



FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP
Fourth Sunday of Epiphany
February 2, 2025

Worship Online at 11:00am Sunday Mornings

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, our sufferings, and our joys into your holy presence, knowing that you receive us with love. Give us faith to entrust all things to you with assurance that you are able to use us and all things to your glory. Amen.

WELCOME

PRELUDE “Gift of Finest Wheat”

Kreutz

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Shout with joy to the Lord! Worship the Lord with gladness. Come before God, singing with joy! Know that the Lord is God!

God made us, and we belong to God. We are God's people, the sheep of God's pasture.

Enter God's gates with thanksgiving; go into God's courts with praise. Give thanks to God, and praise God's name.

For the Lord is good. God's unfailing love continues forever, and God's faithfulness continues to each generation.

***HYMN OF PRAISE – No. 363** “Rejoice, the Lord Is King!”

Your Lord and King adore! Rejoice, give thanks and sing, and triumph evermore. *Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say rejoice!*

Our Savior, Jesus reigns, the God of truth and love; when he had purged our stains, he took his seat above. *Refrain*

His kingdom cannot fail; he rules o'er earth and heaven; the keys of death and hell are to our Jesus given. *Refrain*

Rejoice in glorious hope! For Christ, the Judge shall come and gather all the saints to their eternal home. *Refrain*

(Please be seated.)

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we confess that we are not always open to you in our lives. We want to be independent. We want to be strong. We do not want to suffer, and when we are suffering we want to fix it, stop it, or understand it. We often hold you accountable, seeking answers to our questions, blaming you for our circumstances.

Lord, we confess that we do not love you with our whole being, and we do not trust you with our whole lives. So, we do not live as you envision for us. We have not been loving toward our neighbors. We confess that we have despised others, even to the point of hatred. We confess that we have been hurt by others and have been reluctant to forgive and seek reconciliation.

Take our hearts, O God, and cleanse them. Nothing is impossible for you, so hear our prayer for redemption. We need your mercy. We need you to transform 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[†]

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

Lizzie Luter

*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 8:12-25

Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “*Abba, Father.*” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first-fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

SECOND LESSON

John 16:16-33

Jesus went on to say, “In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me.”

At this, some of his disciples said to one another, “What does he mean by saying, ‘In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me,’ and ‘Because I am going to the Father?’” They kept asking, “What does he mean by ‘a little while?’ We don’t understand what he is saying.”

Jesus saw that they wanted to ask him about this, so he said to them, “Are you asking one another what I meant when I said, ‘In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me?’ Very truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. So with you: Now is your

time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy. In that day you will no longer ask me anything. Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.

“Though I have been speaking figuratively, a time is coming when I will no longer use this kind of language but will tell you plainly about my Father. In that day you will ask in my name. I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf. No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father.”

Then Jesus’ disciples said, “Now you are speaking clearly and without figures of speech. Now we can see that you know all things and that you do not even need to have anyone ask you questions. This makes us believe that you came from God.”

“Do you now believe?” Jesus replied. “A time is coming and in fact has come when you will be scattered, each to your own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me.

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

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
sure; by whose grace we find re-demp-tion, in whose love_ we live se - cure.

SERMON “Thy Dross to Consume”

Rev. Rebecca Luter

RESPOND TO GOD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please remember those on our prayer list.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

“All Who Hunger Gladly Gather”

Jackie Hall, Flute

*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.

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

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

THE PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

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. 735 “I Need Thee Every Hour” Verses 1, 2, and 3

I need thee every hour, most gracious Lord; no tender voice like thine can peace afford.

I need thee, O I need thee, every hour I need thee! O bless me now, my Savior I come to thee!

I need thee every hour; stay thou near by; temptations lose their power when thou art nigh. *Refrain*

I need thee every hour; teach me thy will, and thy rich promises in me fulfill. *Refrain*

*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 “When At This Table”

Jane Marshall

*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

Jackie Hall, Flute

Davis Howe, Interim Youth Director

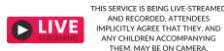
Rebecca Hutchins, Liturgist

Lizzie Luter, Children’s Moment

Bo Bradham and Roland Mittag, Ushers

Bonnie Blair, Rebecca Hutchins, Roland Mittag,

Jerry Renfrow, and Melissa Still, Communion Servers



†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

Potluck Sunday Following worship this morning, we will enjoy a potluck lunch together in the Fellowship Hall. Whether you brought a dish or not, you are encouraged to stay and enjoy a time of fellowship at the table. There is always a gracious plenty. Please stay, as you are able, to cleanup; many hands make light work.

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

SouperBowl Fundraiser Order chili for Super Bowl Sunday and support the First Presbyterian Soup Kitchen. Order on the website by Wednesday, 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.

Black History Program The Greater Memphis Area Chapter of the National Black Presbyterian Caucus and Presbytery of the Mid-South invite our congregation to attend on Sunday, February 23, at 3pm at Parkway Gardens United Presbyterian Church. The guest speaker is Melvin Burgess, Jr.

Mark Your Calendar On Friday, March 7, from 7-10pm we will have an adult social at Halle Plantation Clubhouse with a Mardi Gras theme. More information and RSVP coming soon.

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. 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 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 Rev. Rebecca Luter represented the Presbytery of the Mid-South as our Teaching Elder Commissioner to the annual Synod Assembly of the Synod of the Living Waters. Paul and Rev. Kirsten King were also in attendance as she is Moderator of Synod PW and gave an update on Synod PW events and work.

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, 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: Day of Prayer for Healing & Wholeness. Remember our chaplains.

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

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Germantown, TN 38139
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