



**FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP**

Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 21, 2025

Worship Online at 11:00am Sunday Mornings

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

Click "Worship Together"

\*Rise in body or in spirit.

**Bold Type** – Participate in unison.

**ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME**

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

God of timeless grace, we come with joyful expectation. Prepare our hearts to draw near. May we eagerly await not only the celebration of the birth of Jesus our Christ so long ago but also attend the birthing of his kingdom here and now. Amen.

WELCOME

*Visitors and members are encouraged to fill out the attendance folder located on the center aisle of each pew and pass it to those seated along the pew.*

PRELUDE "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Veni, Emmanuel

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH†

*Choir sings: Yet His light shall shine from our lives, Spirit blazing. As we touch the flame of His holy fire.*

**Congregation singing:**

God is with us, al - le - lu ia,  
come to save us, al - le - lu ia, Al - le - lu ia!

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rejoice, for the Lord is come and is present even here. Let us draw near.

**We come to worship in awe of God's steadfast love for us.**

Rejoice, for the Lord is listening. Let us lift our prayers and songs.

**We come to worship in awe that God listens to the sounds of our cries.**

Rejoice, for the Lord is reconciling all with God. Let us follow down streets of compassion and justice.

**We come to worship in awe that God is alive and active now in our world and in our lives.**

Hark, the angels herald his coming, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

**Let us join the song of rejoicing, “Hail the incarnate Deity! Glory to the newborn King!”**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE – No. 119 “Hark, the Herald Angels Sing”

*(Please be seated.)*

#### CALL TO RECONCILIATION

**Holy and loving God, we have allowed your image within us to grow dim; little more than an ember still burns. We have made our home in darkness. Honestly, we prefer it to the light of your glory and gracious generosity. We have been proud of our accomplishments. We have prioritized our needs, and our wants, and wandered far from the path you light for us. Forgive us and lead us back to you. Smooth down the mountains of our pride and lift up the valleys of our doubts. Rekindle your image in us, and prepare us to draw near to you.**

*(a time of silent prayer)*

KYRIE – No. 123 “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” Verse 3

**Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long; beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled two thousand years of wrong; and we at war on earth hear not the tidings that they bring; O, hush the noise and cease the strife to hear the angels sing!**

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

GLORIA DEI “Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter of Zion” Handel  
*(from Messiah)*

### PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

#### FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 7:10-16

Pew Bible Page No. 1069

This is the Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

This is the Word of the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

RESPONSE TO THE WORD – No. 587 “Alleluia!”

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

THROUGH CHILDREN’S EYES

Jennifer Young

*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.*

SERMON “A Beautiful Christmas Story”

Rev. Rebecca Luter

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Advent Credo

It is not true that creation and the human family  
are doomed to destruction and loss—

**This is true: For God so loved the world that He gave his only  
begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish  
but have everlasting life;**

It is not true that we must accept inhumanity and discrimination,  
hunger and poverty, death and destruction—

**This is true: I have come that they may have life, and that  
abundantly.**

It is not true that violence and hatred should have the last word,  
and that war and destruction rule forever—

**This is true: Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given,  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder, his name  
shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
the Everlasting, the Prince of Peace.**

It is not true that we are simply victims of the powers of evil  
who seek to rule the world—

**This is true: To me is given authority in heaven and on earth,  
and lo I am with you, even until the end of the world.**

It is not true that we have to wait for those who are specially gifted,  
who are the prophets of the Church before we can be  
peacemakers—

**This is true: I will pour out my spirit on all flesh and your  
sons and daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see  
visions and your old men shall have dreams.**

It is not true that our hopes for liberation of humankind, of justice,  
of human dignity, of peace are not meant for this earth and for this  
history—

**This is true: The hour comes, and it is now, that the true worshippers shall worship God in spirit and in truth.**

So let us enter Advent in hope, even hope against hope. Let us see visions of love and peace and justice.

**Let us affirm with humility, with joy, with faith, with courage:  
Jesus the Christ—the light and life of the world.**

## 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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM “People Look East”

Martin Shaw

\*DOXOLOGY – No. 108 “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” Verse 6

**Christ, to thee with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost to thee, hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be. Honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory, evermore and evermore! Amen.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Holy One, this Advent season we wait with love, and we give with love. Love for you, our God; love for your church, our family of faith. Receive these generous offerings of gratitude – gratitude that you draw near to us and invite us to draw near. Use them for your works of love in our world. Amen.**

\*HYMN No. 112 “On Christmas Night All Christians Sing”

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*SENDING FORTH HYMN – No. 155 “Raise a Song of Gladness”

**Raise a song of gladness, peoples of the earth. Christ has come, bringing peace, joy to every heart. Alleluia, alleluia, joy to every heart! Alleluia, alleluia, joy to every heart!**

\*POSTLUDE “Larghetto” (from Concerto in G Major)

Handel

†Advent Wreath Liturgy and Call to Worship adapted from Presbyterian Outlook’s “Come, Lord Jesus: An Advent Liturgy” by Shardaé Henry and Shea Watts.

