



**FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP**

**First Sunday of Advent
December 1, 2024**

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Worship Online at 11:00am Sunday Mornings

www.farmingtonpres.org

Click "Worship Together"

PRAYER OF PREPARATION[†]

Holy God, we hear your promise through the Prophet Isaiah, "Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert" and again in the Revelation to John, "Behold, I am making all things new. These words are trustworthy and true. It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life."

In this season of Advent, help us receive your hope as we celebrate the beautiful new beginning offered in Christ's birth. May your steadfast, steady and strengthening love be our companion, reminding us who we are and whose we are and wrapping around us with comfort, encouragement, challenge, and transformation. Amen.

WELCOME

PRELUDE "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

Picardy

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

God says, "Do not be afraid."

God says, "I have called you by name."

God says, "I will be with you."

God says, "You are precious and honored in my sight."

At the beginning of this season,

May we wrap ourselves in these words.

*HYMN OF PRAISE – No. 82 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in
thee. Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth
thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing
heart.**

**Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king, born
to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring. By
thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine
all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.**

(Please be seated.)

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God, your first words to creation were words of delight.
You saw what you created and said, “It is good.” You spoke
affirmations through the prophets. You spoke blessings to
Mary. You spoke love through Christ. Throughout history,
you have reiterated that we are a blessing, reverently and
wonderfully made in your image, and you have declared us
“Very Good”.**

**Forgive us for forgetting this truth. Forgive us for measuring
our worth by society’s measuring stick instead of yours. We
believe. Help our unbelief.**

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 Jesus Christ, born to us all so long ago in
Bethlehem of Judea.**

**We believe in Him whose birth glorified Bethlehem, but for
whom there was no room in the inn.**

**We believe in Him whose guiding star can bring together the
humble and wise everywhere.**

We believe in Him who walked among the common people, and was welcomeded by those with open minds and yearning hearts.

We believe in Him whose life changed the course of history, over whom kings had no power, whose life humbled the proud, toppled the mighty, and elevated those of low degree.

We believe in Him whose love changed human hearts, and whose life and death on the cross proved that it is more important to serve than to be served.

We believe in Him who is the Prince of Peace, whose spirit makes for justice and peace among all peoples.

We believe in Him who is Emmanuel, whose presence changes the world through the power of love, faith and hope.

THROUGH CHILDREN'S EYES

Sharaze Colley

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

Isaiah 43:1-7

But now, this is what the Lord says—he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel:

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I give Egypt for your ransom, Cush and Seba in your stead. Since you are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you, I will give people in exchange for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west. I will say to the north, ‘Give them up!’ and to the south, ‘Do not hold them back.’ Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth—everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail."

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

RESPONSE TO THE WORD (Tune: Once in Royal David's City)

**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

You Are a Blessing, Rev. Rebecca Luter
Created for God's Glory

SHARING PRAYER CONCERNS

Please remember those on our prayer list.

CENTERING HYMN – "For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

RESPOND TO GOD

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Ilace Mears, Dulcimer

You have turned my mourning into dancing; you cast off my sadness and clothed me with joy!

Rejoice, O Daughter Zion, and sing! The Lord is in your midst, a great defender who saves. O rejoice and sing!

Rejoice, O Daughter Zion, and sing! The Lord is with you. The Lord shall be your strength. O rejoice and sing a new song! The Lord shall embrace you and bring you home, and restore you with a song!

*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

Nurturing God, you love us more than we love ourselves. You believe in us more than we believe in ourselves. We recognize that we have been blessed with great abundance. We offer these gifts and our lives as an expression of our love and faith in the name of the One born to save us, Jesus, the Messiah. Amen.

THE INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise...

SUNG RESPONSES – No. 552, 553, & 554

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. 94 “Now the Heavens Start to Whisper”

Now the heavens start to whisper, as the veil is growing thin.
Earth from slumber wakes to listen to the stirring, faint
within: seed of promise, deeply planted, child to spring from
Jesse's stem! Like the soil beneath the frostline, hearts grow
soft to welcome him.

Heavy clouds that block the moonlight now begin to drift
away. Diamond brilliance through the darkness shines the
hope of coming day. Christ, the morning star of splendor,
gleams within a world grown dim. Heaven's ember fans to
fullness; hearts grow warm to welcome him.

Christ, eternal Sun of justice, Christ, the rose of wisdom's
seed, come to bless with fire and fragrance hours of yearning,
hurt, and need. In the lonely, in the stranger, in the outcast,
hid from view: child who comes to grace the manger, teach
our hearts to welcome you.

