



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 31, 2023

1st Sunday of Christmas

Carol Sing & Ugly Sweater Day

Prayer of Preparation

God of hope and light, your good news has been emblazoned across the skies, the great starry night of Jesus' birth, sung by angels, celebrated by shepherds, witnessed by animals. You have given to us, a new chance, a reminder of your continual love for us. Be with us in this worship, we pray. Guide our thoughts, our lives, our spirits. Heal and restore us. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Coming into the Presence of God

**please stand in body or in spirit*

Prelude

Prelude on 'Greensleeves'

Richard Purvis

Welcome

Pastor Craig

Signing of the Friendship Pad & Prayer Cards

*Call to Worship

Manny Sharpe

We have welcomed the Christ child and declared the glory of God's salvation that comes to live among us. And yet, still, we wait.

We watch and work for God's kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven.

We prepare to welcome a new year, thankful for how God has brought us through the past year and anxious to discover what the new year might bring.

We watch and work for God's kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven.

We join generations of Simeons and Annas who learned and taught us how to listen, notice, and discern divine love at work in the world.

We watch and work for God's kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven.

Come, let us worship God, whose love endures from generation to generation, guiding us from one year to the next.

Come, let us worship as we live in anticipation of God's kin-dom on earth as it is heaven. Amen.

Hymn of Praise #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 CONFESSION

Invitation

Friends, let us prepare to enter the new year with hearts that have been unburdened, and let us make our confession before God and one another, first in silent prayer.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

God of stars and angels, God of sheep and lambs, God of abundance and grace: You know us well, better than we know ourselves. You hear us cry "Gloria!" and "Praise!" And you watch us tear things apart with our words and deeds. You hear us say "Thy will be

done” and “Use me, O God” And you watch us do nothing in response to cries for help. You know us, and you love us, and you forgive. Hear us now say, “Help us to change; turn us around, Make us more loving and courageous and hopeful.” This we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Silent Prayers

Assurance of Pardon

Response #133

Angels We Have heard on High (Chorus)

John Francis Wade

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Hebrew Scripture Reading (OT)

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Manny Sharpe

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;
my whole being shall exult in my God,
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its shoots
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

The Vindication and Salvation of Zion

62 For Zion’s sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem’s sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn
and her salvation like a burning torch.
² The nations shall see your vindication
and all the kings your glory,
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.
³ You shall be a beautiful crown in the hand of the LORD
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Carol Sing (*limit 2 verses each*)

What Child Is This #145

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear #123

Away in a Manger #115

Gospel Lesson

Luke 2: 22-40

Manny Sharpe

Jesus Is Presented in the Temple

²² When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), ²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹ “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word,
³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,
³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
³² a light for revelation to the gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.”

³³ And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul, too.”

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

The Return to Nazareth

³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him.

Anthem

Still, Still, Still

Norman Luboff

Witness to Holy Moments

Offertory

In Dulci Jubilo

Johann Sebastian Bach

Doxology

Collection of Prayer Cards

arr. Shari Fiore-Bloom

**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.**

Prayers of the People

Manny Sharpe

Prayer Of Intercession For Epiphany & The Lord's Prayer

Pastor Craig

Miraculous God, we know this story so well. All the characters are familiar. All the words are known by heart. All the songs have been sung so many times. We love this story and its comfortable, comforting familiarity. We praise You for the miracles which come to us in the familiar. At the centre of this story is the eternal God stepping into human history. The All-Powerful One choosing to live in fragile flesh. The Creator becoming a creature. We praise You for the miracle of God becoming human. At the center of this story is a God Who reveals Godself to men and women. A God Who works miracles through ordinary people who say, "Yes" to God. A God Who enters every willing soul to birth new life. We praise You for the miracle of Your life within us.

Silent praise.

Miraculous God, may we see You, know You and be united with You again this Christmastime. May our lives be changed by Your miraculous love, and may we become part of Your miraculous salvation. May we remain attentive and responsive to the holy moments in our midst, now and always. And, to the One who is the road on which we travel, our companion along the way, and our journey's end, we pray in boldness and confidence through faith in Christ Jesus, Who has 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."

