



**FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP**  
**Third Sunday of Epiphany**  
**January 26, 2025**

Worship Online at 11:00am Sunday Mornings

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

Click "Worship Together"

**ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME**

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

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. Help us to turn away from things that do not lead to life – from attitudes and actions that get in the way of our relationship with you and distract us from hearing your voice and doing your will.

We bring our hopes, our fears, our doubts, and our joys into your holy presence, knowing that you receive us with love. Give us courage to take up our cross and follow where you lead, even if the path is uncertain or leads in unexpected directions. For you alone are God, and we are your people. Transform our lives, and use us to your glory. Amen.

WELCOME

PRELUDE “Intermezzo in A Major”

Brahms

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 51

Let us approach the throne of the Lord with the words of the Psalmist:

**Look at me with a heart of mercy, O God. Your love for me is generous beyond what I can comprehend.**

With compassion, thoroughly wash us, inside and out, of all our deceitful ways. Cleanse us from our sins.

**For we are fully aware of our wrongdoing. Our guilt is there, staring us in the face.**

The sacrifice acceptable to God is a contrite spirit and a crushed heart.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God. I surrender the life I have lived.**

O Lord, open our lips to sing with deep delight of your righteousness.

**Let all that is within me – body, mind, and spirit – praise God’s holy name!**

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

**Praise ye 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 his people again; gladly for aye we adore him.**

*(Please be seated.)*

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Mighty God, we confess that we wander the corridors of earthly power looking for you, while you are on the sidewalk beside the homeless. We want the best seat at the table, while you are handing food to the hungry at the kitchen’s backdoor. We applaud those who win the race, while you are cheering on those in last place.**

**Gracious God, forgive us. Enable us to lay down our worldly lives and proclaim Jesus Christ as the hope the world needs. When we face the powerful with righteous anger, and then cling to any sense of power that we attain, humble us. When we are grateful for the abundance and peace in our lives, and then ignore sisters and brothers who are suffering, fill us with empathy. When we are grateful for your forgiving grace, and then refuse to forgive those who have wronged us, transform our hearts and restore a right spirit within us.**

*(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 – 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<sup>†</sup>

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.**

THROUGH CHILDREN'S EYES

Paula Gale

*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

Romans 12:9-21

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

This is the Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

### SECOND LESSON

Mark 8:34-38

Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

Matthew 16:24-27

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? For the Son of Man is going to come in his

Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.

Luke 9:23-26

Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self? Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

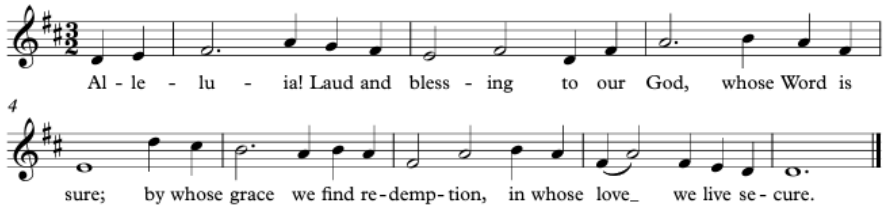
John 12:24-26

Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

This is the Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

RESPONSE No.



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 "Letting Go to Receive"

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.**

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

“There is a Balm in Gilead”

\*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.**

\*HYMN - No. 829 “My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

**My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary. Savior divine! Now hear me while I pray; take all my guilt away; O let me from this day be wholly thine!**

**May thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart, my zeal inspire; as thou hast died for me, O may my love to thee pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire!**

**While life’s dark maze I tread and griefs around me spread, be thou my guide; bid darkness turn to day; wipe sorrow’s tears away; nor let me ever stray from thee aside.**

**When ends life’s transient dream, when death’s cold, sullen stream shall o’er me roll; blest Savior, then, in love, fear and distrust remove; O bear me safe above, a ransomed soul!**

\*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 “If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee”

J. S. Bach

\*Stand as able.

**Bold Type** – congregation in unison

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

Rev. Rebecca Luter, Pastor  
Jim Thrash, Director of Music  
Tom Bryant, Accompanist  
Davis Howe, Interim Youth Director  
Mike Schneider, Liturgist  
Paula Gale, Children's Moment  
Ann Erickson and Paula Gale, 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](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

**Sanctuary Flowers** The flowers this morning are given to the glory of God by Melissa Still in celebration of Jon Still's 85<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**Fellowship Coffee** After worship this morning, everyone is invited to Fellowship Hall for a Hot Cocoa Social. Bryan Jeiger is an Eagle Scout candidate with Troop 368 and is raising funds for his project, the refurbishing of Farmington's Outdoor Chapel. Your support is appreciated.

**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!

**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.

### Coming Up

**Potluck Sunday** Next Sunday, February 2, we will have potluck lunch after worship. Bring a dish to share and place it in the kitchen before worship with any serving/warming instructions. If you are able to help serve or clean up, please let Paula Gale or Paula Patterson know.

**SouperBowl Fundraiser** Order chili for Super Bowl Sunday and support the First Presbyterian Soup Kitchen. Order on the website by February 5, \$20/quart + cornbread and dessert. Pickup is in Fellowship Hall after worship on February 9.

**Room in the Inn** Farmington Presbyterian will be hosting again Saturday, February 15, at The Cottage at Germantown United Methodist Church. This ministry provides housing for homeless persons. The sign-up to provide dinner, host for the evening, shepherd overnight, and wash laundry is on the website.

### Sunday School Classes

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

**Youth Sunday School** Youth (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades) meet in the Youth Room at 10am. Each Sunday we are addressing a "burning question" of faith that has been turned in by one of the youth.

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](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 Mothers in Community (MIC) collection for Room in the Inn and First Presbyterian Soup Kitchen is coming to an end. If you have not brought your items, please make an effort to get them here by Tuesday, January 28. Thank you to all who donated; truly, we have been blessed to be a blessing.

**Remember in Prayer** Our Farmington Family, Session and Staff; Jackie Baker, Hank Baron, Kevin Beard, Merry Bonner, Betty Boyd, Jeanne 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, Sara Millar, Nancy & Dennis Palmer, Pat Register, Bill Renfrow, Dee Scobey, Caitlin Shirazee, JoAnne Simpkins, William Stevens, Jon Still, B.J. Tanner, Jarred Thweatt, Judy Tobey, Kasi Wann, Frank Whited, and from our Presbytery: UKirk and Campus Ministry.

**Sympathy to the family and friends...**of Faye McKenzie, mother of Angela Horne; of Wayne Renfrow, brother of Jerry Renfrow; and of Tom Tucker, friend of Charlie Smithers.

A Memorial Service celebrating the life of Faye McKenzie will be held at Farmington Presbyterian at 2:30pm on Sunday, January 26.

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