



**FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP**

**Baptism of the Lord
January 12, 2025**

Worship Online at 11:00am Sunday Mornings

www.farmingtonpres.org

Click "Worship Together"

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

God of glory and grace, we come before you to worship just as we are, knowing that we can open our hearts to you expectantly, just as those who gathered by the Jordan waited with longing for the One who would bring new life. Like them, we too look for your presence among us.

Even as we wander in wilderness, cleanse us and renew us. At his baptism you revealed Jesus as your beloved Son, help us to follow in his way more closely.

We bring our hopes, our fears, our doubts, and our joys into your holy presence, knowing that you receive us with love. May we come to you with sincerity, humility, and a readiness to be transformed. Fill us with your Spirit, just as you filled Jesus, empowering us to live as your beloved children in this world. Amen.

WELCOME

PRELUDE "Sonata in E-flat Major: Adagio"

Mozart

*CALL TO WORSHIP

based on Psalm 29

Let all creation praise the Lord, who is due the glory of extravagant ceremony and humble deference.

God's presence hovers over all, and is with us even in the deep waters and dark shadows of chaos and evil.

The voice of the Lord rumbles through the wilderness and brings forth life from the womb; the voice of the Lord is heard in blessing and echoes in majestic power through all creation.

The voice of the Lord has called us here to celebrate the mystery and reality that is God's everlasting glory.

God's reign is unending; celebrate God's power and generosity toward all creation and all people.

Give to your people strength, Lord God; bless us with the gift of peace; claim us as your own.

*HYMN OF PRAISE – No. 409 “God is Here!”

God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer, may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.

Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace; here are table, font, and pulpit; here the cross has central place. Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech, here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.

Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold; here as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us as of old. Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore what it means in daily living to believe and to adore.

Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt keep us faithful to the gospel; help us work your purpose out. Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive: we, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!

(Please be seated.)

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, you are the source of all life and call us to love one another. Yet we confess that we often fall short of this calling. We allow fear to limit our compassion. We judge and are indifferent toward those in need. We hold onto what is comfortable instead of acting. Forgive us, God. Pry pride and selfishness from our grasp. Help us embrace the humility and grace that Jesus lived with a heart for justice and a temperament of peace. As we remember Jesus's baptism, may we also hear your voice, calling each of us beloved and filling us with love that overflows into the world.

(A time of silent prayer.)

KYRIE

**Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

THE PROMISES OF BAPTISM

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world? **I do.**

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior, trusting in his grace and love? **I do.**

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love? **I will, with God's help.**

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH[†] The Apostles' Creed (Interpreted)

What do you believe when you confess your faith in "God the Father Almighty"?

That God is a God of love, and that God's love is powerful beyond measure.

What do you affirm when you confess your faith in Jesus Christ as "our Lord"?

That having been raised from the dead he reigns with compassion and justice over all things in heaven and on earth, especially over those who confess him by faith; and that by loving and serving him above all else, we give glory and honor to God.

What do you believe when you confess your faith in the Holy Spirit?

That apart from the Holy Spirit, our Lord can neither be loved, nor known, nor served. The Holy Spirit is the personal bond by which Jesus Christ unites us to himself, the teacher who opens our hearts to Christ, and the comforter who leads us to repentance, empowering us to live in Christ's service.

What do you affirm when you speak of "the life everlasting"?

That communion with Jesus Christ is eternal life itself. In him we were chosen before the foundation of the world. By him the eternal covenant with Israel was taken up, embodied, and fulfilled. To him we are joined by the Holy Spirit through faith, and adopted as children, the sons and daughters of God. Through him we are raised from death to new life. For him we shall live to all eternity.

**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.**

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

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 42:1-9

“Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will bring justice to the nations. He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice; he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth. In his teaching the islands will put their hope.” This is what God the Lord says—the Creator of the heavens, who stretches them out, who spreads out the earth with all that springs from it, who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it: “I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness. “I am the Lord; that is my name! I will not yield my glory to another or my praise to idols. See, the former things have taken place, and new things I declare; before they spring into being I announce them to you.”

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 3:13-17

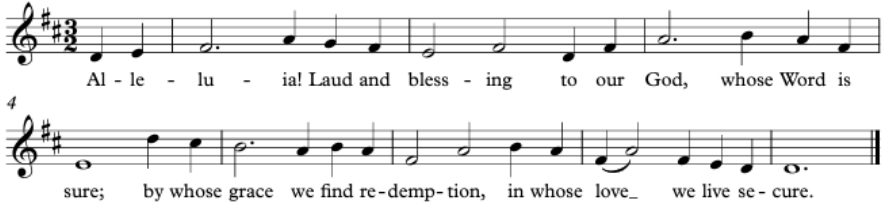
Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John consented. As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice

from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

RESPONSE TO THE WORD



Al - le - lu - ia! Laud and bless - ing to our God, whose Word is
4
sure; by whose grace we find re - demp - tion, in whose love_ we live se - cure.

SERMON “Tap Water and Holy Spirit”

Rev. Rebecca Luter

RESPOND TO GOD

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.

