



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF FARMINGTON

Church of the Open Hands

26165 Farmington Road
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 474-6170

December 15, 2024
3rd Sunday of Advent
Presbyterian Women Christmas Play
“Shepherds and Kings”

Prayer of Preparation

Blessed are you, Lord our God, ruler of the universe, for you have kept us in life, sustained us, and brought us to this holy season. **Amen.**

We Enter into God’s Presence

**Please stand in body or spirit*

Prelude

Good Christian Men Rejoice

arr. Brent Edstrom

Welcome / Greetings

Advent Reading & Lighting of the Third Candle (pink)

Ron & Nancy Prieskorn

*Opening Hymn #107

Awake! Awake, and Greet The New Morn

**Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning.
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born, behold! The Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together,
He opens wide the heavenly door and lives now inside us forever.**

To us, to all in sorrow and fear, Emmanuel comes a singing;
His humble song is quiet and near, yet fills the earth with its ringing;
Music to heal the broken soul and hymns of loving kindness.
The thunder of his anthems roll to shatter all hatred and violence.

In darkest night his coming shall be, when all the world is despairing,
As morning light so quiet and free, so warm and gentle and caring.
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in wonder,
The weak be raised above the strong, and weapons be broken asunder.

Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night. Though dark the winter and cheerless,
The rising sun shall crown you with light; be strong and loving and fearless.
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our endless story;
May God fill every day we share and bring us at last into glory.

Scripture Reading Isaiah 12:2-6

Isaiah 12:2-6

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and will not be afraid, for the LORD is my strength and my might; God has become my salvation."

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say on that day: "Give thanks to the LORD; call on God's name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that God's name is exalted.

Sing praises to the LORD, for God has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."

**"Shepherds and Kings"
Presented by Presbyterian Players**



*Note: There will be a gunshot sound effect in the first scene.
Royalty-free sound effects courtesy of Pixabay.com*

Offertory & Doxology
Collection of Prayer Cards

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation, you order all things with strength and gentleness: Come now and teach us the way to salvation.

Come, Lord Jesus.

O Adonai, ruler of the house of Israel, you appeared in the burning bush to Moses and gave him the law on Sinai: Come with outstretched arm to save us.

Come, Lord Jesus.

O Alpha and Omega, rising as a sign for all the peoples, before you earthly rulers will keep silent and nations give you honor: Come quickly to deliver us.

Come, Lord Jesus.

O Key of David, scepter over the house of Israel, you open and no one can close, you close and no one can open: Come to set free the prisoners who live in darkness and the shadow of death.

Come, Lord Jesus.

O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: Come, shine on those who live in darkness and in the shadow of death.

Come, Lord Jesus.

O Ruler of the nations, monarch for whom the people long, you are the cornerstone uniting all humanity: Come, save us all, whom you formed out of clay.

Come, Lord Jesus.

O Immanuel, our sovereign and lawgiver, desire of the nations and Savior of all:

Come and save us, O Lord our God. Come, Lord Jesus.

O God of grace, ever faithful to your promises, the earth rejoices in hope of our Savior's coming and looks forward with longing to his return at the end of time. Prepare our hearts to receive him when he comes, and to pray as he teaches ...

Benediction

Postlude

An Epilogue of Praise

David Paxton

Presbyterian Players Present:

“SHEPHERDS AND KINGS”
by Karen Jones



Produced under special arrangement with Eldridge Publishing Co.

CAST AND CREW

Gerald King	Tom Neal
Alice King	Linda Clew
Jenny King	Laurel Scott
Jacob King	Sandy Adkins
Buford Shepherd	Kari Gorman
Ike Shepherd	Deb Anderson
Velma Shepherd	Laura Hedgecock
Maisy Shepherd	Mary Carson
Granny Esther	MJ Floreno
Grandpa Rufus	Sue Carlson
Aunt Trucie	Sally Kirsten

Director	Sue Carlson
Prompter/Asst. Director	Leslie Moyna
Set Design and Build	Jim Scott & Rob Kirsten
Set Decoration	Siobhan Moyna
Sound and Lights	Sharon Cressman
Costumes, Props, and Scenery	Marcia VanHamme
Slide show	Leslie Moyna

Today's flowers are presented by Karen Spica in honor of Joanne Boyd for her 94th Birthday today.

Worship Liturgist

We welcome Rob Kirsten as today's liturgist. Next week's liturgist will be Becca DeSloover. For information on serving as a liturgist to assist the pastor during worship, please contact Kari Gorman.

Pastor Nominating Committee

During the month of December, we will be searching for members to join the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). The PNC is the committee elected by the congregation to conduct the process of finding candidates and eventually selecting our new pastor. If you are interested in serving on the PNC, please contact Session member, Martha Countegan, by email at dcountegan@aol.com.

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!

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](mailto:mvanhamme@twmi.rr.com)

Join the new Hospitality Team

The Membership Committee encourages you to join our Hospitality Team. Help us welcome guests each Sunday. Pastor Bruce will be leading a Hospitality training session. If interested reach out to Collee Tavor (CMTcounseling@gmail.com) or Tom Neal (ttneal@sbcglobal.net)

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 “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.

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:

December 15: Last names beginning L-R

December 22: Last names beginning S-Z

December 29: Last names beginning A-D

January 5: 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	Members of the Congregation
Transitional Senior Pastor	Rev. Bruce Mulder
Pastoral Care Parish Associate	Rev. Craig Aue
Minister of Music	Peter Cartwright
Office Administrator	Liz Labourdeth
Administrative Assistant	Amanda May Schreiber
AV Tech Intern	Lidia Neathamer