



FARMINGTON
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Service of
Lessons and Carols*



FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP
Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 18, 2022

Worship Online at 11:00am Sunday Mornings

www.farmingtonpres.org

Click "Worship Together"

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

O Holy God, we need this story: this story of hope for the future, regardless of our past; this story of not being alone in our fears; this story of ordinary people making courageous decisions; this story of love that changed the world. So, we are gathered here to hear the truth that lies deep in these holy words and to join our voices with the angel choruses that proclaimed your birth. May we know that there is room for every story and make space in our lives for love to be born. Draw close, Emmanuel, teach us your ways that we may walk in your paths. Amen.

WELCOME

PRELUDE “Angels We Have Heard on High” Michael Helman

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH†

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN— No. 140 “Once in Royal David’s City”

Chancel Choir

Once in royal David’s city stood a lowly cattle shed, where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed: Mary was that mother mild; Jesus Christ, her little child.

Congregation joins in singing verses 2, 3, & 4.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all, and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall; with the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

Jesus is our childhood’s pattern; day by day like us he grew; he was little, weak and helpless; tears and smiles like us he

knew; and he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love; for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above; and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

(Please be seated.)

THE FIRST LESSON

John 1:1-14

Rev. Rebecca Luter

CAROL "People Look East"

Besoncon Carol

People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth, and set the table. People, look east, and sing today: Love, the Guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there. Give us your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish. People, look east, and sing today: Love, the Rose, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim, shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together. People, look east, and sing today: Love, the Star, is on the way.

Angels, announce to man and beast Him who cometh from the East. Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming. People, look east, and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

THE SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 8:7-13

Susan Bryant

*HYMN—No. 108 "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

Verses 1-4

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.

O, that birth forever blessed when the Virgin, full of grace, by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race, and the babe, the world's Redeemer, first revealed his sacred face, evermore and evermore! Amen.

**This is he whom seers in old time chanted of with one accord,
whom the voices of the prophets promised in their faithful
word. Now he shines, the long-expected. Let creation praise
its Lord, evermore and evermore! Amen.**

THE THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Jamie Jameson

CAROL "Before the Marvel of This Night"

Carl Schalk

Before the marvel of this night, adoring, fold your wings and bow;
then tear the sky apart with light, and with your news the world
endow. Proclaim the birth of Christ and peace, that fear and death
and sorrow cease: sing peace, sing gift of peace!

Awake the sleeping world with song: this is the day the Lord has
made. Assemble here, celestial throng, in royal splendor come
arrayed. Give earth a glimpse of heavenly bliss, a teasing taste of
what they miss: Sing bliss, sing endless bliss!

The love that we have always known, our constant joy and endless
light, now to the loveless world be shown, now break upon its
deathly night. Into one song compress the love, that rules above:
Sing love, sing God is love! (Jaroslav J. Vajda)

THE FOURTH LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

Ann Erickson

CAROL "The Holly and the Ivy"

Traditional English Carol

The holly and the ivy, when they are both full grown, Of all the
trees that are in the wood, the holly bears the crown. The rising of
the sun and the running of the deer. The playing of the merry
organ, sweet singing in the choir.

The holly bears a blossom as white as the lily flower, and Mary
bore sweet Jesus Christ to be our sweet Savior. The rising of the
sun and the running of the deer. The playing of the merry organ,
sweet singing in the choir.

The holly bears a berry as red as any blood, and Mary bore sweet
Jesus Christ to do us sinners good. The holly bears a bark as bitter
as any gall, and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ on Christmas Day in
the morn. The rising of the sun and the running of the deer. The
playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir.

THE FIFTH LESSON

Luke 2:1, 3-7

Shelley Wann

CAROL "Some Children See Him"

Alfred Burt/Wihla Hutson

Rebecca Hutchins, soprano

Some children see Him lily white, the baby Jesus born this night.
Some children see Him lily white, with tresses soft and fair. Some

children see Him bronzed and brown, the Lord of heav'n to earth
come down; Some children see Him bronzed and brown, with dark
and heavy hair. Some love that's born tonight!

Some children see Him almond eyed, this Saviour whom we kneel
beside, Some children see Him almond eyed, with skin of yellow
hue. Some children see Him dark as they, sweet Mary's Son to
whom we pray; Some children see Him dark as they, and ah! They
love him too!

Some children in each different place will see the Baby Jesus' face
Like theirs, but bright with heav'nly grace and filled with holly light.
O lay aside each earthly thing, and with thy heart as offering, Come
worship now the Infant King, 'tis love that's born tonight!

THROUGH CHILDREN'S EYES

Liv Palmer

All children are invited to come to the Chancel steps.

Afterward, young children may return to their seat.

Worship bags are available beside the entrance to the Sanctuary.

THE SIXTH LESSON

I John 3:1-3, 16-20

Roland Mittag

*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!**

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.**

THE SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-16

Jim Thrash

CAROL “See, Amid the Winter’s Snow” John Goss/Dan Forrest
Dr. William Compton, tenor

See, amid the winter’s snow Born for us on earth below,
See, the tender Lamb appears, promised from eternal years.
Hail, thou ever blessed morn, Hail redemption’s happy dawn,
Sing through all Jerusalem: “Christ is born in Bethlehem.”

Lo, within a manger lies He who built the lofty skies,
He, who, throned in light sublime, sits amid the cherubim.
Hail thou ever blessed morn, Hail redemption’s dawn.
Sing throughout Jerusalem, “Christ is born in Bethlehem.”

Sacred infant, all divine, what a tender love was thine,
Thus to come from highest bliss, down to such a world as this.
Hail, thou ever blessed morn, Hail redemption’s happy dawn,
Sing through all Jerusalem: “Christ is born in Bethlehem.”
Alleluia!

THE EIGHTH LESSON Matthew 2:1-12 Rachel Barr

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM “A Christmas Gloria!” Timothy Shaw

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

Holy God, we tell the old, old story of your love, born in a
humble cattle stall to uncertain parents passing it on from
generation to generation, like a tapestry woven throughout
time, with room for every story. Without fail, it continues to
change us, to calm our fears and offer hope, to expand our
love. This day we give thanks for the ways your work is
unfolding in and through us, even now. Use us and our
resources to bring the news of great joy to the world. Amen.

*HYMN – No. 133 “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!

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

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

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE “Unto Us a Son Is Born”

Christopher Tambling

*Stand as able.

Bold Type – congregation in unison

†Prayers by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed, A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org.

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THIS SERVICE IS BEING LIVE-STREAMED
AND RECORDED. ATTENDEES
IMPLICITLY AGREE THAT THEY, AND
ANY CHILDREN ACCOMPANYING
THEM, MAY BE ON CAMERA.

Participating in the service today:

Rev. Rebecca Luter, Pastor
Doug Barr, Director of Christian Education
Jim Thrash, Director of Music
Tom Bryant, Accompanist
Rev. Ruth Lovell Bradham, Liturgist
Liv Palmer, Children's Moment
Elizabeth Demaree and Ann Erickson, Ushers
Abigail Palmer, Acolyte
Chancel Choir
Rebecca Hutchins, soprano solo
Dr. William Compton, tenor solo
Readers:

Rev. Rebecca Luter, Susan Bryant, Jamie Jameson, Ann Erickson,
Shelley Wann, Roland Mittag, Jim Thrash, Rachel Barr

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