



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF FARMINGTON

Church of the Open Hands

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



December 24, 2023

4th Sunday in Advent

Prayer of Preparation

Lord, I don't know what today holds. But I know you hold it. I come to church today expecting to meet you, to speak with you, and to be filled by you. Amen.

We Enter into God's Presence

**Please stand in body or spirit*

Welcome / Greetings

Sharon Cressman

Signing of the Friendship Pad & Prayer Cards

Congregational Life

Sharon Cressman

Advent Reading & Lighting of the fourth candle (purple)

Anne and Rick Fuller

Prelude

Wachet Auf, BWV 645

J. S. Bach

**Call to Worship*

Sharon Cressman

Now is the time of watching and waiting.

The time pregnant with the expectation of new life.

Now is the season of hope unfolding.

The dark winter season when love is waiting to be born.

Rejoice! God comes to bring life and joy.

May our souls rejoice in God our Savior!

**Opening Hymn #113*

Angels We Have Heard on High

James Chadwick

**1 Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**3 Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

Prayer of Brokenness/Confession

Forgive our vain lives, O Lord! We look in all the wrong places! Forgive us when we look for love in movies and television shows...when we look for peace in military power...when we look for security in savings accounts and investments...when we look for joy in physical pleasures.

You, O Lord, are the true source of love, peace, security and joy. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon-Forgiveness

We Hear God's Word

The Good News of Deliverance

61 The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives
and release to the prisoners,
²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor
and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn,
³to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins;
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

Second Scripture Reading
New Revised Standard Version

Luke 1:39-45

Rev. Ken Kaibel

Mary Visits Elizabeth

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.

Anthem

I will light candles this Christmas
Chancel Choir

Kim Andre Arnesen

Sermon

Expecting

Rev. Ken Kaibel

We Respond to God's Word

**Direct, control, suggest, this day,
in all I design, do, or say,
that all my powers, with all of their might,
might serve you both day and night.**

arr. Shari Fiore

Prayers of the People

Sharon Cressman

Prayer of Thanksgiving & The Lord's Prayer

Sharon Cressman

We thank you, gracious and loving God, for hearing our prayers this morning. We thank you for coming to us in human form long before we were born. You have a plan to save your world from sin and error! And we thank you for calling us to be your people and for making us a part of your plan. Holy God, you chose each and every person here for your purpose and we rejoice to be together!

We thank you that you chose a new leader for this congregation long before we knew we even needed one. Now, we wait expectantly for you to make your will known to us. We pray in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray together:

"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#136

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

John W. Work II

**1 While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. [Refrain]**

**2 The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth. [Refrain]**

**3 Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. [Refrain]**

Refrain:
Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!

Benediction

Rev. Ken Kaibel

Postlude

Lob Sei Dem Allmachtigen Gott, BWV 602

J. S. Bach

Please welcome Rev. Dr. Ken Kaibel, today's guest preacher.

Ken is a retired pastor and member of the Presbytery of Detroit. He has served several congregations in the presbytery as an interim pastor and has been moderating the session of FPC for the past year.

Worship Liturgist

We welcome Sharon Cressman as this morning's liturgist. Mary Carson will serve as liturgist for the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on December 24th at 4 p.m. and Manny Sharpe will serve as liturgist for the December 31st Carol Sing and Christmas Sweater worship service. For information on serving as a liturgist to assist the pastor during worship, please contact Kari Gorman.



2023 Christmas Poinsettias

Craig & Pam Aue (2) In memory and in honor of loved ones

Leslie Black & Michael Rogers (2) In honor of family near and far

Alvine Cooper In honor of all those who serve in many ways

Randy & Tracy Edwards In honor of loved ones

Ellen & Jeff Ely In memory of Engelina Jansema, Ellen's mother

Anne & Rick Fuller In memory of our niece, Jill Heather

Dale Hawkins In honor of the Hawkins family

Jerry & Marcia Howe In memory of our parents

Mary Kinney (2) In honor of my children Julie, Will/Carol Kinney and grandchildren Andrea and Caitlyn; and in memory of my beloved husband, William L. Kinney

Rob & Sally Kirsten In memory of our parents, Peter & Louise Kirsten and Charles & Mary Shaw

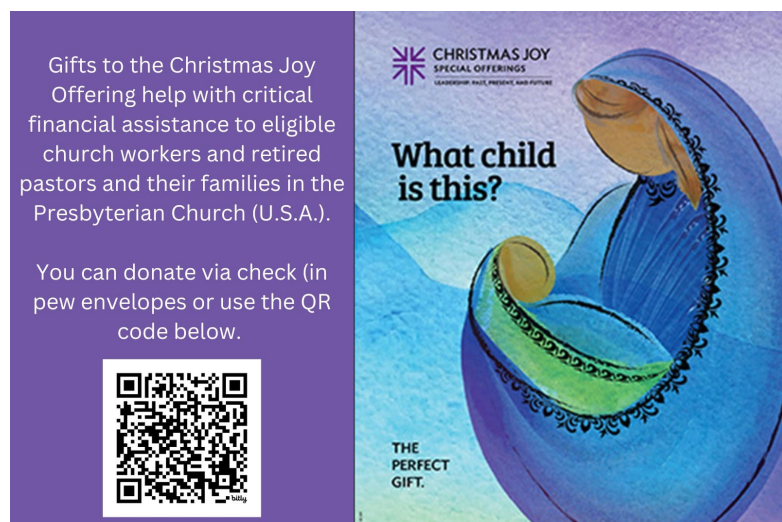
Luna & Dwight Kish (3) In memory of Marilyn and Andrew Kish and Constantine Kapatais

