



**FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP  
Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost  
November 17, 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

Bless us, O God, with a reverent sense of your presence, that we may be at peace and may worship you with all our mind and spirit. Grant that the Word you speak this day may take root in our hearts and bear fruit to your honor and glory, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

WELCOME

PRELUDE "His Eye is On the Sparrow"

C.H. Gabriel

\*CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>†</sup>

from Psalm 146

I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

**Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help. Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God.**

The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.

**The Lord watches over the strangers; the Lord upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.**

I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

\*HYMN OF PRAISE – No. 35 “Praise to the Lord the Almighty”

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation! All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near; join me in glad adoration!

Praise ye the Lord, who o’er all things so wondrously reigneth, shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth! Hast thou not seen how thy desires e’er have been granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him! All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him! Let the amen sound from the people again; gladly for aye we adore him.

*(Please be seated.)*

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy, triune God, we confess that we have not lived for your glory. You call us to love and serve you, but we do not. You offer us restoration in Christ, but we make choices contrary to your purposes, refuse to live by your guidance, and fail to trust that your ways are for our good. Forgive us, God of grace. Give us the will through your Holy Spirit to turn from our selfishness and trust you alone for our lives. Reveal the treasure of life abundant found in loving you, O God, above all. Shine the splendor of your presence into the shadows of our fragile human hearts, so that we may become like Christ, beacons of justice and defenders of righteousness.

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 belong to God, creator of all that is and all that is to come, abundant provider of the gifts in this life and the gifts in our own hearts. It is God alone who gives life, who is generous beyond measure with grace and blessing.

We follow Christ, whom God sent to teach and heal, to show us a new way of living, with love and trust and courage, with joy and generosity. In this faith Jesus gave of himself, even his very life. He was crucified and buried; yet God raised him from death, and he lives among us, and grants his spirit to us.

We live by that Holy Spirit, and entrust ourselves to its guidance and empowerment. As members of the church, the Body of Christ, we devote ourselves to lives of love, rejoicing in the power of forgiveness, the reality of resurrection, and the mystery of eternal life. Amen.

THROUGH CHILDREN'S EYES

Shelley Wann

*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 127:1-2

Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain. In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat—for even while they sleep, he provides for those he loves.

This is the Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

MEDITATION ON THE WORD<sup>†</sup>

Only if God is at the center of your work  
does it achieve anything.

Only if God is your security  
are you truly secure.

You work so hard, up early, up late,  
surviving on the junk food of busyness,  
all for nothing.

Beloved, you can't earn your worth.

God gives you the gift of rest.

The love you issue into the world  
is a gift from God to you, and to the world.

The people you have loved—  
there's your reward.

Happy the one whose life is full of them.

It's what puts to rest all your failures.

As he taught, Jesus said, “Watch out for the teachers of the law. They like to walk around in flowing robes and be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets. They devour widows’ houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. These men will be punished most severely.”

Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents.

Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.”

As Jesus was leaving the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher! What massive stones! What magnificent buildings!” “Do you see all these great buildings?” replied Jesus. “Not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down.”

This is the Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

RESPONSE TO THE WORD “For the Beauty of the Earth”

**For your Word to light our way, for the hope to us it brings,  
For the ways your wisdom leads daily lives as offerings,  
Lord of all to Thee we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.**

SERMON “The Heart of the Matter”

Rev. Rebecca Luter

SHARING PRAYER CONCERNS

*Please remember those on our prayer list.*

CENTERING HYMN – “Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM “Anthem of Fellowship” Althouse  
To God above our voices raise; to thee alone give thanks and praise. Where'er we seek thee, thou art found. Let anthems now resound. Here in our waiting hearts proclaim the blessing of thy holy name. We pray that our redeeming Lord may ever be adored. We share thy love and compassion. We sing with one accord. In fellowship we stand as one to praise the heavenly Lord. All praise to God who reigns above, who joins us with His grace and love. And in His service may we be throughout eternity.

### \*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

**Generous God, cheerfully and joyously, we offer these gifts and our lives to you. You have poured blessings in our lives without restraint and have called us to bless others in your name. We rejoice that you are able to take what we offer of our time, talents, gifts, and service to further your kingdom. Amen.**

### \*HYMN - No. 39 “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

**Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with thee. Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not. As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.**

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning, new mercies I see.*

*All I have needed thy hand hath provided. Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!*

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. *Refrain*

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide, strength for today and bright**

hope for tomorrow: blessings all mine, with ten thousand  
beside! *Refrain*

\*CHARGE AND BLESSING

\*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

Handel

“Minuet in D Major (from the Fireworks Music)” Handel

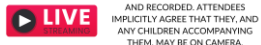
\*Stand as able.

**Bold Type** – congregation in unison

†Call to Worship written by Teri McDowell Ott, © Presbyterian  
Outlook, 2024.

†Affirmation of Faith and Meditation on the Word by Rev. Steve  
Garnaas-Holmes.

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### **Participating in the service today:**

Rev. Rebecca Luter, Pastor

Jim Thrash, Director of Music

Tom Bryant, Accompanist

Davis Howe, Interim Youth Director

Rev. Ruth Lovell Bradham, Liturgist

Shelley Wann, Children’s Moment

Bo Bradham and Roland Mittag, Ushers

# 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 in celebration of the birthdays of Chris, Nic, & Lizzie Luter, Dee Scobey and Cooper Patterson by Kay Patterson.

