

# LIFE TOGETHER

with the People of Franklin United Methodist Church

## Welcome & Introductions

### “How is it with you?”

*How are you feeling?*

*How is your faith? your family? your health?*

*Are you struggling or celebrating?*

*Are you grieving or rejoicing?*

*Are you questioning faith?*

*Where have you found inspiration?*

## Praying Together

### Luke 1:25-38

*Common English Bible*

<sup>25</sup>“This is the Lord’s doing. He has shown his favor to me by removing my disgrace among other people.”

<sup>26</sup>When Elizabeth was six months pregnant, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a city in Galilee, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin who was engaged to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David’s house. The virgin’s name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>When the angel came to her, he said, “Rejoice, favored one! The Lord is with you!” <sup>29</sup>She was confused by these words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said, “Don’t be afraid, Mary. God is honoring you. <sup>31</sup>Look! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and he will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father. <sup>33</sup>He will rule over Jacob’s house forever, and there will be no end to his kingdom.”

<sup>34</sup>Then Mary said to the angel, “How will this happen since I haven’t had sexual relations with a man?”

<sup>35</sup>The angel replied, “The Holy Spirit will come over you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the one who is to be born will be holy. He will be called God’s Son. <sup>36</sup>Look, even in her old age, your relative Elizabeth has conceived a son. This woman who was labeled ‘unable to conceive’ is now six months pregnant. <sup>37</sup>Nothing is impossible for God.”

<sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, “I am the Lord’s servant. Let it be with me just as you have said.” Then the angel left her.

## Discussion

One of the titles given to Mary by Eastern Orthodox Christians is *theotokos* which means “God bearer.”

**Do we bear any responsibility to bear Christ in our world?**

**What does it look like for you to bear/birth Christ as an individual? What does it look like for us, as a community of faith, to bear/birth Christ?**

## “The Summons”

No. 2130, *The Faith We Sing* (2001)

1.

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don’t know and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown,  
will you let my love be known,  
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

2.

Will you leave yourself behind if I but all your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare  
should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

3.

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean,  
and do such as this unseen,  
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

4.

Will you love the “you” you hide if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you’ve found  
to reshape the world around,  
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

5.

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.  
In your company I’ll go  
where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I’ll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

## ‘Till We Meet Again

adapted from No. 672, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

God be with you till we meet again,  
by God’s counsels guide, uphold you,  
With God’s sheep securely fold you,  
God be with you till we meet again.

Till we meet, till we meet,  
Till we meet at Jesus’ feet;  
Till we meet, till we meet,  
God be with you till we meet again.