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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF FARMINGTON

Church of the Open Hands

WELCOMING ALL SHARING CHRIST SERVING OTHERS

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 23rd, 2025 Christ the King



Prayer of Preparation

"Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of the unjust and cruel. For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O LORD, from my youth."

We Enter into God's Presence

**Please stand in body or spirit*

Prelude	All Hail The Power Of Jesus Name	arr Brent Edstrom
Minute for Mission		Manny Sharpe
Welcome / Greetings		MJ Floreno
<i>Signing of the Friendship Pad & Prayer Cards</i>		

Come to me, all you who sit in darkness
and in the shadow of death!

On you has the light shone!

For Jesus Christ is the light of the world
and this is the story;

the light shines in the darkness

and the darkness could not put it out!

Jesus said,
"I am the resurrection and the life.
I am the bright and morning star."

**We join with the angels in their hymns of praise;
Glory to God in the highest
and on earth peace, Alleluia!**

*Opening Hymn 795

Healer of Our Every Ill

1. You who know our fears and sadness, grace us with your peace and gladness.
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts.
2. In the pain and joy beholding how your grace is still unfolding.
Give us all your vision, God of love.
3. Give us strength to love each other, every sister, every brother.
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide.
4. You who know each thought and feeling, teach us all your way of healing.
Spirit of compassion, fill each heart.

Refrain:

**Healer of our every ill, light of each tomorrow,
Give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow**

*Prayer of Confession (standing)

Rev. Dr. Melissa Lynn Allison

Our prayer of confession is followed by a time for silent confession.

We hear that we are loved, but we struggle to receive it. We err on the side of fear and judgement rather than faith and love. We choose darkness instead of light. We hear there is eternal life, but we refuse to live it.

Forgive us when we our feet stray from the paths of peace. Have mercy on us when we choose judgement over love.

(Silent confession)

*Words of Assurance (standing)

Rev. Dr. Melissa Lynn Allison

Leader: "By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, giving light to those in darkness, guiding our feet in the way of peace." Receive God's tender mercy today. Trust that God's peace will prevail.

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*Passing of the Peace (standing)

Rev. Dr. Melissa Lynn Allison

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

We Hear God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

MJ Floreno

All: Guide us, O God, by your Word, and Holy Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover peace; through Christ our Lord, Amen.

First Reading

Colossians 1:11-20

Rev. Dr. Melissa Lynn Allison

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Listen now to the Word of the Lord

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Shine, Jesus, Shine
FP Bell Choir

arr Peggy Bettcher

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:68-79 (NRSV)

Rev. Dr. Melissa Lynn Allison

“Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago), salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us—to show mercy to our ancestors and to remember his holy covenant, the oath he swore to our father Abraham: to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace.”

Sermon

“The Places You’ll God”

Rev. Dr. Melissa Lynn Allison

Offertory & Collection of Prayer Cards

*Doxology #606

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

We Respond to God’s Word

Prayers of the People, Thanksgiving, & The Lord’s Prayer

Rev. Dr. Melissa Lynn Allison

No matter where we are, where we are going, or what we are doing, we know that we find our help in you, our Lord. You are the creator and sustainer of all that has been made and will be made. And yet, the immensity of creation does not distract you from caring personally for every person in it. We know that is true of your care for us too! You do not daydream or become weary in that care. We thank you that you not only watch over us with diligence but that you will guide us so that we will not fall— so that we won’t even stumble. Whether we are awake or asleep, you are there, sheltering and protecting us from all that would hurt us. We know that you watch over all our living— you have in the past, and we know you are now. Your promise holds for the future and for eternity, and we praise and thank you for that. Hear us as we 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 41

O Worship The King, All Glorious Above

**1. O worship the King, all glorious above!
O gratefully sing God’s power and God’s love:
Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.**

**2. O tell of God's might; O sing of God's grace,
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space,
Whose chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form;
And bright is God's path on the wings of the storm.**

**3. The earth with its store of wonders untold,
Almighty, your power has founded of old;
Established it fast by a changeless decree,
And round it has cast, like a mantle, the sea.**

**4. Your bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air; it shines in the light;
Its streams from the hills; it descends to the plain,
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.**

**5. Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail;
In you do we trust, nor find you to fail;
Your mercies, how tender, how firm to the end,
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.**

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Melissa Lynn Allison

Postlude

Come, You Thankful People, Come

arr Gerald Peterson

A Warm Welcome to Today's Guest Pastor!

The Rev. Dr. Melissa Lynn Allison (she/her) is a pastor, teacher, conflict mediator, peace and justice practitioner. She currently serves as the Co-Presbytery Leader/Stated Clerk for the Presbytery of Detroit. Melissa grew up in Midland, Michigan; earned her undergraduate degree from Alma College (Go Scots!), and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies. She went on to Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary where she received her Master of Divinity degree with awards in the "Interpretation of Scripture and Life." She attended Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School in Rochester, New York for her Doctorate in Ministry with an emphasis on peacemaking, interfaith dialogue and prophetic preaching. Melissa is co-author of the book, "Girlfriends' Clergy Companion: Surviving and Thriving in Ministry."

