



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF FARMINGTON

Church of the Open Hands

WELCOMING ALL; SHARING CHRIST; SERVING OTHERS

26165 Farmington Road,
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 474-6170
www.farmington-pres.org

In preparing our hearts for worship, we will be dimming the lights in the narthex, indicating a time to prepare ourselves for worship. Please enter the sanctuary quietly and in time to hear the welcome and announcements.

January 12, 2025

First Sunday after the Epiphany

Prayer of Preparation

All who thirst, come to the water and drink deeply of these living streams.
Come, all who are weary; come, all who yearn for forgiveness.
Our gracious God beckons and blesses us. Let us give praise for new life in Christ.

We Enter into God's Presence

*Please stand in body or spirit

Prelude

Kum Ba Yah

arr. Brent Edstrom

Welcome / Greetings

Pastor Bruce Mulder

Signing of the Friendship Pad & Prayer Cards

Minute for Mission

*Call to Worship

God anointed Christ to console the afflicted.

Come, let us worship the Lord our Comforter!

God anointed Christ to emancipate the enslaved.

Come, let us worship the Lord our liberator!

God anointed Christ to bind up the wounded.

Come, let us worship the Lord our healer!

God anointed Christ to deliver the troubled.

Come, let us worship the Lord our Savior!

**Open now thy gates of beauty, Zion, let me enter there,
Where my soul in its joyful duty waits for God who answers prayer;
O how blessed is this place, filled with solace, light, and grace.**

**Gracious God , I come before thee; come thou also unto me;
Where we find thee and adore thee, there a heaven on earth must be;
To my heart O enter thou; let it be thy temple now.**

**Speak, O Lord, and I will hear thee; let thy will be done indeed;
May I undisturbed draw near thee, while thou dost thy people feed.
Her of life the fountain flows; here is balm for all our woes.**

Prayer of Confession

Creator of all worlds, we confess to erratic beliefs and inconsistent faithfulness. Before the mystery of the universe our minds cannot grasp a God who embraces infinity. In the face of natural disasters and cruel inhumanity we doubt that love reigns. Between our own actions and the best we know we see a wide gap that we cannot bridge.

O God, reclaim us and help us to reclaim our baptism; we need your healing, forgiving, transforming Spirit.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy. Amen.

Words of Assurance—from Romans 8

You did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption.

When we cry, “Abba! Father!” it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ.

Praise God that in the power of the Spirit we are joint heirs with Christ! We see the love of God at Christ’s baptism. God has come to us and forgiven us.

Thanks be to our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

We Hear God’s Word

Reading

Psalm 29; Luke 3.15-22

NRSV

Psalm 29

Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name worship the LORD in holy splendor. The voice of

the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over mighty waters. The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty. The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon. He makes Lebanon skip like a calf and Sirion like a young wild ox. The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire. The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl and strips the forest bare, and in his temple all say, "Glory!"

The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forever. May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace!

Luke 3.15-22

As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with^[b] the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So with many other exhortations he proclaimed the good news to the people. But Herod the ruler, who had been rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and because of all the evil things that Herod had done, added to them all by shutting up John in prison.

Now when all the people were baptized and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Anthem

Soon-Ah Will Be Done

William Dawson

Sermon

"When the Heavens Opened"

We Respond to God's Word

Offertory & Doxology #606

Pastor Bruce Mulder

Collection of Prayer Cards

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him all creatures here and below;
Praise *him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Amen**

Prayer of Thanksgiving & The Lord's Prayer

Mary Carson

Father, as we remember how our Lord Jesus was identified by baptism with John's message of repentance and renewal, we pray for the renewal of humanity today and for the church as a means of renewal.

Lord Jesus Christ, hear our prayers.

We pray for the welfare of nations and the wisdom of governments, for justice and for racial harmony. May laws and policies dignify, not degrade, and may the arrival of your kingdom in Jesus be attested by the witness of Christians in every walk of life.

Lord Jesus Christ, hear our prayers.

We pray for all who suffer loss and who are diminished by illness, by disappointment, or by the attitude of others. Support and strengthen these and all who are in the wilderness facing the testing of what they believe in.

Lord Jesus Christ, hear our prayers.

We pray also for all who must die soon— both those who know it and those who do not. Confirm in every one of us that it is not for this life only that we have hope in Christ, and in the communion of all your baptized people may we find bonds forged between us that endure to all eternity.

