Until the Dawn

FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SERVICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP
First Sunday of Advent
November 29, 2026

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

"This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all."

– I John 1:5

Love refuses to be extinguished by despair. Resilience and hope cannot be quenched while the light of love burns steadily, fueled by courage and by compassion. Look for the light, and there you will find love. Look for the light, and there you will find God.

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. Children are welcome in worship, and worship bags are available from an usher. A nursery is located across from the Sanctuary. * invites you to rise in body or spirit. Bold type invites you to participate in unison.*

PRELUDE "Pastorale" on a French Carol Michael Helman

*CALL TO WORSHIP

God welcomes us as we come into God's presence to worship.
We are free to come exactly as we are, without any pretense.
God welcomes our honesty with open arms and gracious love.
Here we cry out. We call upon God. We dare to hope, to dream new dreams.
God is here; God is listening. All are welcome, and all are heard.
Let us worship our God, who is God-with-us, Emmanuel.

*HYMN OF PRAISE NO. 82 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Please be seated.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we have been known to bite our tongues and to put on our rose-colored glasses. We have been known to look for the silver lining, sweep the pain under the rug, and to choose ignorance as bliss. We have been known to stay quiet, to hold in the hurt, and to try to handle the pain ourselves. Forgive us. Forgive us for not turning to you first and trusting you with our honesty. Forgive us for ignoring the power of lament. Remind us that you, God, listen and you restore. With open hearts, we pray.

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. 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 John 1:1-5; 9-10; Colossians 3:16-17; Revelation 22:16-17

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
Christ was in the beginning with God.
All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.
In him was life, and the life was the light of humanity.
The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.
He was in the world, and the world was made through him,
yet the world did not know him.
For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible,
And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Therefore we wait with hope for his coming, remembering his promised return.
"**I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches.**
I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.
The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let the one who hears say, "Come!"

CELEBRATION OF MINISTRY — Madi Lewis

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON
Psalm 80:1-7 — Pew Bible 919
This is the Word of the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

SECOND LESSON
Isaiah 64:1-9 — Pew Bible 1161
This is the Word of the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

RESPONSE TO THE WORD – NO. 583 "Glory to God"
Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest! Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!

SERMON "Longing for God" — Rev. Rebecca Luter

RESPOND TO GOD

PRAYER CONCERNS – *Please remember those on our prayer list.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 "Creator of the Stars of Night"

*DOXOLOGY – NO. 117 "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks" Verse 6

All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace; good will to all from highest heaven begin and never cease!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy One, this Advent season we wait in hope, and we give in hope. Hope for your coming reign; hope because of your presence with us even now. Receive these generous offerings, and use them for your work of healing and hope in our world. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN – NO. 77 "Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old"

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

SENDING FORTH HYMN – NO. 654 "In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful"

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful; in the Lord I will rejoice! Look to God; do not be afraid. Lift up your voices; the Lord is near. Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.

POSTLUDE "Come, Now, Savior of the Heathen" J. S. Bach

†Liturgy adapted from prayers by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org
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LIVE STREAMING

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

Worship Online at 11:00 Sunday Mornings
www.farmingtonpres.org, click "Worship with us!"

WELCOME

We seek to be a community that is a home for all of God's family with a heart for God's world. We hope that you will sense the presence of the Holy Spirit in this place and find that you feel at 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 (for those who have never been a member of a church), Reaffirmation of Faith (for those who have joined a church in the past but not been involved in a while), and Transfer of Membership (for those who are coming from active participation in another church). If you are interested in knowing more about Farmington Presbyterian or about joining, let Rev. Rebecca or Rev. Barb 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 church 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

Coffee in the Narthex After worship this morning, you are encouraged to enjoy fellowship over coffee and cookies in the Narthex.

Confirmation and Youth Fellowship Happy Thanksgiving! We will meet next on December 6 from 4:30-6pm to decorate the youth room for Christmas and review our Confirmation lessons.

Sunday School Class Bob Freymeyer is leading a class at 10am in the East Room discussing *Being Presbyterian in the Bible Belt: A Theological Survival Guide for Youth, Parents, and other Confused Presbyterians* by Ted V. Foote, Jr., and P. Alex Thornburg. The class will consider both the theological issues of what being Presbyterian means as well as the role of religion in the South more generally. Bob is a Professor Emeritus of Sociology at Presbyterian College. Much of his research focused on the social and demographic conditions and recent changes in the American South.

Advent Devotions Until the Dawn devotional guides are available in the Narthex in booklet size or in large print. If you would like one delivered to you, email church@farmingtonpres.org or leave a message for Renee in the church office at (901) 754-2794.