**Fellowship Coffee** immediately following worship today, November 17th is hosted by Scott and Becky Hutchins. 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.

**Youth Fellowship** Each Sunday evening the youth meet from 5:30-7:30pm for a time of fellowship, games, faith-building, and food. Friends are welcome!

### This Week

**Thanksgiving Dinner and Worship** Wednesday evening, November 20, the Farmington family will gather for a full, traditional Thanksgiving feast and to worship. Dinner is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children (under 12) with \$30 family maximum and will be served buffet-style at 6pm with a Service of Gratitude in the Sanctuary at 6:45pm. Please email the church office to make reservations, [church@farmingtonpres.org](mailto:church@farmingtonpres.org).

## Sunday School Classes

**Children's Sunday School** Children meet at 10am in A6. This fall, all children 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Youth Sunday School** Youth (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades) meet in the Youth Room at 10am. What's in a logo? What do our faith symbols mean? Join us as we discover the Biblical foundation of the Presbyterian cross.

**Blessed Are You** Rev. Rebecca Luter will be facilitating a study of The Beatitudes in the East Room from 10am-10:45am 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?

**The Life You've Always Wanted** by John Ortberg A new study facilitated by Cooper Patterson will begin on October 13<sup>th</sup> in Fellowship Hall at 9:30am. If you have not been in an adult Sunday School class in the past, consider attending!

## Coming Up

**Pinecrest Thanksgiving Lunch** Enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving meal on November 28 at Pinecrest. \$25/adult, \$15 kids 4-9, under 4 are free. RSVP by November 18 to [amanda@camppinecrest.org](mailto:amanda@camppinecrest.org).

**Hanging of the Green** Following worship on November 24<sup>th</sup>, we will enjoy lunch together and decorate the church for Advent and Christmas. There are ways for everyone to assist from climbing ladders to fluffing greenery! Make plans to be part of this festive time with your Farmington family.

**Room in the Inn** Farmington Presbyterian will be hosting again on December 21 at The Cottage at Germantown United Methodist Church. This ministry provides housing for homeless persons. Each time we host, a group of people prepare a meal for the evening: a casserole or meat, side(s), salad, bread, and dessert. The meal should serve 22 adults. A group of 6-8 people host our guests by setting up at 5pm and welcoming the guests at 6pm. We eat together and visit or play games until 9:30pm. At 9pm, 2 overnight shepherds arrive to spend the night, prepare coffee and a to-go breakfast, and do light clean-up after the guests depart at 6am. After we host, 2 laundry angels volunteer to launder the sheets, pillow cases, and blankets after we host our guests. This is a great way for someone who cannot be there in the evenings to still be a part of this ministry. The sign-up is on the website.

## Announcements

**Poinsettias** The sanctuary will be decorated with poinsettias this Advent season. Please consider honoring or remembering a loved one. Poinsettias are \$12 each. Email [church@farmingtonpres.org](mailto:church@farmingtonpres.org) with your information and how many.



**Christmas Cards** that benefit Rise Against Hunger are available for \$10 each, or for \$15 each they will be addressed for you! They will be sold after worship November 17-December 8.

**Pinecrest Cinnamon Roll Bake Sale** Purchase Pinecrest's famous cinnamon rolls for \$15/pan. They will be delivered frozen and packaged for gifting on December 13. Email [amanda@camppinecrest.org](mailto:amanda@camppinecrest.org).

**Advent Wreath Lighting** Your family is invited to participate in worship by lighting the Advent Wreath. Each year, we mark the weeks until Christmas by lighting the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love in anticipation of lighting the Christ Candle on Christmas Eve. Please let Rev. Rebecca know that you would like to light the candles and which Sunday(s) you are available: December 1, 8, 15, 22, 24 at 5pm, and 29.

**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.

**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.

**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...**Farmington Presbyterian Day School received our licensing score and our Annual Quality Rating is 99/100. Congratulations to our teachers, staff, and administration. Well done!

**Remember in Prayer...**Our Farmington Family, Session and Staff; Luv Bacerra, Jackie Baker, Kevin Beard, Betty Boyd, Rev. Margaret Burnett, Jeanne Carr, Judith Cassidy, Mary Lou Collins, Pat Rush Davis, Joe Gaul, Bill Harrington, Martha Hart, Robert Herring, Chris and Sabrina Johnson, Bill Jones, Bill Knight, Ches Latham, Annette Main, Faye McKenzie, Sara Millar, Steve Moots, Stan Neighbors, Nancy & Dennis Palmer, Pat Register, Bill Renfrow, Jack Scherer, Pat Sherman, JoAnne Simpkins, William Stevens, Jon Still, B.J. Tanner, Jerry Trimble, Kathy VanderEcken, Kasi Wann, Gary Weeden, Frank Whited, Nathan Williams and from our Presbytery: Cistern Project/Clear Water for the World.

**Sympathies...**to the family and friends of Rob Schneider, brother of Mike Schneider; to the family and friends of Kathryn Moots Newhouse, mother of Tom Moots; to the family and friends of Blake Rhea, friend of Gretchen; and to the family and friends of Don Boyd, friend of Polly Knight.

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