “Thank you for purchasing chili, encouraging your family and friends to purchase chili, and for giving to the First Presbyterian Church Soup Kitchen! Your gifts make a difference to our neighbors in need!”

**Remember in Prayer...**Our Farmington Family, Session and Staff; Jackie Baker, Barbara Beard, Kevin Beard, 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, Bill Jones, Bill Knight, Carol Lovell, Dawn McKenzie, Faye McKenzie, Sara Millar, Kathryn Moots Newhouse, Susan Odom, Tim Oehlert, Nancy & Dennis Palmer, Sarah Pointer, Pat Register, Bill Renfrow, Jack Scherer, JoAnne Simpkins, Williams Stevens, Kathy VanderEcken, Jim Waller, Kasi Wann, Barb Warvel, Frank Whited, Faye Woods, and from our Presbytery: Collierville Presbyterian Church, Collierville, TN.

**Sympathies...**to the family and friends of Gene King, father of Paul King and to the family and friends of Bob Applewhite, brother of Catherine Johnson.

**FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

8245 Farmington Blvd.

Germantown, TN 38139

901-754-2794 [www.farmingtonpres.org](http://www.farmingtonpres.org)