



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF FARMINGTON

*Church of the Open Hands*

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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.

## November 10, 2024

### 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost

Prayer of Preparation

*For all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on. Mark 12.44*

#### **We Enter into God's Presence**

\*Please stand in body or spirit

Prelude	The Master Hath Come	arr. Mary McDonald
Welcome / Greetings		Bruce Mulder
<i>Signing of the Friendship Pad &amp; Prayer Cards</i>		
Minute for Mission		Calvin Malisow

\*Call to Worship— from Psalm 100:

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

**Worship the LORD with gladness; come before God with joyful songs.**

Know that the LORD is God. It is God who made us, and we are his;

**We are God's people, the sheep of God's pasture.**

Enter God's gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to the Lord and praise his name.

**For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; God's faithfulness continues through all generations. Let us worship God. Amen!**

For all the faithful women who served in days of old,  
To you shall thanks be given, to all, their story told.  
They served with strength and gladness in tasks your wisdom gave.  
To you their lives bore witness, proclaimed your power to save.

We praise your name for Miriam, who sang triumphantly  
While Pharaoh's vaunted army lay drowned beneath the sea;  
For Ruth, who left her homeland and ventured forth in faith,  
Who pledged to serve and worship Naomi's God till death.

We sing of busy Martha, who toiled with pot and pan  
While Mary sat in silence to hear the word again.  
We praise the other Mary, who hastened to the tomb  
And found her Lord arisen, dispelling doubt and gloom.

### Prayer of Confession

Eternal and merciful God, you have loved us with a love beyond our understanding, and you have set us on paths of righteousness for your name's sake.

**Yet we have strayed from your way; we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, through what we have done and what we have left undone.**

As we remember the lavish gift of your grace symbolized in baptism, O God, we praise you and give you thanks that you forgive us yet again.

**Grant us now, we pray, the grace to die daily to sin, and to rise daily to new life in Christ, who lives and reigns with you, and in whose powerful name we pray. Amen.**

### Words of Assurance—from Romans 8

What then are we to say about these things?

**If God is for us, who is against us?**

God who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect?

**It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? No one! It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.**

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

**No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Christ who loved us.**

For we are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Thanks be to Jesus Christ our Lord who has forgiven us. Amen.**

### **We Hear God's Word**

Reading

Psalm 127; Mark 12.38-44

NRSV

#### Psalm 127

Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD guards the city, the guard keeps watch in vain. It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil, for he gives sleep to his beloved. Sons are indeed a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the sons of one's youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them. He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.

#### Mark 12.38-44

As he taught, he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."

He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

Anthem

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

Sermon

"God's Gotcha"

### **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 &amp; The Lord's Prayer—

Mary Carson

Almighty God, gracious Father, in the presence of your abundance keep us humble, in the presence of all people's needs make us compassionate and caring. Give us faith in our praying and love in our serving, knowing that by your power all may find a new balance in living and a new victory in adversity.

We pray for all those who are bitter and resentful, feeling life has given them a raw deal, those who are sensitive to criticism and quick to take offense, those who desire their own way, whatever the inconvenience or cost to others. May your judgment and mercy be for their healing.

We pray for those who are lonely, who are shy, who find it hard to make friends; those who are nervous and timid, who ever feel themselves strangers in a world they can scarcely understand. May your presence inspire confidence and ensure companionship. We pray for those who live with bitter regrets, for loving relationships brought to ruin, for opportunities freely given and woefully abused, for the tartness of defeat or betrayal at another's hand, or for failure in personal integrity. May your grace give new hope to find victory in the very scene of failure.

We pray for all in illness and pain, weary of the day and fearful of the night. Grant healing and at all times through faith the gift of your indwelling peace.

Bless the company of Christ's folk, the church in every land. Make her eager in worship, fearless in proclamation of the gospel, and passionate for caring. Bless us, each one, in the communion of the saints, and keep us ever mindful of the great cloud of witnesses that, following in their steps, as they did in the steps of the Good Shepherd, we may with them at the last receive the fulfillment promised to your people.