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*SENDING FORTH HYMN - No. 77

“Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old”

Isaiah the prophet has written of old how God's new creation
shall come. Instead of the thorn tree, the fir tree shall grow;
the wolf shall lie down with the lamb. The mountains and
hills shall burst forth into song, the peoples be led forth in
peace, for the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of God
as the waters cover the sea.

Yet nations still prey on the meek of the world, and conflict
turns parent from child. Your people despoil all the sweetness
of earth; the briar and the thorn tree grow wild. God, bring to
fruition your will for the earth, that no one shall hurt or
destroy, That wisdom and justice shall reign in the land and
your people shall go forth in joy.

*POSTLUDE “Come Now Savior of the Gentiles”

J.S. Bach

*Stand as able.

Bold Type – congregation in unison

†Liturgy throughout Advent is adapted from prayers by Rev. Sarah
(Are) Speed, A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org.

Reprinted with permission under One License #731533-A and CCLI
#1162543-A. All rights reserved.

Participating in the service today:

Rev. Rebecca Luter, Pastor
Jim Thrash, Director of Music
Tom Bryant, Accompanist
Ilace Mears, Dulcimer
Davis Howe, Interim Youth Director
Charlie Smithers, Liturgist
Sharaze Colley, Children's Moment
Tom and Stephanie Nagel, Ushers
Cooper Patterson, Bob Plotner, Jerry Renfrow,
Charlie Smithers, and Sandy Wann, Communion Servers



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 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! Join us tonight as we decorate the Youth Room for Christmas.

Sunday School Classes

Children's Sunday School Children meet at 10am in A6. Each week of Advent our class will listen to a short story based on the Scripture for worship for the day and engage in a related activity.

Youth Sunday School Youth (6th-12th grades) meet in the Youth Room at 10am. Join us as we reflect on the theme for worship each week of Advent.

Adult Sunday School Rev. Rebecca Luter will be facilitating an opportunity to reflect on the theme for worship each week through art and Scripture study. All are welcome; no preparation necessary. Meet at 10am in the East Room.

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

This Week

First Wednesdays @ FPC Wednesday, December 4, is Wednesday Night Dinner with Christmas Carols by Request. Dinner will be at 6pm with Tom Bryant playing our Christmas Carol requests in the Sanctuary at 6:45pm. The menu is Baked Spaghetti Pie, salad and garlic bread. The cost for dinner is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children (under 12) with \$30 family maximum. Please email the church office to make reservations, church@farmingtonpres.org.

Caroling Caravan Hop on the bus or follow in your own car as we stop by and bring Christmas cheer to our members with limited mobility. Meet in the back parking lot on Sunday afternoon, December 8th at 2pm.

Coming Up

PW Bake Sale and Christmas Market If you like to bake, please consider offering your gifts to ensure we have plenty of individually wrapped goodies! Each year, the PW Bake Sales fund our mission giving. You may drop off your baked goods any time Tuesday, December 10 or before 10am on Wednesday, December 11. This year we are also partnering with Shady Grove Pres's Mustard Seed Shop to offer fair trade items for purchase from around the world. Mark your calendars now to come shop on Wednesday, December 11, 10am-6pm.

Advent Service of Wholeness This quiet service provides space for those who are not "holly jolly" this Advent season. "God with us" is promised even in our pain. Each year, the lighting of candles and praying for our loved ones is a moving experience.

Lessons & Carols and Christmas Lunch Invite your family and friends to worship with us on Sunday, December 15th, as the Chancel Choir leads us in this service of Scripture and song. Following the service, we will enjoy a Christmas lunch together in Fellowship Hall. There is no charge for the lunch, and no RSVPs are needed.

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 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@campinecrest.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 8, 15, 22, 24 at 5pm, and 29.

Fellowship Coffee 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.

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 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

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...we enjoyed a delicious lunch and boisterous time of decorating after worship last Sunday. Thank you to all who helped fluff and hang the green and build the shelter for the Outdoor Nativity.

Remember in Prayer...Our Farmington Family, Session and Staff; Luv Bacerra, Jackie Baker, Hank Baron, Kevin Beard, Betty Boyd, Jeanne Carr, Judith Cassidy, Mary Lou Collins, Pat Rush Davis, Mark Fisher, Joe Gaul, Bill Harrington, Martha Hart, Robert Herring, Chris and Sabrina Johnson, Bill Jones, Bill Knight, Leslie Langston, Ches Latham, Annette Main, Faye McKenzie, Sara Millar, Steve Moots, 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: The Presbyterian Church USA/Presbyterian Mission Agency.

Sympathies...to the family and friends of Rev. Margaret Burnett, Pastor of Shady Grove Presbyterian and to the family and friends of Linda Hawkins, friend of Paula Gale.

FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
8245 Farmington Blvd.
Germantown, TN 38139
901-754-2794 www.farmingtonpres.org