Movie and Bible Study Beginning on Dec. 1 and each Tuesday of Advent Rev. Rebecca will lead a Bible study at 10am in the East Room based on *A Christmas Carol*. Each Tuesday we will begin by watching a segment of the movie and then discuss relevant Bible passages on the themes of the movie. All are encouraged to attend and to invite a friend.

Wednesday Night Dinner and Christmas Carol Sing-a-long Our own Dr. Tom Bryant will once again be leading us in a time of singing our favorite Christmas carols after dinner on December 2. Dinner is at 6pm and Caroling is in the Sanctuary at 6:45pm. Cost of dinner is $10/adult and $5/child, with a $30 family maximum.

Christmas Toy Shoppe We are collecting new, unwrapped $25-30 toys for children 0-18 years old for Covenant Presbyterian to distribute at The Pantry. You may also donate tape, bows, and tags. Please leave your donation in the basket at the West entrance by December 6. Volunteers are also needed on December 10 at 8am to help with the Shoppe. Please let Rev. Rebecca know if you are interested in volunteering.

Christmas Carol Caravan On December 6 at 2pm we will leave from the back parking lot to carol to those who are unable to come to worship this Christmas season. You do not have to be able to sing to spread Christmas cheer! Your Farmington friends will be happy to see you.

Advent Service of Hope On December 9 at 6pm, you are invited to a time of prayer and reflection for those people who are struggling with the "holly and jolly" of this Christmas season. If you have a friend who has experienced a loss this year, you are encouraged to invite them to join you for worship.

Farmington Christmas Party We will gather for fun trivia, heavy hors d'oeuvres, and festivities at Halle Plantation on Saturday, December 12 from 6-9:30pm. Reminder: This gathering is BYOB and adults only.

Mexico Cistern Mission Trip It is time to purchase flights for our 2027 trip. We will travel to Xpujil, Mexico, from January 11-16 to build cisterns for 4 families. If you are planning to go or want more information about going, please let Rev. Rebecca know.

Church Emails Each week, a Sunday email is sent with the link for online worship, the Happenings, and the Prayer List. In addition, a Mid-Week email is regularly sent with reminders and the New Vision newsletter is sent monthly. If you are not receiving church emails, and would like to, please email church@farmingtonpres.org and let us know.

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 call Renee at (901)203-3031 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 by texting FarmPresGive (not case-sensitive) to 1-888-364-GIVE (4483) in order to receive a reply with the link to your giving interface, scan this QR code with your phone's camera, or mail your offering to Farmington Presbyterian Church, 8245 Farmington Boulevard, Germantown, TN 38139.

This Week at Farmington We hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and thought you might enjoy the Turkey Recipe supplied by one of our FPDS preschoolers:

> First, put everything in a bowl and put it in the oven on 10° for 5 minutes. Then, put ranch in a medium bowl. Put some lettuce on the turkey. Put some flour on the chicken and recipe powder (NOT baby powder). Put on a little bit of sour cream. Put some ketchup on it and eat it!

PRAYER CONCERNS

Remember in Prayer Our Farmington Family, Session, and Staff; Earleen Anderson, Kathy and Bill Argo, Harrison Ashley, Jackie Baker, Kevin Beard, Bonnie Blair, Tim Butler, Judith Cassidy, Jim Collins, Jane David, Liz Deeley, Dan Freymeyer, Rev. Mary Gale, Brenda Geise, Adrienne Pakis Gillion, Betzabe Guzman, Bill Harrington, Martha Hart, Annette Hosier, Jerry Hosier, Peter Kendall, Bill Knight, Kristie Lively, Annette Main, Orvaline Mann, Steve Milinkovich, Sara Millar, Beth Morris, Saundra Piggies, Robbie Pike, Bill Renfrow, Ellen Renfrow, Pat Sherman, Karen Smaili, Emma Dean Van Frank, William Stephens, Jon Still, Liese Thomas, Joan Wallace, Barbara White, Frank Whited, and from our Presbytery: First Presbyterian Church, Kennett, MO.

FARMINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Rebecca Luter, Pastor
Rev. Dr. Barb Johnson, Associate Pastor
Davis Howe, Youth Director
Jim Thrash, Director of Music
Dr. Tom Bryant, Accompanist

PARTICIPATING IN THE SERVICE TODAY

Susan Bryant, Liturgist
Madi Lewis, Celebration of Ministry
Mo and Charlie Smithers, Ushers
The Williams Family, Lighting of the Advent Wreath



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