



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF FARMINGTON

Church of the Open Hands

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

February 11, 2024

Transfiguration of the Lord

Prayer of Preparation

- Cameron Bellm

Spirit & Verse: A Prayer for Living "Fratelli Tutti"

When our lofty words of love have been emptied of their meaning, When our borders and computer screens have erected impenetrable walls, When our minds are so quick to conflate "other" with "enemy," How will we find our common humanity? It's never too late to make an earnest and tender start. May we remove from our pockets the stones we intended to throw And cement them together to build a home that welcomes all. May we repent of our indifference and move into genuine encounter. Instead of drawing battle lines, May we draw our chairs up to a communal table, Where we can feast in the knowledge of our shared dignity. May God grant us the holy vision To see every human being a sacred mystery, And may we love each mystery not abstractly, but concretely. Just as Thomas touched the wounds of Jesus, May we be unafraid to touch the wounds of our suffering neighbor. May we lay down our arms and offer our outstretched hands,

Until there is no "them," but only "us," Until we are at last, sisters and brothers, all.

Amen.

We Enter into God's Presence

**Please stand in body or spirit*

Welcome / Greetings

Mary Carson

Signing of the Friendship Pad & Prayer Cards

Congregational Life

Mary Carson

Prelude

Le Banquet Céleste

Olivier Messiaen

*Call to Worship

Mary Carson

L: Bless us with Love, O Merciful God;

C: That we may Love as you Love! That we may show patience, tolerance,
Kindness, caring and love to all!

L: Give us knowledge; O giver of Knowledge,

C: That we may be one with the Universe and Mother Earth!
L: O Compassionate One, grant compassion unto us;
C: That we may help all fellow souls in need!
L: Bless us with your Love O God.
C: Bless us with your Love.

**Opening Hymn #192 Lord, the light of your love is shining Graham Kendrick*

**1 Lord, the light of your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us; set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me; shine on me.**

Refrain:

**Shine, Jesus, shine; fill this land with the Father's glory.
Blaze, Spirit, blaze; set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river flow; flood the nations with grace and mercy.
Send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.**

**2 Lord, I come to your awesome presence, from the shadows into your radiance;
by the blood I may enter your brightness. Search me; try me; consume all my darkness.
Shine on me; shine on me. (Refrain)**

**3 As we gaze on your kingly brightness, so our faces display your likeness;
ever changing from glory to glory, mirrored here may our lives tell your story.
Shine on me; shine on me. (Refrain)**

Prayer of Brokenness/Confession

O God, when we have food, help us to remember the hungry;
When we have work, help us to remember the jobless;
When we have a home, help us to remember those who have no home at all;
When we are without pain, help us to remember those who suffer,
And remembering, help us to destroy my complacency;
bestir our compassion, and be concerned enough to help;
By word and deed, those who cry out for what we take for granted.

Assurance of Pardon-Forgiveness

We Hear God's Word

First Reading

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Mary Carson

New Revised Standard Version

4 Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant 5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6 it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. 7 It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

18 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

19 We love because he first loved us. 20 Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. 21 And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

Anthem

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence
Chancel Choir

French Carol
arr. Gustav Holst

Sermon

Love is...No fear...We love...

Donnie Lehmann

We Respond to God's Word

Offertory & Doxology
Collection of Prayer Cards

Donnie Lehmann

**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

Mary Carson

Prayer of Thanksgiving & The Lord's Prayer

Mary Carson

Loving Creator,

We asked for strength, and you gave us difficulties to make us strong.

We asked for wisdom, and you gave us problems to solve.

We asked for prosperity, and you gave us purpose and brains to use.

We asked for courage, and you gave us fears to overcome.

We asked for patience, and you gave us situations where we were forced to wait.

We asked for love, and you gave us troubled people to help.

We asked for justice, and you called us to be just and to lead with integrity.

Lord, we have received nothing that we asked for or wanted.

And yet, we received everything that we needed.

For this, we give thanks.... 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# 187 *We have come at Christ's own bidding*

Carl P. Daw Jr.

