

# WORSHIP TOGETHER

for the week beginning December 13, 2020



*"...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](http://franklinumc.org)**

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

508-528-1092  
[office@franklinumc.org](mailto: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](http://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-liturgy-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 walks 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**

**[franklinumc.org](http://franklinumc.org)**