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 #716

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

**God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,  
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door:  
Gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise;  
Thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.**

**Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:**

**All at peace in health and freedom, races joined the church made one.**

**Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone.**

**Born with talents make us servants fit to answer at your throne.**

**Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through powers your grace conferred:**

**Ours to use from home and kindred, and to spread the gospel word.**

**Open wide our hands in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call,**

**Healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving you by loving all.**

Benediction

Pastor Bruce Mulder

Postlude

The Light of the World is Jesus

arr. Mark Hayes

### **A Warm Welcome for our Pianist/Organist Margaret Bell!**

Margaret received her bachelor's degree in music (Organ Performance) and Mathematics from the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, VA. She has been a church organist for over 45 years. She recently retired from Orchard Lake Community Church, Presbyterian after almost 27 years as their organist and accompanist. All four of her children attended Pre School here at First Presbyterian of Farmington.

### **Worship Liturgist**

We welcome Mary Carson as today's liturgist. Our liturgist for November 17th is MJ Floreno. For information on serving as a liturgist to assist the pastor during worship, please contact Kari Gorman.

### **Scouts BSA Troop 179 Holiday Wreaths**

Scouts BSA Troop 179 are selling wreaths for the holidays. They will be for sale Sunday, November 24, before and after Church. The small wreaths are \$29, medium wreaths are \$39, 25 feet of roping are \$30, and stands are \$6 each. If you would like one, but can not be at church on Sunday, please contact Katie Malisow at [kmalisow@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kmalisow@sbcglobal.net)

### **Coming again this season: Adopt-A-Teen for the Holidays**

The Mission Ministry is hosting an Adopt-A-Teen gift buy for Christmas for 7 teens from families in Farmington Public Schools. On **November 17 and 24**, please select your gift choices from our "tree" in the Narthex. All the gifts must be delivered to the church by **Sunday, December 1**. Gifts may be wrapped, if you wish, and please attach the bulb tag to the gift.

### **Mission Study Congregational Surveys – We Need Your Voice!**

In order to hear as many voices as possible with as much information as possible, the Mission Study team will implement 3 surveys (Don't worry! You don't have to take them all!)

A longer survey has been sent to church leadership (Deacons, Elders, Committee heads, etc.). Then, during the last week of October, another shorter survey will be sent out via eblast to the entire congregation (church leadership will not participate in this survey as they have already answered these questions in the earlier survey). Both surveys can be taken online or hardcopy. Then, on Sunday, October 27, we'll have a town hall gathering (with lunch!) after the

service where we will hold table discussions on topics of interest to the future of our church. Lastly, on Sunday, November 17, we'll discuss the results of the surveys.

**Mission Study Town Hall Gathering + Lunch (11:15 - 1:00 pm)** -, We want to hear from you! On Sunday, November 17, after the service, we'll share the results of the surveys we've submitted and discussions.

### **CRAFT SHOW**

We are looking for bakers and helpers to work 2-hour shifts. There is a signup sheet on the Kios or you can speak with Deborah Draper. We have about 30 crafters and getting more daily.

### **Join the JOY study this year!**

JOY is reading and discussing the book of Romans using a study guide written by New Testament scholar N.T.Wright. Come learn from Romans with us! See Sharon Cressman if interested!

### **Stewardship 2025 – What does following Jesus mean to you?**

As we move through our process of change and transition toward a permanent pastor, what better way to move forward than by “following Jesus?” Last year we committed to being a “b sailboat church,” depending on God’s provision as the Holy Spirit guides us forward. May we all draw closer to Jesus as we explore what it truly means to follow him. Please feel free to share what “following Jesus” means to you on the Stewardship bulletin board in the foyer.



### **Presbyterian Players**

Mark your calendar for the Christmas Gathering on Wednesday, Dec. 11 at 10:00 a.m. There will be a music program featuring your favorite musicians, followed by a Christmas comedy, “Shepherds and Kings,” presented by Presbyterian Players. Coffee and snacks will follow. Tickets (\$5.00) will be on sale in November.

### **FPCF's Shopping List for CARES**

Thank you for using your 2024 CARES shopping list each month to donate. Your neighbors, the guests at CARES, appreciate the availability of a variety of food from which to choose.

### **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](mailto: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:

November 10: Last names beginning E-K

November 17: Last names beginning L-R

November 24: Last names beginning S-Z

December 1: Last names beginning A-D



### 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 make a donation, 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 & Organist/Pianist

Office Administrator

Administrative Assistant

AV Tech Intern

### Members of the Congregation

Rev. Bruce Mulder

Rev. Craig S. Aue

Shari Fiore-Bloom

Liz Labourdeth

Amanda May Schreiber

Lidia Neathamer