**1 We have come at Christ's own bidding to this high and holy place,
where we wait with hope and longing for some token of God's grace.**

**Here we pray for new assurance that our faith is not in vain,
searching like those first disciples for a sign both clear and plain.**

**2 Light breaks through our clouds and shadows; splendor bathes the flesh-joined
Word; Moses and Elijah marvel as the heavenly voice is heard.**

**Eyes and hearts behold with wonder how the law and prophets meet:
Christ, with garments drenched in brightness, stands transfigured and complete.**

**3 Strengthened by this glimpse of glory, fearful lest our faith decline,
we like Peter find it tempting to remain and build a shrine.**

**But true worship gives us courage to proclaim what we profess,
that our daily lives may prove us people of the God we bless.**

Benediction

Donnie Lehmann

Postlude

Festival Voluntary, Op. 87

Flor Peeters

Please welcome back, Donnie Lehmann, today's guest preacher.

Donnie and his family moved to Michigan from Wisconsin in 2017 and have deeply rooted themselves to the Farmington Hills community. When not cooking or eating, you can find him on a soccer field playing or coaching soccer. Donnie formerly worked in youth ministry and has assisted with Youth United when time has permitted.

Worship Liturgist

We welcome Mary Carson as today's liturgist. MJ Floreno will serve as liturgist on February 18th. For information on serving as a liturgist to assist the pastor during worship, please contact Kari Gorman.

Preschool Open Enrollment

The preschool is now open for enrollment for the upcoming 2024-25 school year. Please spread the word about our preschool to friends and family who may be interested in enrolling. The program offers 2.5's, 3's and Pre-K (4's) classes. Please visit the website:

<https://farmingtonpreschool.org/enroll/> or call the preschool: (248) 474-9752 to schedule a tour and/or pick up your enrollment forms.



Ash Wednesday Service-February 14th

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, which falls on Feb. 14 this year. Please join us on that date at 7:00 p.m. for a service of prayer and contemplation that will include the imposition of ashes.

First Pres Sailors Meeting February 18th– Please join us!

The Future Church Task Force regrouped in Nov/Dec and renamed our group as “First Pres Sailors” based on our reading of the book Sailboat Church by Joan S. Gray. We gleaned many ideas from the book and our discussions. We have formed a prayer group to pray for the future of our church and are beginning to work on our self-study (last done in 2015), which needs to be completed before we contract with a permanent pastor. Please join us and play an active role in the future direction of FPCF! **We’ll meet in the Room 208/210 on Sunday, February 18th, at 11:30 am.** Everyone is welcome!

Coffee Time with Danielle Ware, Director of DCDI, February 25

Join us for coffee after the service to hear Danielle Ware, Director of Danika Community Development, Inc. tell us more about their work in the community. The Mission Ministry collaborates with DCDI on the **Resume Writing/Practice Interview Workshop** and the **Garden & Nutrition Project**. Please join us to hear what else they do.

Resume Writing & Practice Interview Workshop (March 9, 16, & 23)

We’re happy to report that we’re scheduling another Resume Writing & Practice Interview Workshop before summer. If you would like to help coach others in writing their resumes and/or conduct a practice interview with a participant (March 23 only), please contact Colleen Tavor (248.302.9396 or cmtcounseling@gmail.com). You’ll be given all the materials and info that you’ll need to do this. The workshop will take place on 3 Saturdays from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm (March 9, 16, 23), in room 208/210.

FPCF is looking for legal counsel

From time to time, there are contracts or other documents to be reviewed to ensure everything is correct and all parties are covered. If there is anyone in the church willing to provide help in this area or if there are any recommendations, please contact the church office.

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:

February 18: Last names beginning E-K

February 25: Last names beginning L-R

March 3: Last names beginning S-Z

March 10: Last names beginning A-D



****TODAY**, Nurture Committee invites you to gather for fellowship after worship where you can enjoy soup for the Super Bowl LVIII. Please bring your favorite soup to pass; We hope this event will be a complete touchdown!

FPCF's Shopping List for CARES

Have you picked up your CARES shopping list yet? Look for it in the pew backs or the Mission bulletin board. Take it with you to the store. The items on the list are those most needed by the guests at CARES. Here is a suggestion: If you see a BOGO Sale (Buy One Get One), pick up the free item for CARES.

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.** **Sunday Topic:** One in Four Adult Children Are or Have Been Estranged From a Parent. Advance copies are available the Saturday before by email. To get on the email list contact Tom Neal at ttnéal@sbcglobal.net.

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.

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Farmington First Presbyterian Church

The Church of the Open Hands

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