Assurance of Pardon, Prayer for Illumination, and Benediction adapted from Office of Theology and Worship PC(USA)’s “Advent Longing for the Light of Healing”

Affirmation of Faith by Daniel Berrigan, S.J. in *Testimony: The Word Made Flesh*, Orbis Books, 2004.

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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  
Davis Howe, Youth Director  
Jim Thrash, Director of Music  
Tom Bryant, Accompanist  
Desiree Howe, Soprano Soloist  
Nic Luter, Liturgist  
Jennifer Young, Children’s Moment  
Charlie and Mo Smithers, Ushers

# 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).

**Large print hymnals and hearing assistance devices  
are available from the ushers.**

## Happenings AT FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN

**Fellowship Coffee** After worship this morning, everyone is invited to the Fellowship Hall. Thank you to Rev. Rebecca and Chris Luter for providing refreshments. We hold Fellowship Coffee on the third Sunday each month. If you would like to help host, please sign up on our website.

**Youth Fellowship (6th-12th grades)** The youth will NOT meet tonight. For more information or to be notified of upcoming events, text or email Davis at 901-482-2503 or [davis@farmingtonpres.org](mailto:davis@farmingtonpres.org).

**Advent Devotions** Join us Tuesday morning (December 23) at 10am in the East Room or on Zoom, we will share in a time of Scripture and prayer. If you would like to receive the Zoom link, please email [church@farmingtonpres.org](mailto:church@farmingtonpres.org).

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service** Come to worship the Newborn King at 5pm on Christmas Eve (December 24). If you have friends or family who do not have a church home, invite them to join you!

**Holiday Schedule** Farmington Presbyterian Day School is closed the weeks of December 22 and 29. The church office will be open December

22, 23, 29, & 30 from 8am-4pm. If you need assistance getting into the building, or you have a pastoral concern, please contact Rev. Rebecca at (901)674-8000.

**Room in the Inn** Our next night to provide hospitality for unhoused guests this winter season is January 3. You are encouraged to volunteer on our website or to let Rev. Rebecca or Madi Lewis know that you will be hosting.

**Potluck and Boxing of the Green** Mark your calendar now for our first potluck of the new year on January 4 following worship and plan to stay to lovingly put away the decorations of Christmas until next year.

**End of Year Gifts** IRS requires that all gifts to the church applied to 2025 Giving Statements be postmarked or made by QR code by December 31, 2025. Gifts delivered in person must be received by close of business at 4pm December 30 (Tuesday).

**Electronic Giving** We are now able to receive gifts electronically through this QR code. It is a simple process to set up an account or to make a one-time gift as a visitor. You will soon receive much more information about our new church app with Church Directory, calendar, signups, and more available on your mobile phone.



**This Week at Farmington...**our new Associate Pastor Rev. Dr. Barb Johnson participated in worship last Sunday during Lessons and Carols. She and her husband Dr. Bob Freymeyer have arrived and are settling into their new home. Barb will officially begin her ministry among us on January 4. Please take a moment to welcome Barb and Bob warmly to the Farmington family.

## Prayer Concerns OF THE FARMINGTON FAMILY

**Remember in Prayer...**Our Farmington Family, Session and Staff; Jackie Baker, Kevin Beard, Jennifer Boyonton, Mary Ann Carraway, Deni Carroll, Judith Cassidy, Jim Collins, Joe Gaul, Brenda Geise, Emily Howe Gianis, Betzabet Guzman, Virginia Haertlein, Bill Harrington, Martha Hart, Jerry Hosier, Bill Jones, Marilyn Kemper, Bill Knight, Annette Main, Judy Markham, Kaye Mathews, Sara Millar, Bonner Morgan, Tommy Nagel, Nancy & Dennis Palmer, Bill Renfrow, Ellen Renfrow, JoAnne Simpkins, Karen Smaili, Molly Smith, Sparks Family, William Stevens, Jon Still, Kasi Wann, Frank Whited, and from our Presbytery: First Presbyterian Church, McKenzie, TN.

**Sympathy to the family and friends...**of Derek VanSkiver, nephew of Larry and Vesta Andrews and cousin of Joanna Andrews.

**FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
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