

WORSHIP TOGETHER

for the week beginning January 3, 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

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the Franklin United Methodist Church*



our gathering

Welcome

Call to Worship

written by Joanna Harader, "Epiphany Call to Worship: Arise, Shine!" inspired by Isaiah 60:1-3,
posted at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2016/12/epiphany-call-to-worship-arise-shine.html>.

People of God, arise, shine,
for your light has come!
The light of Christ has come into the world.
Immanuel.
God with us.

So arise, shine, for your light has come!
And we will follow the light—
when it shines brightly in the night sky
when it glows dimly on the horizon.

We will follow the light—
when it leads down familiar paths to expected destinations
when the road is unfamiliar
and the star rests above a dubious-looking home.
We will lift up our eyes and look around.
And when we see the Christ child,
may our hearts be overwhelmed with joy.

When we are in the presence of Immanuel,
may our knees bend in worship.
When our journey brings us, finally, to the heart of God,
May our hands open in generous sharing;
May our mouths open in generous praise.

"We Three Kings"

No. 254, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

1.

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

Refrain

O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

2.

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.

Refrain

3.

Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, voices raising, worshipping God on high.

Refrain

4.

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

Refrain

5.

Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies.

Refrain

our reading & reflection

Isaiah 60:1-6 & Matthew 2:1-12

Common English Bible

Search On (v.2021)

Pastor Jacob

“Father, We Have Heard You Calling”

No. 3065, *Worship & Song* (2011)

Words by Gareth Hill; Music by Rowland H. Prichard; harm. from *The English Hymnal*

Words © 2005 Hope Publishing Company

CCLI #11179170

1.

Father, we have heard you calling to your church in every age;
for a sign of true devotion for a sacrifice of praise.
In this place where you have brought us, may we always seek to be
one in love and one in worship—children of eternity.

2.

Jesus Christ, our faith’s perfecter, priest and advocate above.
We would reach our broken nation with the truth of your great love.
So transform our feeble witness, may we always live to be
one in love and one in worship—children of eternity.

3.

Holy Spirit, fire of heaven, fall upon us here today.
Bring release, bring tears, bring passion, then transform your church,
we pray.

As you pour your grace upon us, may we always thirst to be
one in love and one in worship—children of eternity.

4.

Praise we bring to God the Father, praise we bring to God the Son,
praise to God the Holy Spirit, praise to you, the three in one.

Trinity of love inspire us, may we always strive to be
one in love and one in worship—children of eternity.

our covenant renewal

Opening Prayer (in unison)

O God, searcher of all our hearts, you have formed us as your people and claimed us for your own. As we come to acknowledge your sovereignty and grace, and to enter anew into covenant with you, reveal any reluctance or falsehood within us. Let your Spirit impress your truth on our inmost being, and receive in us mercy, for the sake of our Mediator, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Invitation

Leader: Commit yourselves to Christ as his servants. Give yourselves to him, that you may belong to him. Christ has many services to be done. Some are more easy and honorable, others are more difficult and disgraceful. Some are suitable to our inclinations and interests, others are contrary to both. In some we may please Christ and please ourselves. But then there are other works where we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves.

It is necessary, therefore, that we consider what it means to be a servant of Christ. Let us, therefore, go to Christ, and pray:

People: Let me be your servant, under your command. I will no longer be my own. I will give up myself to your will in all things.

Leader: Be satisfied that Christ shall give you your place and work.

People: Lord, make me what you will. I put myself fully into your hands: put me to doing, put me to suffering; let me be employed for you; or laid aside for you; let me be full, let me be empty; let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and with a willing heart give it all to your pleasure and disposal.

Leader: Christ will be the Savior of none but his servants. He is the source of all salvation to those who obey. Christ will have no servants except by consent; Christ will not accept anything except full consent to all that he requires. Christ will be all in all, or he will be nothing.

Confirm this by a holy covenant.

To make this covenant a reality in your life, listen to these admonitions:

First, set apart some time, more than once, to be spent alone before the Lord; in seeking earnestly God's special assistance and gracious acceptance of you; in carefully thinking through all the conditions of the covenant; in searching your hearts whether you have already freely given your life to Christ. Consider what your sins are. Consider the laws of Christ, how holy, strict, and spiritual they are, and whether you, after having carefully considered them, are willing to choose them all. Be sure you are clear in these matters, see that you do not lie to God.

Second, be serious and in a spirit of holy awe and reverence.

Third, claim God's covenant, rely upon God's promise of giving grace and strength, so you can keep your promise. Trust not your own strength and power.

Fourth, resolve to be faithful. You have given to the Lord your hearts, you have opened your mouths to the Lord, and you have dedicated yourself to God. With God's power, never go back.

And last, be then prepared to renew your covenant with the Lord. Fall down on your knees, lift your hands toward heaven, open your hearts to the Lord, as we pray:

Covenant Prayer

The people are invited, as they are able and willing, to kneel and pray.

People: O righteous God, for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, see me as I fall down before you. Forgive my unfaithfulness in not having done your will, for you have promised mercy to me if I turn to you with my whole heart.

Leader: God requires that you shall put away all your idols.

People: I here from the bottom of my heart renounce them all, covenanting with you that no known sin shall be allowed in my life. Against your will, I have turned my love toward the world. In your power I will watch all temptations that will lead me away from you. For my righteousness is riddled with sin, unable to stand before you.

Leader: Through Christ, God has offered to be your God again if you would let God.

People: Before all heaven and earth, I here acknowledge you as my Lord and God. I take you—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—for my portion, and vow to give up myself, body and soul, as your servant, to serve you in holiness and righteousness all the days of my life.

Leader: God has given the Lord Jesus Christ as the only way and means of coming to God.

People: I do here on bended knee accept Christ as the only new and living Way, and sincerely join myself in a covenant with him. O Blessed Jesus, I come to you, hungry, sinful, miserable, blind, and naked, unworthy even to wash the feet of your servants. I do here, with all my power, accept you as my Lord and Head. I renounce my own unworthiness, and vow that you are the Lord, my righteousness. I renounce my own wisdom, and take you for my only guide. I renounce my own will, and take your will as my law.

Leader: God has given holy laws as the rule of your life.

People: I do here willingly put my neck under your yoke, to carry your burden. All your laws are holy, just and good. I therefore take them as the rule for my words, thoughts, and actions, promising that I will strive to order my whole life according to your direction, and not allow

myself to neglect anything I know to be my duty.

Leader: The almighty God searches and knows your heart.

People: O God, you know that I make this covenant with you today without guile and reservation. If any falsehood should be in it, guide me and help me to set it aright.

And now, glory be to you, O God the Father, whom I from this day forward shall look upon as my God and Parent.

Glory be to you, O God the Son, who have loved me and washed me from my sins in your own blood, and now is my Savior and Redeemer.

Glory be to you, O God the Holy Spirit, who by your almighty power have turned my heart from sin to God.

O mighty God, the Lord, you have now become my Covenant Friend. And I, through your infinite grace, have become your covenant servant. So be it. And the covenant I have made on earth be ratified in heaven. Amen.

Leader: Having committed to the journey together with Christ and one another, let us now sing together the prayer Jesus taught:

The Lord's Prayer (sung)

No. 3068, *Worship & Song* (2011)

Our Father,
which 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.
Amen.

our sending
Sending Forth

Amen

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

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