



Farragut
Presbyterian
Church



HOPE



WORDS

FOR THE **BEGINNING**

— YOU ARE A BLESSING —

First Sunday of Advent
DECEMBER 1, 2024 ~ 9:00 a.m.

This service is being recorded by video and audio means.

*We invite you to stand as able.



~We Gather~

Greeting

Rev. Matt Nieman

Advent Candle Lighting:

Advent series "Glowing with Advent" by Gail Gaymer Martin – published by Christian Publishers

Responsive Reading: Psalm 130:5-7

One: I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,

All: **And in his word I put my hope.**

One: My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning.

All: **More than watchmen wait for the morning.**

One: O Israel, put your hope in the Lord,

All: **For with the Lord is unfailing love and with him is full redemption.**

Message: Sam Hacker as the Farmer

Response: Romans 15:13

One: The candle of hope prepares us for Christ's coming.

All: **Our hearts glow with the light of hope.**

One: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

All: **We wait with hope. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Call To Worship

God says,

"Do not be afraid."

God says,

"I have called you by name."

God says,

"I will be with you."

God says,

"You are precious and honored in my sight."

At the beginning of this season,

At the start of this week,

At the top of this hour,

may we wrap ourselves in these words. May we begin again.

Let us worship our Holy God!



*Opening Songs

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Veni Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
4 O come, thou Root of Jes - se, free thine own from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
all things might - i - ly: to us the path of knowl - edge
tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple



here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
show; and teach us in her ways to go. Re-joice! Re-joice!
law in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
save and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

*Opening Hymn

God With Us

VERSE 1

You are matchless in grace and mercy
There is nowhere we can hide from Your love
You are steadfast never-failing
You are faithful
All creation is in awe of who You are

VERSE 2

You're the healer of the sick and the broken
You are comfort for ev'ry heart that mourns
Our King and our Savior forever
For eternity we will sing of all You've done
For eternity we will sing of all You've done

CHORUS

We sing: God with us, God for us, noth-ing can come a-against,
no one can stand be-tween us! God with us, God for us,
noth-ing can come a-against, no one can stand be-tween us!

VERSE 3

Your heart it moves with compassion
There is life there is healing in Your love
You're the Father the Son the Holy Spirit
For eternity we will sing of all You've done (*chorus*)

BRIDGE 1

Where there was death
You brought life Lord
Where there was fear You brought courage
When I was afraid You were with me
And You're lifting me up
And You're lifting me up
(*repeat 1x, then chorus*)

*Prayer of Confession~

Rev. Matt Nieman

**Affirming God, Your first words to creation were words of love.
You looked at this earth and said, "It is good."
You spoke affirmations through the prophets.
You spoke blessings over Mary.
You spoke belonging through Christ.
At every turn, you have reiterated that we are a blessing,
made in your image, held in your love.**

**Forgive us for forgetting this truth.
Forgive us for measuring our worth by society's measuring stick, instead of yours.
We believe. Help our belief.
In Christ's name we pray.**

(please continue in silent prayer)

*Declaration of Forgiveness

*The Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

~We Proclaim~

Prayer for Illumination

John Begovich

**Affirming God, how often do you speak to us, and how often do we miss it?
How often do you whisper blessings over us that we refuse to hear? Open our
hearts. Create space in us to not only hear these words, but to believe the good
news tucked between them. We are hungry for your wisdom, so speak to us now.
With hope and curiosity, we listen.
With hope and curiosity, we dare to begin again. Amen.**

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 43:1-7
Luke 1:26-38

[Pew Bible pg. 672]
[Pew Bible pg. 56]

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

"Words for the Beginning: You Are A Blessing"

Rev. Matt Nieman

~We Respond~

Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in a blessing God who calls us Beloved. We believe that this blessing
showed up in the life of Mary, and was also bestowed upon the hemorrhaging
woman, the poor in spirit, the children, the crowds, the Jews, the Gentiles,
the faithful and the doubting. So in faith, we trust that God's blessing, like ripples
on the water, forever reaches toward us. And with wild hope, we believe that
because of this blessing, we are covered in love. We are more than enough.
Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Musical Reflection