The Rev. Dr. Allison is fulfilling her ordination vows through service with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) on the Advisory Committee on the Constitution (ACC), and the Board of Trustees for Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Melissa is deeply committed to working with marginalized communities around restorative justice practices, access to affordable housing, food justice, reproductive health, racial justice and LGBTQIA inclusion.

Melissa currently lives in Ypsilanti, Michigan with her wife Robin. With one child launched, one in college, and one wrapping up high school, they love eating the food Melissa cooks, adventuring across the country, finding a great beach to read on, trail to hike, and listening to live music. The dogs know the cat is the boss of the house. And Melissa does her best to not let rarely finished artistic endeavors and dead plants take over the house.

Greening of the Church November 29

Come one, come all to help with the Greening of the Church on Saturday, November 29, starting at 9 a.m. Join us as we decorate our worship and fellowship spaces for the Advent and Christmas seasons. The more hands, the quicker the decorating -- and it is a great way to get into the Christmas spirit!



KIDS' WORSHIP BAGS

The kids' worship bags are available at the welcome desk (on the wooden tree hanger). The activities in the bags are updated each week to reflect the lectionary readings for that Sunday as well as some other fun items. The yellow bags are for kids aged preschool to 8 years old; and the white bags are for kids aged 8+ years. Kids are welcome to take a bag each Sunday to use during worship and/or to take home to enjoy. If your child forgot to pick up a worship bag before service, please let an usher know and they will get one for your child.

Mission Committee Donations

SNAP benefits have been in the news a lot lately. SNAP is the current name for food stamps. Our congregation along with COOS and Covenant, have always generously supported agencies that alleviate hunger, especially in our local community. The Mission Committee has used our 2025 budgeted money that was not already earmarked and sent a \$250 check to the three local agencies that provide hunger relief: C.A.R.E.S., Neighborhood House and Salvation Army. Additional information is provided on the board. If this is an issue you personally feel passionate about, you can make an individual donation. QR codes and envelopes are provided for your convenience. They are located on the project board that has been set up in the middle of the church narthex. Donations will not go through the church books. Donations are entirely individual.

JOY! Advent Study (Dec 2, 9, 16)

The JOY Study group invites all of you to join us! Beginning November 18, the JOY Book Study will be reading *An Unlikely Advent* by Rachal Billups (the book costs about \$10.50). This four-week Advent study focuses on the experiences of four sets of often overlooked characters in the Nativity story. Contact Sharon Cressman if you would like Zoom details (and Zoom coaching if needed).

Reminder to send in pledge form

If you haven't done so already, please mail in your pledge form to the office or drop them off in the collection basket when you attend the Sunday service. We are putting together our 2026 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!

Adopt-A-Teen for the Holidays

The Mission Ministry is hosting an Adopt-A-Teen for Christmas for six teens from the Farmington Public Schools. On November 23 & 30, please select your gift choices from our tree in the Narthex. All the gifts must be delivered to the church by Sunday, December 7th. Please leave all gifts unwrapped; just attach the "bulb" tag to your gift. Wrapping paper, tape and gift bags may be donated separately. Merry, merry!

GIFT BAGS FOR SECOND MILE CHILDREN

***** Today is the deadline for letting Sue know *****

Presbyterian Women is organizing Christmas gift bags for the children who attend the Second Mile Center in Detroit. The gift bags are large bags that will include items like shirts & pants, socks & underwear, hats & gloves, a toy from the child's wish list, and a book. The cost per gift bag is on average \$100. This is a great opportunity for friends or a small group to contribute together and put together a gift bag. The names of the children and their requests are usually received from Ruth Azar, the director of SMC, at Thanksgiving, and the bags need to be received by the second week of December.

If you or a group would like to sponsor a Second Mile child by providing a gift bag or help by donating money in any amount (ex: \$25 gift card to Target or Amazon) to be included in a bag, please contact Sue Carlson.

PW CHRISTMAS GATHERING IS DEC. 10



Everyone is invited to join us for the PW Christmas Gathering on Wednesday, December 10 at 1:00 p.m. (Please note the new time for this event.) The afternoon begins with a musical program featuring many of your favorite First Pres musicians. Next is a stage play presented by Presbyterian Players. This is a comedy, "Operation Whispering Pines." After the play, there

will be light refreshments in Knox Hall. The play is about a small, homey retirement facility that is in danger of being sold and turned into a golf course by its unscrupulous owner. The resourceful residents hatch a clever plan in hopes of saving their home and avoiding eviction. The playwright, Karen Jones, summarized the play's message as "don't mess with old people!" Tickets (\$5.00) will be available at the welcome table beginning Nov. 16 or by contacting Sue Carlson.

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 30: Last names beginning A-D

December 7: Last names beginning E-K

December 14: Last names beginning L-R

December 21: Last names beginning S-Z



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 prompt just scan the QR code and follow

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