

WORSHIP TOGETHER

for the week beginning December 13, 2020



Franklin

United Methodist Church

*“...seeking to be a community
where all can experience
meaningful relationship with God,
grow in Christ, and
reach out in love to others;
a community where
all can love and be loved
and be accepted
as you are”*

franklinumc.org

82 W. Central St.
PO Box 313
Franklin, MA 02038

508-528-1092
office@franklinumc.org

*You can join this service virtually
using a computer or device by going to:*

meet.google.com/ens-kcoq-bgg

or by calling

1-262-885-7027

the PIN is 172 874 072#

Please keep yourself muted
when you are not sharing
in the discussion.

*Click the microphone icon to un/mute yourself on your device.
Push *6 to un/mute yourself on a phone.*

*Scan the QR code below or visit franklinumc.org/giving
to learn how you can financially support the work of Christ through
the Franklin United Methodist Church*



our gathering

Welcome

Call to Worship

adapted from "Week 3: December 13, 2020, 'Deck the Halls'" by Derek Weber, *UMCdiscipleship.org* (<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/articles/advent-candle-lighting-liturg-2020>)

We want everything to look nice: the decorations of the season, our homes with their lights and tinsel, wreaths and ribbons. We want to lighten the darkness around us, bring beauty to the ugliness that wears us down. We decorate, because it is tradition. Because it lifts our hearts. Because it makes us feel like children again. We deck our halls because company is coming.

The prophet Isaiah smiled when he said, "God will give garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit." No matter how far we feel from the spirit of the season, God promises to decorate us with love and with joy.

We light these candles as a sign of our joy in the beautiful things of this season—not just the things that glitter and flash, but the deeper things, the beauty of the heart and the soul, the beauty of love shared in service and hospitality.

(Light three candles on Advent wreath—including pink candle)

Let this light reveal to us the joy of God's love among us and the beauty that surrounds us.

"Joy to the World"

No. 246, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

1.

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

2.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

4.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

our baptismal covenant

Introduction to the Service

Presentation of Candidate

Nora Layne Hodgeman

Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith

After the pastor asks questions of the parents, the pastor addresses the congregation:

Do you, as Christ's body, the Church (gathered here and virtually),
reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?

We do.

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include
this child now before you in your care?

With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround *this child* with a community of love and forgiveness, that they may grow in their trust of God, and be found faithful in their service to others. We will pray for them that they may be true disciples who walk in the way that leads to life.

Let us join together in professing the Christian faith
as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Thanksgiving Over the Water

Baptism with Laying on of Hands

Commendation and Welcome

The pastor addresses the congregation:

Members of the household of God, I commend these persons to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the Church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

our reading & reflection

Colossians 3:5-23

New Revised Standard Version

How God Becomes Real

III. Practicing the Presence

Pastor Jacob

“Welcome to Our World”

No. 3067, *Worship & Song* (2011)

CCLI #11179170

1.

Tears are falling, hearts are breaking;
how we need to hear from God.
You’ve been promised, we’ve been waiting,
welcome holy Child, welcome holy Child.

2.

Hope that you don’t mind our manger,
how I wish we would have known.
but long awaited holy stranger,
make yourself at home, please make yourself at home.

3.

Bring your peace into our violence,
bid our hungry souls be filled.
Word now breaking heaven’s silence,
welcome to our world, welcome to our world.

4.

Fragile finger sent to heal us,
tend brow prepared for thorn,
tiny heart whose blood will save us,
unto us is born, unto us is born.

5.

So wrap our injured flesh around you,
breathe our air and walk our sod.
Rob our sin and make us holy,
perfect Son of God, perfect Son of God.
Welcome to our world.

our thanks & prayers

Giving Thanks

Voice 1: The Lord be with you.

Voice 2: And also with you.

Voice 1: Lift up your hearts.

Voice 2: We lift them up to the Lord.

Voice 1: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Voice 2: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Voice 1: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God...

Voice 2: Your blessings overflow, help us to recognize and name them now:

You are invited to name things you are thankful for.

Feel free to share with everyone verbally.

You may also type your thanks in the chat.

“Christmas Doxology”

Words copyright © 2001 Dale A. Schoening, 2001. Published by The General Board of Discipleship of The United Methodist Church, PO Box 340003, Nashville TN 37203-0003. Web site <http://www.umcworship.org>.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, in every generation.

Praise God, all creatures here below, who gives to us salvation.

Praise God above, ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Let all creation praise the Lord with love and adoration.

Praying Together

You are invited to add your specific prayers silently, in the chat, or verbally following the prompts below.

Together let us pray for our world.

Together let us pray for our community and neighborhoods.

Together let us pray for our friends and family.

Together let us pray for ourselves.

The Lord's Prayer (spoken)

No. 895, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

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 trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

Amen.

Amen

No. 2072 (Refrain ONLY), *The Faith We Sing* (2001)

Arr. © 1988 Nelsie T. Johnson. Used by Permission. CCLI License #11179170

our sending Sending Forth

“Go Tell It On the Mountain”

No. 251 (vs. 3), *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

Adapt. and arr. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House. CCLI #11179170

Refrain

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

3.

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

Refrain

