



FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 25, 2024

Worship Online at 11:00am Sunday Mornings

www.farmingtonpres.org

Click "Worship Together"

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Holy God, may I allow the message of Christ, in all its richness, to live in me and completely fill my life. May we teach and instruct one another with all wisdom. May our singing of psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs be inspired by the Spirit, so that grace sings in our hearts. Whatever I do, whether it is word or action, may I do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus. Amen.

WELCOME

PRELUDE "Allemande in G Major"

Bach

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather to hear God speak.

We come seeking God's direction for our lives.

How does God speak? How can we understand God's guidance for our lives?

God speaks in many ways!

The vastness of God's glory is written across the dark sky on a clear night.

The wisdom of God's order is displayed in relationships of trust and respect.

The depth of God's loving power is definitively spoken in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

So, as we come, we open ourselves to the teaching of Jesus.

The way of the cross sounds absurd to those who are committed to listening to what the world says is wisdom and what the world says is strength,

But to those who are listening, God reveals true wisdom and strength and invites us to follow Jesus, who shows us the way, the truth, and the life God intends.

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN - No. 450 “Be Thou My Vision”**

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art; thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord; thou my soul’s shelter, and thou my high tower; raise thou me heaven-ward, O Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise; thou mine inheritance, now and always; thou and thou only, first in my heart, High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of Heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven’s joys, O bright heaven’s Sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

(Please be seated.)

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

The nature of the Lord our God is mercy, God is ready to forgive us if we are ready to admit our faults and change our ways. Therefore, let us honestly confess our sins and open our hearts to the healing of God’s forgiveness as we pray together:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION[†]

God, my Creator, you asked for my hands, that you might use them for your purpose. I gave them for a moment, then withdrew them, for the work was hard. You asked for my mouth, to speak out against injustice. I gave you a whisper that I might not be accused. You asked for my eyes, to see the pain of poverty. I closed them, for I did not want to see. You asked for my life, that you might work through me. I gave a small part, that I might not get too involved. God, my Redeemer, forgive my calculated efforts to serve you—only when it is convenient for me to do so, only in those places where it is safe to do so, and only with those who make it easy to do so. God, my Sustainer, forgive me, renew me, send me out as a usable instrument, that I might take seriously the meaning of your cross.

(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

**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

from The Iona Creed

We believe that God is present
in the darkness before dawn;
**in the waiting and uncertainty
where fear and courage join hands,**
conflict and caring link arms,
and the sun rises over barbed wire.

**We believe in a with-us God
who sits down in our midst
to share our humanity.**

We affirm a faith
that takes us beyond a safe place:
into action, into vulnerability,
and onto the streets.

**We commit ourselves to work for change
and put ourselves on the line;
to bear responsibility, take risks,
live powerfully,
and face humiliation;
to stand with those on the edge;
to choose life and be used by the Spirit
for God's new community of hope.**

THROUGH CHILDREN'S EYES

Laurinda Ingram

*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

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, O God, in the reading of your
Word, that we would have the same mind that was in Christ Jesus,
who humbled himself for our sake and for the sake of this world.

Give us ears to hear and hearts to respond so that your kingdom might come through us. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 5:17-48

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

“You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell.

“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

“Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still together on the way, or your adversary may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.

“It has been said, ‘Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.’ But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, makes her the victim of adultery, and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

“Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘Do not break your oath, but fulfill to the Lord the vows you have made.’ But I tell you, do not swear an oath at all: either by heaven, for it is God’s throne; or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. All you need to say is simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’ But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

RESPONSE TO THE WORD “On Christ the Solid Rock”

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand.

SERMON “Shifting the Focus”

Rev. Rebecca Luter

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.

RESPOND TO GOD

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

We offer God our gifts in gratitude and hope, thankful for God's blessings and hopeful that God will use these gifts and our lives to bless others.

Would the ushers please come forward? For those worshiping at home, you are invited to offer your gifts to God by clicking "Offering" on our website.

OFFERTORY

David Hogan

"Lord, Keep us Steadfast in your Word"

Lord, keep us steadfast in your Word; curb those who by deceit or sword would wrest the kingdom from your Son and bring to naught all he has done.

O Jesus Christ, your power make known, for you are Lord of Lords alone; defend your holy Church, that we may sing your praise triumphantly.

O Comforter of priceless worth, send peace and unity on earth; support us in our final strife and lead us out of death to life.

*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 Grace, you have abundantly blessed us that we might be a blessing. May this offering of our life and labor reveal your love. Give us wisdom for the right use of all you have provided, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*HYMN - No. 460 "Break Thou the Bread of Life"

Break thou the bread of life, dear Lord, to me, as thou didst break the loaves beside the sea. Beyond the sacred page I seek thee, Lord. My spirit pants for thee, O living Word!