COMMISSIONING OF MISSION TEAM

Carolyn Demaree
Steve Demaree
John Hazen
Rev. Rebecca Luter
Mark Schielke
Charlie Smithers

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM “Down to the River to Pray” arr. Eric Nelson

*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

Merciful God, you call us by name and promise to each of us your constant love. Deepen our understanding of your Word; strengthen our commitment to follow the way of Christ; and keep us in the faith and communion of your church. Increase our compassion for others; send us into the world in witness to your love; and use us and our offerings to the fullness of your peace and glory. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

*HYMN - No. 688 “Spirit of God Descend Upon My Heart”

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart; wean it from earth; through all its pulses move; stoop to my weakness, mighty as thou art, and make me love thee as I ought to love.

I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies, no sudden rending of the veil of clay, no angel visitant, no opening skies; but take the dimness of my soul away.

Hast thou not bid us love thee, God and King; all, all thine own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind? I see thy cross; there teach my heart to cling. O let me seek thee, and O let me find!

Teach me to feel that thou art always nigh. Teach me the struggles of the soul to bear, to check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh. Teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.

Teach me to love thee as thine angels love, one holy passion filling all my frame; the baptism of the heaven-descended Dove, my heart and altar, and thy love the flame.

*BENEDICTION

*SENDING FORTH HYMN - No.543

Verses 1 and 2

“God be the Love to Search and Keep Me”

God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to move my voice; God be the strength to now uphold me: O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

Bind to myself the Name of Holy, great cloud of witnesses enfold; prophets, apostles, angels witness: O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.

*POSTLUDE “Out of Deep, Unordered Waters”

Hubert H. Parry

*Stand as able.

Bold Type – congregation in unison



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
Jim Thrash, Director of Music
Tom Bryant, Accompanist
Davis Howe, Interim Youth Director
Tom Moots, Liturgist
Laurinda Ingram, Children's Moment
Stephanie and Tom Nagel, Ushers

†Study Catechism of the PC(USA), Questions 7, 31, 54, 87

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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

Coffee in the Narthex After worship this morning, you are encouraged to enjoy a cup of coffee and fellowship in the Narthex.

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!

Angel Tree Mothers in Community (formerly MOPS) have decorated the tree in Fellowship Hall with items requested by Room in the Inn and First Presbyterian Church for our unhoused neighbors. Take a moment to choose and ornament and deliver your gift by January 26.

The Holy Mystery of Discipleship Our first sermon series of 2025 is a study of the paradoxes experienced in the journey of faith. What is the power of weakness, the gain of letting go, or the joy in suffering? How does transformation come through small actions? How is faith found in simplicity and abundance in generosity? Join us in worship at 11am in person or on the livestream and invite someone who may be looking for a church home.

Mission Trip Our mission team will be leaving tomorrow (January 13) to build cisterns for 4 families in the rural area around Xpujil, Mexico. Please pray for our travel, work, and the relationships that will be built as we serve.

Room in the Inn Farmington Presbyterian will be hosting again this Saturday, January 18, at The Cottage at Germantown United Methodist Church. This ministry provides housing for homeless persons. This Saturday *we need at least 4 more people to 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, *we still need 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. The sign-up is on the website.

Sunday School Classes

Children's Sunday School Children meet at 10am in A6. This winter, all children 5th grade and under are learning about Jesus's compassion and power to bring healing.

Youth Sunday School Youth (6th-12th grades) meet in the Youth Room at 10am. We are currently studying "burning questions" shared by the youth. All doubts, curiosity, and questions are welcome!

Faith from Doubts Rev. Rebecca Luter will be facilitating a discussion of questions and doubts and how wrestling with them leads us to deeper faith. We meet in the East Room from 10am-10:45am on Sunday mornings.

Announcements

2025 Fellowship Coffee Sign up to host Fellowship Coffee on our website under "Sign-ups" or in the church office to provide refreshments following worship on a 3rd Sunday. You may sign up to provide either something sweet or something savory.

2025 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" or on in the church office.

Food Pantry Collection Farmington collects 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 If you would like to be added to or removed from the weekly mailing of the bulletin, 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 received a thank you note from Cynthia Matlock, Clerk of Session at Oakland Presbyterian, for our donations to the food pantry during the holiday season. Please continue to include shelf-stable items on your grocery list and place your donation in the baskets by the West entrance. We are humbled to be a part of providing access to food through this 24/7/365 pantry. The thank you note is on the bulletin board outside Fellowship Hall.

Remember in Prayer Our Farmington Family, Session and Staff; Jackie Baker, Hank Baron, Kevin Beard, Merry Bonner, Betty Boyd, Jeanne Carr, Martha Carr, Judith Cassidy, Mary Lou Collins, Mark Fisher, Chelsea Moyer Fitzpatrick, Joe Gaul, Bill Harrington, Martha Hart, Robert Herring, Parker Holder, Chris and Sabrina Johnson, Bill Jones, Bill Knight, Annette Main, Faye McKenzie, Sara Millar, Nancy & Dennis Palmer, Pat Register, Bill Renfrow, Wayne Renfrow, Katie Robbins, Jack Scherer, Dee Scobey, Caitlin Shirazee, JoAnne Simpkins, William Stevens, Jon Still, B.J. Tanner, Kasi Wann, Frank Whited, Nathan Williams and from our Presbytery: Marl Bluff Church, Reagan, TN.

Sympathy to the family and friends...of Steve Moots, father of Tom Moots and of Jane Mayo, sister of John Bivens.

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Germantown, TN 38139
901-754-2794 www.farmingtonpres.org