

FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
LESSONS AND CAROLS 2024

LOVE KNOWS  
*your name*





**FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**  
**December 15, 2024**

Worship Online at 11:00am Sunday Mornings

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

Click "Worship Together"

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Eternal God, hear us as we offer you praise and thanksgiving, confession and lament, prayers and petitions through the gifts of music and song. Enable us to sing with one voice as your gathered people and to join in harmony with all who worship you. By your grace, may the words and melodies of our worship shape our lives and our faith, carving out space for your love in the center of our beings. So that we might trust and rejoice in the angels' song, "Be not afraid," for "joy to the world, the Lord is come." Amen.

WELCOME

PRELUDE Adagio (from Sonata in B<sup>b</sup>)

Mozart

Eva McPeters with Tom Bryant, Pianists

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Isaiah 35:1-10

Listen—all creation rejoices, can you hear it?

**There is so much noise and chatter, are you sure there is music?**

Listen—the wilderness and desert are breaking out in song, can you hear it?

**It's been so long since we've heard a melody of praise.**

Listen—the crocus blooms with joyful singing, the very mountains join in the refrain. Can you hear it?

**We join our voices in hope, worshipping our God who brings forth a new song in the world.**

\*OPENING PRAYER

**Life-giving God, as we remember your story, we remember our story. For you knit us together in our mothers' wombs, and you**

know our inmost thoughts. Nothing is hidden from you, and we bear your image. In this time of worship we pray that you might cleanse our hearts and restore your image in us. Give us ears to hear the melodies of praise that fill the world around us. And as we remember our story through Scripture and song, teach us to allow our hearts to join in the song of creation and to dance in adoration of your creativity, wonder, and grace.

Forgive us when we have passed by signs of your mercy. Open our eyes to the places where joy is springing up from parched ground. Lead us by your Spirit in pathways of your overflowing peace, hope, and joy. Amen.

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN— No. 119 “Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

**Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king. Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!” Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies; with the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!” *Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”***

**Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord, late in time behold him come, off-spring of the virgin’s womb. Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the incarnate deity, pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel, *Refrain.***

**Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness! Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in His wings. Mild He lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. *Refrain.***

*(Please be seated.)*

THE FIRST LESSON

John 1:1-14

Rev. Rebecca Luter

CAROL “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

Verses 1 & 2

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.

THE SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 8:7-13

Lance Palmer

HYMN – NO. 88 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Verses 1 & 7

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. *Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.***

**O come, desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind; bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven’s peace. *Refrain.***

THE THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Jackie Hall

HYMN – NO. 140

Verses 1-3, choir; \*Verse 4, Congregation  
“Once in Royal David’s City”

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.

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.

*(Please stand as you are able.)*

**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.**

THE FOURTH LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-9

Lizzie Luter

CAROL “All Earth is Hopeful”

arr. David Cherwein

All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last! Furrows lie open for God’s creative task: this, the labor of people who struggle to see how God’s truth and justice set everybody free.

People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell: “A virgin will bear Emmanuel;” she conceived him, “God with us,” our brother, whose birth restores hope and courage to children of this earth.

Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared; new highways opened, new protocols declared. Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace! All clear every gateway, in haste, come out in haste!

We first saw Jesus, a baby in a crib. This same Lord Jesus today has come to live in our world; he is present, in neighbors we see our Jesus is with us and ever sets us free.

THE FIFTH LESSON

Luke 1:26-35, 38

Mike Colley

\*HYMN – NO. 99 “My Soul Gives Glory to My God”

Verses 1, 2, & 5

**My soul gives glory to my God; my heart pours out its praise. God lifted up my lowliness in many marvelous ways.**

**My God has done great things for me: yes, holy is God’s name. All people will declare me blessed, and blessings they shall claim.**

**Praise God, whose loving covenant supports those in distress, remembering past promises with present faithfulness.**

THE SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2:1, 3-7

Ann Erickson

CAROL “The Virgin’s Cradle Song”

Max Reger

Amid the roses Mary sits and rocks her Jesus-child. While amid the tree tops sighs the breeze so warm and mild.

And soft and sweetly sings a bird upon the bough: Ah, baby, dear one, slumber now!

Happy is the laughter, holy is thy silent rest. Lay thy head in slumber, fondly on thy mother’s breast!

THE SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-16

Jim Thrash

CAROL “Pat-a Pan”

arr. Howard Helvey

Willie, take your little drum; with your whistle, Robin, come! When we hear the fife and drum, tu-re-lu-re-lu, pat-a-pat-a-pan, when we hear the music play, Christmas come to us this day.