***Hymn of Sending #2095**

Star Child

Shirley Erena Murray

**1 Star child, earth Child, go between of God, love Child, Christ Child, heaven's
lightening rod [REFRAIN]**

2 Street child, beat child, no place left to go, hurt child, used child, no one wants to know [REFRAIN]

3 Grown child, old child, mem'ry full of years, sad child, lost child, story told in tears [REFRAIN]

4 Spared child, spoiled child, having, wanting more, wise child, faith child, knowing joy in store [REFRAIN]

5 Hope-for-peace Child, God's stupendous sign, down to earth Child, Star of stars that shine [REFRAIN]

**[REFRAIN] This year, this year, let the day arrive when
Christmas comes for ev'ryone, ev'ryone alive!**

Benediction

Pastor Craig

Postlude

In dulci jubilo, BWV 729

J. S. Bach

Today's flowers are presented by Karen and Paul Spica in memory of Don & Margot Stewart on their wedding anniversary.

Worship Liturgist

We welcome Manny Sharpe as today's liturgist. Mike Rogers will serve as liturgist on January 7th at 10:00 a.m. For information on serving as a liturgist to assist the pastor during worship, please contact Kari Gorman.

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.

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 then 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!

Leadership Development Workshop Rescheduled- Jan. 7

The 2nd Leadership Development Workshop originally scheduled for Saturday, January 7, 2023 has been rescheduled to Saturday, February 4, 2023. The time and location will remain

the same. Please plan to arrive between 9:00-9:15 a.m. for a bit of fellowship time before we settle down for a 9:30 a.m. start. The workshop is scheduled to end at 1:30 p.m. Another reminder will go out closer to the event. The 3rd workshop date is yet to be confirmed.

Mission Ministry Will Host FAIA at FPCF on January 11

The Mission Ministry is pleased to host the Farmington Area Interfaith Agency (FAIA) lunch and meeting on **Thursday, January 11, from 12:00 noon to 1:30 pm.** We can expect to host about 25-30 attendees from various faiths in the area. If you've ever thought about attending, now is the time to do it. You'll see many familiar faces and make some new interfaith friends. Please join us! If you plan to attend, please let Karen Linnell (klinnell@sbcglobal.net) know so we can finalize lunch plans. Watch the bulletin for more details.

Raymond B. Randolph Jr. to speak at FPCF on MLK Weekend

The Social Justice Book Club is honored to invite Mr. Raymond B. Randolph Jr. to speak at FPCF on MLK weekend, January 14, at 11:15 am during coffee hour. Mr. Randolph has been an important voice in our group since the beginning. Randolph will speak on his personal experiences with significant events in Civil Rights history. He was one of the Richmond 34 – students from Virginia Union University who staged a sit-in at a department store lunch counter. He was also a member of the Freedom Riders, the Civil Rights activist group that traveled in interstate buses in Mississippi to challenge the local and state segregation laws.

Jacket Drive for Second Mile Center (until January 15)

There are many sales this time of year as stores clear inventory, and the Mission Ministry would like to take advantage of this to help out Second Mile Center. **They have a shortage of jackets for children and youth, especially boys ages 8-15.** There are still several months of cold weather. If you would like to help, you can buy the jackets and hang them in the Mission Cove area or place in the large containers until January 15. Thank you for helping keep kids warm this winter.

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:

January 7: Last names beginning S-Z

January 14: Last names beginning A-D

January 21: Last names beginning E-K

January 28: Last names beginning L-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.



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.

FPCF's Shopping List for CARES

This year, we have a CARES shopping list to help with donations. You'll find the list in the pew backs, in the pocket on the Mission bulletin board or in the FYI. Please take a list home with you (or even a couple more to share with family or friends!) Use it when you go shopping. The CARES bin for donations will be in the Narthex in its usual spot or in the Mission Cove. And, yes you may donate things not on this list! Please make sure the food items have not expired. If you have a large quantity, you may take it directly to CARES M-F 10a-2p. Thank you!

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: With New Ruling, Vatican Permits Priests to Bless Same-Sex Couples, but Not Their Unions. 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

Pastoral Care Parish Associate

Minister of Music & Organist/Pianist

Office Administrative Assistant

Office Assistant

AV Tech Intern

Members of the Congregation

The Rev. Craig S. Aue

Shari Fiore-Bloom

Carly Vivio

Amanda Schreiber

Jaiden Thomas



Farmington First Presbyterian Church

The Church of the Open Hands

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