You Say Musical Ensemble

CCLI Song # 7071357 by Bebo Norman | Jason Ingram | Lauren Daigle | Mike Donehey | Paul Mabury © 2016 Appstreet Music; CentricSongs; See You At The Pub; Fellow Ships Music; Formerly Music; ICM Crescendo Royalty Publishing; So Essential Tunes
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Call for Giving

~We Remember~

The Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

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.

Words of Institution

The Communion of the People

“God With Us” reprise

The Prayer after Communion



~We Go Out Into the World~

*Closing Song

The Lion and the Lamb

VERSE



1.He's com - ing on the clouds, kings and king - doms will bow down.
(2.So) o - pen up the gates, make way be - fore the King of kings.

4



And ev - 'ry chain will break as bro - ken hearts de - clare His
The God who comes to save is here to set the cap - tives

7

CHORUS



praise. For who can stop the Lord Al - might - y? Our God is the Li -
free. For who can stop the Lord Al might - y?

10



- on, the Li - on of Ju - dah. He's roar - ing with pow - er, and fight - ing our bat -

13



- tles. And ev - 'ry knee will bow be - fore Him. Our God is the Lamb,

16



the Lamb that was slain. For the sins of the world,

18



His blood breaks the chains. And ev - 'ry knee will

20



bow be - fore the Li - on and the Lamb. Ev - 'ry knee will bow be - fore Him.

1.

25



2. So bow be - fore Him.

2.

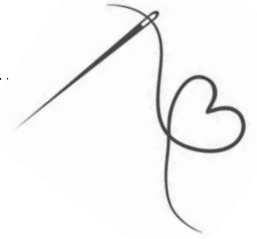
Charge and Benediction

Today's music ensemble:

Sandra Bohlken, guitar & vocals ~ Charles Needham, bass guitar
LisaKay Matchen, Eva Quinley, Bruce Wilson ~ vocals

Usher ~ Margo Gregory

Audio ~ Ken Ladrach & Kat Wilson / *Video* ~ David Long, Parker Morrell & Kat Wilson



SUNDAY MORNING VOLUNTEERS

Hello Friends! Farragut Presbyterian Church is always looking for volunteers to assist in our worship services. If you can help in any of the submitted categories: usher, scripture reader, or communion server, please go to: <http://tinyurl.com/FPCvolunteerSignUp> and sign up in the appropriate available time slot. If you have any questions, please contact Mikie Lancaster, Ken Ladrach, or the church office (865/966-9547). Thank you for your help!



Please use one of the methods below to record your attendance with us today:



Scan this QR code and click on the generated google doc link, or

- Go to <https://tinyurl.com/record-FPC-attendance>, or
- Email the office at office@fpctn.org, or
- Sign the pew attendance pad.



The theme for Advent this year is **“WORDS FOR THE BEGINNING.”** An Advent devotional on this theme (from *Sanctified Art*) can be viewed at online.flippingbook.com/view/811735764/.

If you prefer a printed copy, please let the church office know, and we can print one for you.



NEXT SUNDAY!

We will have one worship service at 10am to enjoy the **FPC CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**
A Christmas Cookie Reception will follow, so be sure to plan on attending this extra special holiday service!



On **Sunday, December 15 at 10:00 a.m.** we will participate in our twenty-seventh annual **SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS** in the sanctuary, followed by an elegant heavy hors-d'œuvre reception by our Church Life Committee. The Service of Lessons and Carols is a traditional seasonal service of scripture and music. Don't miss singing the beloved carols of the season in this special service, and the celebration that follows!