Bless thou the truth, dear Lord, now unto me, as thou didst bless the bread by Galilee. Then shall all bondage cease, all fetters fall. And I shall find my peace, my all in all.

*BENEDICTION

*SENDING FORTH HYMN - No. 765

"May the God of Hope Go with Us"

May the God of hope go with us every day, filling all our lives with love and joy and peace. May the God of justice speed us on our way, bringing light and hope to every land and race. Praying, let us work for peace; singing, share our joy with all; working for a world that's new, faithful when we hear Christ's call.

*POSTLUDE "Fanfare"

Eric Thiman

*Stand as able.

Bold Type – congregation in unison

† Prayer of Confession adapted from The Worship Sourcebook, ©2004, Faith Alive Christian Resources

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Participating in the service today:

Rev. Rebecca Luter, Pastor
Davis Howe, Interim Youth Director
Jim Thrash, Director of Music
Tom Bryant, Accompanist
Susan Bryant, Liturgist
Laurinda Ingram, Children's Moment
Melissa Still and Kasi Wann, Ushers
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

Youth Sunday School It's time to get together! We will have donuts at 10am in the Youth Room and meet our new Interim Youth Director, Davis Howe. Davis is a life-long Presbyterian, has served on staff for Pinecrest since Summer of 2013, is a graduate of MUS and UofM, participated in the PCUSA's Young Adult Volunteer program, and has recently completed writing his first novel. Davis has 10+ years of experience as a youth leader, and we are excited to welcome him to the Farmington family.

Flowers this morning are given to the glory of God by Shelley Wann in honor of Farmington Presbyterian Church and Farmington Presbyterian Day School.

Fellowship Coffee today, Sunday, August 25th. Please sign up to host Fellowship Coffee on our website to provide refreshments following worship, www.farmingtonpres.org Please keep it simple-something sweet and something salty.

This Week

First Presbyterian Soup Kitchen offers bologna sandwiches to those who come to their doors hungry. They emailed to let us know that they have had so many people come hungry that they have run out of sandwiches. We will be taking sandwiches to First Presbyterian on Wednesday, August 28th. You can bring your bologna, American cheese slices, and white bread to church on Sunday, August 25th at 10am to assemble in the kitchen; or you can bring your pre-made sandwiches in individual sandwich bags to the church and place them in the church freezer by Tuesday, August 27th.

Next Sunday – No Sunday School or Potluck – Happy Labor Day!

Sunday School Classes

Romans 12 Bible Study Cooper Patterson will be leading a bible study on the book of Romans 12 in the Fellowship Hall from 9:30-10:30am.

Children's Sunday School Children meet at 10am in A6. This fall, all children 5th grade and under are invited to discover how to live a life full of blessings – even when things get tough – as we study Jesus's Sermon on the Mount.

Blessed Are You Rev. Rebecca Luter will be facilitating a study of The Beatitudes in the East Room from 10am-11:45am on Sunday mornings. These are the questions that will guide our discussions: How is Jesus teaching us to live? What does he mean, and what is he promising? Who lives that way? Do we? Do we want to? So, what does that look like?

Announcements

First Wednesdays @ FPC This fall, we will be having Wednesday Night Dinner and Devotion on the 1st Wednesday evening of the month. Dinner will be at 6pm with Devotion in the Sanctuary at 6:45pm. Mark your calendars now for September 4, October 2, November 6, and December 4. We will also have Thanksgiving Dinner and Worship on Wednesday, November 20. The cost for dinner will be \$10 for adults and \$5 for children (under 12) with \$30 family maximum.

Presbyterian Women Potluck Salad Dinner Wednesday, September 25, at 5pm at the home of Ann Erickson.

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.

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.

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...Renee Abel joined our staff as Administrative Assistant. She will be working Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9am-4pm. Her email is renee@farmingtonpres.org. Shelley Wann will be leaving her position on staff on August 28th. We will have a reception following worship on September 8th to express our thanks to Shelley for her dedicated service to the church as a staff member and well-wishes for her focus on her family at this time.

Remember in Prayer...Our Farmington Family, Session and Staff; Greta Alera, Jackie Baker, Kevin Beard, Betty Boyd, Jeanne Carr, Judith Cassidy, Mary Lou Collins, Joe Gaul, Bill Harrington, Martha Hart, Robert Herring, Vanessa Howard, Bill Jones, Peter Kendall, Bill Knight, Carol Lovell, Faye McKenzie, Sara Millar, Stan Neighbors, Kathryn Moots Newhouse, Nancy & Dennis

Palmer, Pat Register, Bill Renfrow, Jack Scherer, JoAnne Simpkins, Williams Stevens, Kathy VanderEcken, Kasi Wann, Frank Whited, Reggie & Pam Wilson, and from our Presbytery: Kerrville Presbyterian Church, Millington, TN.

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Germantown, TN 38139

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