Eddie & Becky Matteson Prayers for Peace on Earth

Don & Sue Schwartz In memory of our mothers, Mary Ellen and Joyce

Sue Smith In memory of Robert and June Lymperis

Jim Tubbs In memory of Lee & Jim Tubbs



Christmas Joy Offering

The Mission Ministry is pleased to sponsor the Christmas Joy Offering every year. There are Christmas Joy envelopes in the pews or you can mail your offering to the church office. Be sure to mark it specifically for Christmas Joy. Christmas Joy offerings go to support retired clergy and leadership development for the future, a very important cause that we heartily support. Thank you for your generosity.

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, cheese & crackers, veggies etc. Here's the upcoming schedule:

- December 31: Last names beginning L-K
- January 7: Last names beginning S-Z
- January 14: Last names beginning A-D
- January 21: Last names beginning E-K

2024 Worship Flower sign-up available

Please consider giving flowers in memory of a loved one or to recognize a special occasion such as a birthday or anniversary or to the glory of God. **An arrangement is \$25** and enhances our in-person and livestreamed worship services. More than one arrangement may be ordered for any Sunday and will be displayed on plant stands near the pulpit during the service. Your donation will also be acknowledged in that Sunday's worship bulletin. Please sign up on the flower calendar on the kiosk or order through the church office at least one week in advance. You may take home the flowers after the service, ask to have the flowers delivered to you or request to have them delivered to one of our homebound members.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

There are two opportunities to worship with your church family on Christmas Eve. On Sunday, December 24th we will hold our traditional Sunday morning worship beginning at 10:00am. We will hold a special service at 4:00pm as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord on Christmas Day. Please join us and invite your extended family and friends to participate in this meaningful Christmas Even candlelight worship service for all ages.



Carol Sing & Holiday Sweater Contest

Please join us December 31st during our regular worship service at 10:00am for a Carol Sing and fun time of fellowship. Don't forget to wear your favorite holiday sweater!

De-greening of the Church

Sunday, January 7 marks the end of Christmastide as we celebrate both Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord. Please join us for worship, and the remain after worship to help take down the Advent/Christmas decorations that have been gracing our building. The more hands, the quicker the work, so we encourage everyone who is able to lend a hand!

2024 Offering Envelopes

Those who have used numbered envelopes in 2023 will automatically receive envelopes for 2024, unless you inform us otherwise. If you have NOT used envelopes this year, but DO wish to have them for next year, please contact the church office at 248-474-6170 to make your request known. Numbered envelopes facilitate the speed and accuracy of the data entry process for our offering counters, so we do encourage you to use envelopes if you contribute manually on a regular basis. We also encourage the use of electronic debit. If you wish to automatically submit your pledge electronically from your bank account monthly, please call the church office to have the forms mailed to you. If you have any questions, please call the church office at (248) 474-6170.

Important year-end information regarding contributions

Please be aware that the last bank deposit for contributions for the tax year 2023 will be made on Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2023. This means contributions must be received in the church office by Sunday, December 24, 2023. Any monies received in the mail after these dates will not be counted or deposited until after the end of the year and will be counted as 2024 contributions. Please note these dates so that you will know in advance how to plan your year-end giving.

Annual Meeting scheduled February 4, 2024; annual reports due- JANUARY 10, 2024

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 4, 2024, in Knox Hall and via Zoom following the worship service. Reports to be included in the 2023 Annual Report should be emailed to the church office (info@farmington-pres.org) no later than Wednesday, January 10, 2024. The 2023 Annual Report will be emailed to members who have signed up through the church website to receive the FYI newsletter, the annual report and other important church information via email (to sign up, please go to www.farmington-pres.org). A few printed copies of the 2023 Annual Report will be available at the welcome center on Sunday, January 28, 2024, or you may contact the church office to request a hard copy.

COVID-19 or Flu Symptoms

Please be mindful if you have symptoms, stay home and take care of yourself and others.

Adult Bible Discussion – The Wired Word

Join our Bible discussion **Sundays at 9:00 a.m. in the Library**. Advance copies are available the Saturday before by email. Sunday's Topic: The Nativity in Art and History. To get on the email list contact Tom Neal at ttneal@sbcglobal.net. Our class is continuing to meet throughout December, please be assured that lessons will be emailed and published on Thursday, December 28, just as they do every Thursday.

News from the Church Office

Office hours are as follows: **Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Wednesday: 9 a.m.-2 p.m.** It is a good idea to call ahead if you need to come into the building.

As a reminder please contact the church office via telephone at (248) 474-6170 or email at info@farmington-pres.org. Please note: during the week of 12/25-12/29, the office will be closed. Voicemail will be checked once per day. Regular office hours will resume 1/3/2024.

First Presbyterian Church Staff	
Ministers of the Church	Members of the Congregation
Pastoral Care Parish Associate	The Rev. Craig S. Aue
Minister of Music & Organist/Pianist	Shari Fiore-Bloom
Office Administrative Assistant	Carly Vivio
Office Assistant	Amanda Schreiber
AV Tech Intern	Jaiden Thomas



Farmington First Presbyterian Church

The Church of the Open Hands

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