



FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP
Epiphany Sunday
January 5, 2025

Worship Online at 11:00am Sunday Mornings

www.farmingtonpres.org

Click "Worship Together"

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP "Field Notes" Rev. Sarah Speed

With tears in your eyes, you name all the bumps and zigzags your life has taken. With clenched teeth and a hummingbird pulse, you wake up and wonder – how did I get here?

In the last 40 days of desert wandering, you say you haven't heard God's voice once. You say you miss when God was close, when God used to sing the harmony line. So, you yell at the sky, begging God to drop a pin, to name the road, to draw you a map. You lament the way this life isn't easy. You ask me – was the road ever straight and narrow, or was that all a lie?

But then you crest the mountain, and I don't hear from you for a while, because God was growing in the lilac field on the other side of the hill. God was scattered among the pebbles of the road you never planned to take. Isn't it amazing, you say, there are a million roads home and God walks every one of them.

WELCOME

PRELUDE "What Star is This"

Puer Nobis Nascitur

*CALL TO WORSHIP†

We waited.

And imagined a savior.

We imagined power.

One like the world but stronger and on our side.

We imagined a king on a white horse wielding a sword.

We got a baby born in a stable among the livestock.

We imagined the work done for us through the destruction of our enemies.

We receive a baby who will teach us our calling to seek reconciliation and to love expansively.

Praise be to God for the unexpected babe of Bethlehem.

Praise to the wisdom of love. Amen!

*HYMN OF PRAISE – No. 150 “As With Gladness Men of Old”

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold; as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright; so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to thy lowly bed, there to bend the knee before thee, whom heaven and earth adore; so may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare at thy manger, rude and bare, so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin’s alloy, all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heavenly king.

Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way; and when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.

(Please be seated.)

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of new beginnings, we admit that we often follow the well-worn path, simply because there is less unknown. Sometimes we follow paths that are well-worn that are also holy and humble, but there are days when a new path needs to be forged. On those new-beginning paths, O God, give us courage to follow your star. Give us courage to go home by another way. Give us courage to kick up some dust and walk in a new direction for the sake of justice, love, and neighbor. Give us courage to follow you.

(A time of silent prayer)

KYRIE—NO. 121 “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Verse 4

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*GLORIA—NO. 119 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” Verse 3

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. Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Nicene Creed (Ecumenical)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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 43:16-21

This is what the Lord says—he who made a way through the sea, a path through the mighty waters, who drew out the chariots and horses, the army and reinforcements together, and they

lay there, never to rise again, extinguished, snuffed out like a wick:

“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. The wild animals honor me, the jackals and the owls, because I provide water in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to my people, my chosen, the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise.

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

SECOND READING

Matthew 2:1-14

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him. When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. In Bethlehem in Judea, they replied, for this is what the prophet has written: But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel. Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him. After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.” So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod.

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

RESPONSE NO. 113 “Angels We Have Heard on High” Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

SERMON “The Road You Didn’t Plan to Take” Rev. Rebecca Luter

RESPOND TO GOD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please remember those on our prayer list.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM “Walk in the Light” Andre Thomas

*DOXOLOGY— NO. 151 “We Three Kings of Orient Are” Verse 5

**Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and
Sacrifice: Alleluia! Alleluia! sounds through the earth
and skies. O star of wonder, star of night, star with
royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Emmanuel, shine your light and love upon these gifts
and upon us. Dedicate them and us to bringing peace in
this world. By your Holy Spirit, fill us, intertwine us,
enwrap us with your power that is beyond this world
and at the same time comes as close as our next breath
so that when the ringing of the bells fades and the
candles are blown out, your light may continue to
shine. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

God is with us

We are not alone

Christ is present here

The Spirit moves among us

Let us give thanks to God

In memory and in hope...

SUNG RESPONSES— No. 347

Verses 1 & 2

**Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and
trembling stand; ponder nothing earthly minded, for
with blessing in his hand Christ our God to earth
descendeth, our full homage to demand.**

**King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he
stood, Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and
the blood, he will give to all the faithful his own self for
heavenly food.**

You, who walk each day beside us, sit in power at God's side. You, who preach a way that's narrow, have a love that reaches wide. You, the everlasting instant: you, who are our pilgrim guide.

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. 490

Verses 1 and 2

“Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters”

Wash, O God, your sons and daughters, newborn creatures of your womb. Number them among your people, raised like Christ from death and tomb. Weave them garments bright and sparkling; compass them with love and light. Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit, holy dove and heart's delight.

Every day, we need your nurture; by your milk may we be fed. Let us join your feast, partaking cup of blessing, living bread. God, renew us; guide our footsteps, free from sin and all its snares, one with Christ in living, dying, by your Spirit, children, heirs.

*BENEDICTION

*SENDING FORTH HYMN - No. 151

Refrain

“We Three Kings of Orient Are”

O, star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

*POSTLUDE

arr. Gilbert Martin

“Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

*Stand as able.

Bold Type – congregation in unison

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

Call to Worship written by Tim Graves, and posted on his blog **LiturgyBits: Little bits for worship.**

<https://liturgybits.wordpress.com/>

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



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
Rev. Ruth Lovell Bradham, Liturgist
Sharaze Colley, Children's Moment
Scott Hutchins and Leslie McNamara, Ushers
Rev. Ruth Lovell Bradham, Susan Bryant, Cooper Patterson,
Charlie Smithers and Shelley Wann, Communion Servers

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

Potluck Sunday and Boxing of the Green Following worship this morning, January 5, we will enjoy a potluck lunch together in the Fellowship Hall and then pack away our Christmas decorations after Potluck. Please plan to stay and bid farewell to the Christmas season.

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! We will resume meeting tonight, January 5.

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 an ornament and deliver your gift by January 26.

The Holy Mystery of Discipleship Beginning next Sunday, January 12, and continuing for 7 weeks, we will study paradoxes experienced in the journey of faith. How does God cleanse our hearts in the wilderness? 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.

Mission Trip Commissioning We will commission our Mission Team next Sunday, January 12. We will be building cisterns for 4 families in the rural area around Xpujil, Mexico, from January 13 – 18. 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 Saturday, January 18, 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

Sunday School Adults gather at 9:30am or 10am while youth and children gather at 10am each Sunday morning for lessons in faith and Scripture.

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 are grateful to have received needed men’s and women’s undergarments, and men’s shoes and pants for First Presbyterian Soup Kitchen to assist those experiencing homelessness. If you are cleaning out and have new or gently used items to donate, we will be collecting throughout January.

Remember in Prayer Our Farmington Family, Session and Staff; Jackie Baker, Hank Baron, Kevin Beard, Betty Boyd, Jeanne Carr, Martha Carr, Judith Cassidy, Mary Lou Collins, Mark Fisher, Chelsea Moyer Fitzpatrick, Joe Gaul, Bill Harrington, Martha Hart, Robert Herring, Chris and Sabrina Johnson, Bill Jones, Bill Knight, Annette Main, Faye McKenzie, Sara Millar, Steve Moots, 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 Luv Bacerra, father of Liv Palmer.

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