SUNSET GAP SECRET SANTA

This Christmas we are sponsoring 40 children from Cosby Elementary for Christmas. Look for the signup sheets both on-site in the narthex and on-line at <https://tinyurl.com/SGChristmas2024> (or use the QR code). Select a tag, sign up on the sheet with both your name and phone number. Be sure to note your tag's number. Please return gifts wrapped for Christmas, with the child's name and tag number on the package by Dec 8th. Questions? Please contact Debbie Long.



SUNSET GAP HAT/MITTEN TREE:

The congregation is invited to join Presbyterian Women as we collect for the hat, mitten/gloves, scarves tree that the center has available to anyone in the community needing these warm items. The need will be even bigger due to Hurricane Helene. Items may be handmade, or store bought. Items are needed for people of all ages and need to be new. Deadline is Dec 8th as they will be delivered with the gifts for the children. Questions, please contact Debbie Long.



Christmas Eve Services

3:00 p.m. – Candlelight Casual Worship Service with Communion
7:00 p.m. – Candlelight Traditional Worship Service with Communion



If you would still like to make a pledge towards the programs and services FPC provides in 2025, it's not too late!

Please go to:

<https://tinyurl.com/makemyFPCpledge>
or scan this QR code with your phone's camera.

You can also stop by the church during office hours to get a pledge card to turn in.



SPECIAL THANKS to FPC volunteers, Gale Montgomery, Margo Gregory, Sharon Koch, November meal coordinator Carol Kraft, and Lori Patterson for organizing, purchasing, preparing, and serving a meal to the homeless at **VOLUNTEER MINISTRY CENTER** this month. Thank you also to Beth Honey and Jean Peretz, and others who help our FPC children decorate "take home" bags for the guests to leave with after eating, and for purchasing the items to fill those bags. If you would like to help with future monthly meals, check the table in the narthex to sign up, or contact Jean Peretz. Men's Bible Study will be supplying the meal in December, so signups will begin again in January 2025.

Shepherd Ministry



We are excited that our **FPC SHEPHERD MINISTRY** is restarting in January 2025 to provide care to our church family. Your shepherd will be in touch with you! Please contact your Shepherd Leaders: Beth Martin, Jeanie Oakley & Joanie Scheuer with any questions.



HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

If you would like to help us offset the cost of decorating the church for the holidays by making a contribution in honor or memory of a loved one, just fill out this form and include your check made payable to Farragut Presbyterian Church, with "Holiday Decorations" designated in the memo line. Place your check and this form in the sanctuary basket, drop them off in the church office or mail them to the church. **Our cost per poinsettia is \$10.00**, however, your gift may be in any amount. An insert will be included in the Christmas Eve bulletin listing the dedications.

I am making a gift towards holiday decorations, to the Glory of God, and:

Please Print Clearly

In Honor/Memory of _____
(Circle One)

In Honor/Memory of _____
(Circle One)

In Honor/Memory of _____
(Circle One)

In Honor/Memory of _____
(Circle One)

In Honor/Memory of _____
(Circle One)

Donated by: _____



PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

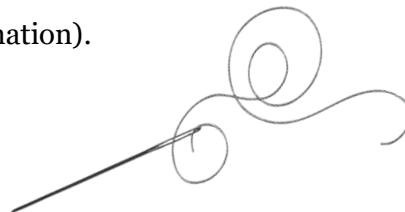
Marilyn Felts, Chuck Foriska, Frank Guess, Mike Houlihan, Ronny Lomax, Beth and Jimmy Loyless, Ann McAnally, Irma McGuffey, Maria Medina, LaQuita Misner, Tami Newsom, Irene Rice, Gail Wallace

BEREAVED: The family and friends of FPC member **Billie Fain**.