Lord Jesus Christ, hear our prayers.

Hear these prayers, O God and those we store in our hearts knowing that your Spirit prays for us. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord who teaches us to pray—

“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.”

We Follow God's Word into the World

Hymn of Sending # 488

I Was There To Hear Your Borne Cry

**“I was there to hear your borne cry; Ill be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child with a faith to suit you well;
In a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell.”**

**“I was there to hear your borne cry; Ill be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold.”**

**“When you heard the wonder of the World, I was there to cheer you on.
You were raised to praise the living Lord to whom you now belong.
If you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
I’ll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk till the rising sun.”**

**“I was there to hear your borning cry; I’ll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold.”**

**“In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young,
I’ll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I’ve begun.
When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes,
I’ll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise.”**

**“I was there to hear your borning cry; I’ll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold.”**

Benediction

Pastor Bruce Mulder

Postlude

Postlude on “Lancashire”

arr. Jason Payne

Worship Liturgist

We welcome Mary Carson as today’s liturgist. For information on serving as a liturgist to assist the pastor during worship, please contact Kari Gorman.

2025 Offering Envelopes

If you requested a box, please pick it up from the Welcome Center in the Narthex. If you would like to order a box or are unable to pick yours up, please contact the church office.

Reminder to send in pledge form or letter of intent

If you haven’t done so already, please mail in your pledge form or letter of intent to the office or drop them off in the collection basket when you attend the Sunday service. We are putting together our 2025 budget and need your pledge. Thank you for your generosity in supporting the programs and ministries of First Presbyterian Church of Farmington. We couldn’t do what we do without you!

JOIN THE FUN! ALL AGES!

Friday, January 17 is Game Night in Knox Hall. Come for dinner (pizza, salad, and dessert) at 5:30 and games at 6:30. Bring your favorite game or join in a game of Bingo, Euchre, Apples to Apples, etc. Please sign up on the sheet on the Kiosk in the foyer or email nancy.prieskorn@gmail.com . Come alone or bring a friend.

Recycle Your Old Toothbrushes, etc.

Please start saving your old toothbrushes, empty toothpaste tubes and caps, toothbrush outer packaging and empty floss containers, any brand. Place them in the marked bin in the foyer. Colgate has started a program to recycle these hard-to-recycle items. Let’s keep more items out of the landfill! Thanks for your care for planet Earth. Questions? See Sharon Cressman.

Custodian Needed!

Your First Presbyterian Church of Farmington is actively seeking a part time custodian. The candidate should have a good background in building maintenance. The job is 20 hours per week. The pay for it position is \$20 per hour. Please refer any candidates to Bob Van Hamme @mvanhamme@twmi.rr.com

Hospitality Training by Pastor Bruce

On Sunday January 19 and 26, Pastor Bruce will hold Hospitality Training in Knox Hall during coffee hour. We are considered by many to be a very friendly and welcoming congregation. So what more is there for us to learn? Probably a lot! And if you are interested in being a part of a Hospitality Team, please contact Tom Neal or Colleen Tavor.

Adult Bible Discussion – The Wired Word

Join our Bible discussion **Sundays at 9:00 a.m. in 208/210**. Advance copies are available the Saturday before by email. To get on the email list, please contact Tom Neal at ttneal@sbcglobal.net.

Hospitality Time Schedule

You are invited to bring ONE food item on ONE Sunday each month. Your Sunday depends on the first letter of your last name. It would be greatly appreciated if you are also able to help with set-up or clean-up. Please note healthy options are welcome as well such as fruit, eggs, cheese & crackers, veggies etc. Here's the upcoming schedule:

January 5: Last names beginning E-K

January 12: Last names beginning L-R

January 19: Last names beginning S-Z

January 26: Last names beginning A-D

February 2: Last names beginning E-K



QR Code for Donations!

If you ever forget to go to the ATM, or simply don't carry cash on you, we've decided to include the church QR code for a more streamlined donation process. To donate, just scan the QR code and follow the prompts!

First Presbyterian Church Staff

Ministers of the Church

Transitional Senior Pastor

Pastoral Care Parish Associate

Minister of Music

Office Administrator

Administrative Assistant

AV Tech Intern

Members of the Congregation

Rev. Bruce Mulder

Rev. Craig Aue

Peter Cartwright

Liz Labourdeth

Amanda May Schreiber

Lidia Neathamers