Thus the men of olden days loved the King of kings to praise: when they hear the fife and drum, tu-re-lu-re-lu, pat-a-pat-a-pan, when they hear the fife and drum, all the children with joy shall come.

God and man are now become more at one than fife and drum. When you hear the fife and drum tu-re-lu-re-lu, pat-a-pat-a-pan, when the music has begun, all the people sing as one.

THE EIGHTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

Susan Bryant

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM “Walk in Light”

Karen Marrolli

And we shall study war no more. Come, O people, O come and walk in the light of the Lord. And we shall walk the paths of peace. Come, O people, O come and walk in the light of the Lord. The night is far spent; the day is at hand. So let us cast off the works of night, so we may wear a Shield of Day. And we shall walk in paths of peace. Come, O people, walk in the light of the Lord evermore and evermore.

\*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

**Emmanuel, shine your light and love upon these gifts and upon us.  
Dedicate them and us to changing the world so that it is more like  
you intend. Show us opportunities to share hope, to establish  
peace, to bring joy, and to express love as we make room in our  
lives for Jesus’s coming even now. Amen.**

THE NINTH LESSON

Mark 1:1-3

Rev. Rebecca Luter

HYMN – No. 152

*Verses 1-2, choir; Verses 3-4, Congregation*

**“What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright”**

What star is this, with beams so bright, more lovely than the noontday  
light? ‘Tis sent to announce a newborn king, glad tidings of our God to  
bring.

‘Tis now fulfilled what God decreed, “From Jacob shall a star proceed”;  
and lo! The eastern sages stand to read in heaven the Lord’s command.

**While outward signs the star displays, an inward light the Lord  
conveys and urges them, with tender might, to seek the giver of  
the light.**

**O Jesus, while the star of grace impels us on to seek your face, let  
not our slothful hearts refuse the guidance of your light to use.**

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.**

\*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 come; very God, begotten not created! *Refrain*

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

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

*Refrain*

\*BENEDICTION

\*RECESSIONAL "Raise a Song of Gladness"

Taize Community

\*POSTLUDE "On This Day Earth Shall Ring"

Gustav Holst

\*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

Eva McPeters, Guest Pianist

Davis Howe, Interim Youth Director

Bonnie Blair and Ann Erickson, Ushers

Chancel Choir

Lizzie Luter, soloist

Readers: Lance Palmer, Jackie Hall, Lizzie Luter, Mike Colley,

Ann Erickson, Jim Thrash, and Susan Bryant



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

**Christmas Lunch** All are invited to enjoy a festive time of fellowship following worship this morning in Fellowship Hall. There is no charge for lunch, and no RSVPs are needed.

**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

**Room in the Inn** Farmington Presbyterian will be hosting again this Saturday, 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.



## Coming Up

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service** will be at 5pm on December 24 in the Sanctuary. If you know someone without a church home, invite them to attend with you.

## 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 (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 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 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!

## Announcements

**Fellowship Coffee** 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.

**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 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.

**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...**the Presbyterian Women's Bake Sale and Artisan Market were a terrific success. Thank you to all who baked and all who helped. Presbyterian Women raised almost \$900 for missions, and over \$700 of goods were purchased, supporting artisans in developing countries with fair compensation for their work.

**Remember in Prayer...**Our Farmington Family, Session and Staff; Luv Bacerra, Jackie Baker, Hank Baron, Kevin Beard, Betty Boyd, Jeanne Carr, Judith Cassidy, Chad Clement, Mary Lou Collins, Mark Fisher, Chelsea Moyer Fitzpatrick, 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, Wayne Renfrow, Katie Robbins, Jack Scherer, Dee Scobey, Pat Sherman, Caitlin Shirazee, JoAnne Simpkins, William Stevens, Jon Still, B.J. Tanner, Jerry Trimble, Kathy VanderEcken, Kasi Wann, Frank Whited, Nathan Williams and from our Presbytery: New Hope Presbyterian Church, McKenzie, TN.

**Sympathies**...to the family and friends of Gary Weeden, father of Kelsey Brewer (FPDS staff), to the family and friends of Terry Conner, father of Katie Blake (former FPDS Staff), to the family and friends of Mike Williams, friend of Melanie Oest and Roland Mittag, and to the family and friends of Rev. Arthur Lodge, retired PC(USA) pastor.

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