



Draw Near
CHRIST IS BORN



**FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP**

**Christmas Eve
December 24, 2024**

Worship Online at 11:00am Sunday Mornings

www.farmingtonpres.org

Click "Worship Together"

*Rise in body or in spirit.

Bold Type – Participate in unison.

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRAYER OF PREPARATION[†]

We have waited a long time for your hope, your joy, your love to shine in the darkness of this world, Almighty God. Even now, in our gathering here, we await you. In our hearts, we still hope that your light will blaze forth, banishing the shadows of this world and guiding all people back to you.

Open our hearts, merciful God, to the sparks of your presence still in this world. Open our eyes, that we might behold your presence in the least likely of places, and among the least likely of people.

God with us, kindle your spark within us, that together we may shine forth your light, we might banish the shadows of this world, we might be the continuation of the Christmas miracle: Emmanuel is in this world, God is with us, now and evermore. Amen.

WELCOME

PRELUDE "In the Bleak Midwinter"

Darke/Holst

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Choir sings: Joy to all the earth glory in the stable glows; kneel in wonder here worship and adore.

Congregation singing:

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, draw near as we go once again in heart and mind to Bethlehem.

We've been here before. We know the story.

Come, let hope fill your hearts and wonder open wide your eyes.

To us a child is born. To us a Son is given.

Come, hear the news of the angels,

“Peace on earth, good will to all!”

A tiny baby, vulnerable in the night, slips into our midst –

God with us!

Come, see this thing which has come to pass.

Love is born – swaddled in mystery and cradled in a manger.

(Please be seated.)

CHORAL INTROIT “Before the Marvel of This Night” Schalk

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving Christ, when the shepherds heard that you were born, they left their sheep in the fields and ran. They trusted the angels' invitation. They believed that your love existed for them. Give us that kind of trust, because somewhere between the angels' songs and the manger, we tend to lose our way. We doubt. We doubt ourselves – am I really loveable? To God? We doubt the invitation – am I really wanted? By God? Reassure us that we are loved and invited despite all the things we have done that we ought not to have done, and all the things that we have not done that we ought to have done. The good news of this night is for each of us. Love is born and invites me to draw near.

(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 - No. 113 “Angels We Have Heard on High” Verse 3

**Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing.
Come adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord the newborn
King. Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**I believe in God whose light shines in the darkness, and the
darkness can never smother it.**

**I believe that on a night like this night in Bethlehem there
was born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.**

**I believe in the Word who has become incarnate, our very
flesh and blood, yet full of grace and truth.**

**I believe in the blessed appearing of the salvation of our God,
that is for the abundant life of all people.**

**I believe in his name as Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace; of the increase of his rule
and of his unique peace, there will be no end. The zeal of the
God of hosts will do this.**

This I surely believe!

PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Luke 2:1-20

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

SERMON “Christ Is Come, Draw Near”

Rev. Rebecca Luter

RESPOND TO GOD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please remember those on our prayer list.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM “Still, Still, Still”

Ehret

*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

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.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

PRAYER OF 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.

We give thanks in memory and in hope...

SUNG RESPONSES

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

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!

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.

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.

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

The Communion elements at the allergen-free station this evening are gluten, soy, nut, and dairy-free bread and grape juice.

LITANY OF LIGHT

Emmanuel, God-with-us,
 In the beginning, in the midst of darkness, God spoke.
Let there be light!

Emmanuel, God-with-us,
 In the beginning was the Word. And the Word came and dwelt
 among us. And the Word was the light of all peoples.
May your light shine!

Emmanuel, God-with-us,
 We are here to seek a little light by which we can see, by which we
 can live, by which we can love.
May your light shine!

Emmanuel, God-with-us,
 We need to be assured that the light of Christ is with us even in this
 moment, burning with a flame much more powerful than the
 flicker of our own little candles.
May your light shine!

Emmanuel, God-with-us,
 Embolden us to share the love of God with a world longing for
 light and hope, purpose and love. May our actions and generosity
 shine in a world under the shadow of despair.
May your light shine!

Emmanuel, God-with-us,
 We join the chorus of those whose carols have echoed through the
 years – “O come to us, abide in us, our Lord, Emmanuel.”
May your light shine! Amen.

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

*HYMN - No. 122 “SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT!”

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright ‘round yon
 virgin mother and child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild
 sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight; glories
 stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing “Al-le-lu-ia:
 Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born!”**

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light radiant
 beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
 Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord at thy birth.**

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Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light; with the angels let us sing Al-le-lu-ia to our King: Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.

*BENEDICTION

*SENDING FORTH HYMN - No. 134 “Joy to the World” Verses 1 & 4

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king; let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

*POSTLUDE “On This Day, Earth Shall Ring”

Gustav Holst



THIS SERVICE IS BEING LIVE-STREAMED
AND RECORDED. ATTENDEES
IMPLICITLY AGREE THAT THEY, AND
ANY CHILDREN ACCOMPANYING
THEM, MAY BE ON CAMERA.

†Prayer of Preparation adapted from a prayer of Invocation written by Rev. Eliza Buchakjian-Tweedy.

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

Scripture Reading from King James Version of 1604.

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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.

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

Happenings AT FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN

Youth Fellowship (6th-12th grades) The youth gather on Sunday evenings from 5:30-7:30pm for dinner and recreation. There will not be Youth Fellowship on December 28. For more information or to be notified of upcoming events, text or email Davis at 901-482-2503 or davis@farmingtonpres.org.

Holiday Schedule Farmington Presbyterian Day School is closed the weeks of December 22 and 29. The church office will be open December 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 under "Sign Ups" 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...we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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 nephew of Larry and Vesta Andrews and cousin of Joanna Andrews.

Participating in the service tonight:

Rev. Rebecca Luter, Pastor

Rev. Dr. Barb Johnson, Associate Pastor

Davis Howe, Youth Director

Jim Thrash, Director of Music

Dr. Tom Bryant, Accompanist

Desiree Howe, Soprano Soloist

Sam Bryant, Interpretive Signing

Dr. John Ingram, Euphonium

Ashleigh Williams, Liturgist

Mike and Sharaze Colley, Ushers

Laurinda Ingram, Madi Lewis, Roland Mittag,

Cooper Patterson, and Pat Sherman, Communion Servers

FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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