SPECIAL PRAYERS:

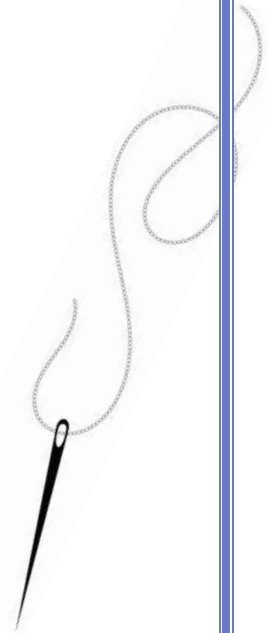
Please continue to pray for the devastated families of the Southeast that have been affected by the Hurricane Helene tragedy. If you would like to help support the disaster relief efforts

from our presbytery, go to: <https://www.presbyteryeasttn.org/donate/> (please choose the PET Disaster Response Fund option when making your donation).



“Favored One”

Digital Painting by Lauren Wright Pittman



Joy And Celebration

You are a blessing.
If you hear nothing else, if the wind howls, if your brain runs amok,
if rebuttals and denials line up like little toy soldiers,
then hear this— you are a blessing.
I knew it the first moment I met you / heard your name /
learned there are 7 billion of us on this planet.
I knew it in my bones, the way my feet know the way home.
You are a blessing.
For our creating God breathed life into your being.
And there is simply no way that, along with that life,
some of God’s goodness didn’t slip right in.
So tell the rebuttals to rest.
Tell the toy soldiers to find another hill,
because this one is reserved for joy and celebration.
You are a blessing.
Breathe it in.

Poem by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed



You Are a Blessing
This quilt square is a
simplified abstract
image
of the angel Gabriel
who tells Mary
she is “blessed among
women.”



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This Week at FPC

Sun Dec 01	9:00 a.m. Casual Service and 11:00 Traditional Service		
	9:00	a.m.	KidZone/Fellowship Hall
	5:30	p.m.	Youth Group/Parlor
Mon, Dec 02	10:00	a.m.	Chair Yoga/Narthex
Tues, Dec 03	12:00	p.m.	Big Fish Chapel/Sanctuary
	5:30	p.m.	Outreach Committee/Library
	6:30	p.m.	Early-Onset Dementia Caregivers/Room A
	7:00	p.m.	Boy Scouts #444/FH, Narthex
Wed, Dec 04	12:00	p.m.	Big Fish Chapel/Sanctuary
	6:00	p.m.	Casual Worship Musician Practice/Room A
	7:30	p.m.	Chancel Choir/Room A
Thur, Dec 05	8:00	a.m.	Men's Bible Study/Narthex
	6:30	p.m.	Cub Scouts/Fellowship Hall
Fri, Dec 06	10:00	a.m.	Chair Yoga/Narthex
	7:00	p.m.	Gentle Yoga/Narthex
Sat, Dec 07	3:00	p.m.	Children's Pageant Rehearsal & Movie Night/ Sanctuary, Rm A, FH



Sunday School ~ 10:00 a.m.

- **KidZone** is for children ages 3-9 who meet in Fellowship Hall at 9am to learn about the love of God, through Bible verses, songs, videos and fun activities.
- **Adult Bible Study** meets in Room D to discuss the weekly Lectionary text. Everyone is welcome. Contact Elizabeth Wilson with questions.
- **Pastor Matt's Class** is studying "The After Party." It's an examination of a growing movement that believes how we engage in politics — how we show up for the conversation, if you will — should be anchored in the clear teaching of Jesus. It's more about "the how" than "the what" — how we interact with each other more than what the "what" is. Join us in the library at 10:00.
- **FPC Youth Class** meets at 10am in the Café (parlor) each week during the school year to "Dive In" to the Old Testament. Contact Mason Warren for more information.



Farragut Presbyterian Church

209 Jamestowne Blvd. ~ Farragut, TN 37934
865/966-9547 ~ www.fpctn.org

Church Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday 9am-3pm; Friday 9am-1pm



<http://tinyurl.com/FPCe-giving>

*"To praise God, welcome all, serve others,
grow in faith, be disciples of Jesus Christ and share the Good News."*



Lisle

"When You Pass Through the Waters"

Artwork by Lisle Gwynn Garrity
Based on Isaiah 43:1-7

