

WORSHIP TOGETHER

Sunday, December 21, 2021

The Longest Night



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

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You can join this service virtually, in-person, using



Google Meet

To join, go to

meet.google.com/rbb-xprp-uqj

or call

1-617-675-4444

PIN: 955 862 272 9202#

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

Click the microphone icon to un/mute yourself on your device.

Push Ctrl-D to un/mute yourself on your computer.

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This service is being live-streamed and recorded to



gather

Welcome

Prelude

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

Call to Worship

O God, come to our assistance.

O Lord, hasten to help us.

Drop down the dew from above, O heavens,
and let the clouds rain justice.

Let the earth's womb be opened,
and bring forth a Savior.

Opening Prayer

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

No. 211 (v.1-2, 6-7), *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

CCLI #11179170

**O come, O come, Immanuel, and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.**

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

**O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show and cause us in her ways to go.**

Refrain

**O come thou Dayspring, come and cheer, our spirits by thy justice here
disperse the gloomy clouds of night and death's dark shadows put to flight**

Refrain

**O come, Desire of nations bind all peoples in one heart and mind.
From dust thou brought us forth to life; deliver us from earthly strife.**

Refrain

The Darkness Falls (A Call to Confession)

Words of Assurance

“In the Quiet Curve of Evening”

No. 221, *The Upper Room Worship Book* (2006)

CCLI #11179170

**In the quiet curve of evening, in the sinking of the days,
in the silky void of darkness, you are there.
In the lapses of my breathing, in the space between my ways,
in the crater carved by sadness, you are there.
You are there, you are there, you are there.**

**In the rests between the phrases, in the cracks between the stars,
in the gaps between the meaning, you are there.
In the melting down of endings, in the cooling of the sun,
in the solstice of the winter, you are there.
You are there, you are there, you are there.**

**In the mystery of the hungers, in the silence of my rooms,
in the cloud of my unknowing, you are there.
In the empty cave of grieving, in the desert of my dreams,
in the tunnel of my sorrow, you are there.
You are there, you are there, you are there.**

lighting candles

Lighting the Advent Wreath

We light the candle of Hope as we await the coming of Jesus, who is our source of hope.

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of hope in our times of emptiness.

We light the candle of Peace, knowing that Jesus is the Prince of Peace.

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of peace in our times of uncertainty.

We light the candle of Joy, knowing that our comfort and help come from God.

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of joy in our times of sadness.

We light the candle of Love, knowing that God is love revealed to us in Jesus Christ.

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of love in our times of loneliness.

In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

The Word became flesh and lived among us, full grace and truth.

Lighting our Own Candles

“Let Us Light a Candle”

CCLI#11179170

**In a world where people walk in darkness
Let us turn our faces to the light,
to the light of God revealed in Jesus,
to the Daystar scattering our night.
For the light is stronger than the darkness
And the day will overcome the night.
Though the shadows linger all around us,
Let us turn our faces to the light.**

**In a world where suffering of the helpless
Casts a shadow all along the way,
Let us bear the Cross of Christ with gladness
And proclaim the dawning of the day.
For the light is stronger than the darkness
And the day will overcome the night.
Though the shadows linger all around us,
Let us turn our faces to the light.**

**Let us light a candle in the darkness,
In the face of death, a sign of life.
As a sign of hope where all seems hopeless,
As a sign of peace in place of strife.
For the light is stronger than the darkness
And the day will overcome the night.
Though the shadows linger all around us,
Let us turn our faces to the light.**

readings

First Reading

Isaiah 40:1-5, 27-31

“When Weary Times Confront the Soul”

Discipleship Ministries of The United Methodist Church

**When weary times confront the soul
and restlessness holds sway,
We long, O lord, to be made whole;
that you would cherish and console
and show to us your way.**

**From idols of our busyness
And higher calls ignored;
From daily choices that oppress,
that leave us tired and comfortless,
Deliver us, O Lord.**

When systems sap our energies,
Ensnaring us in shame:
When selfishness would calling seize
And bring us, pleading, to our knees
Come, Lord, your child reclaim!

O give, us Lord, the sanity
To spend time in retreat:
To balance work and dignity
With prayer and true serenity
To make our lives complete.

O grace us, Lord, with love and peace,
Our calling to fulfill.

O grant our weary souls release
That joy of life and work increase
The beauty of your will.

Second Reading

Psalm 121

“God Will Take Care of You”

No. 130, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

CCLI #11179170

**Be not dismayed whate'er betide, God will take care of you;
beneath his wings of love abide, God will take care of you.**

Refrain:

**God will take care of you, through every day, o'er all the way;
he will take care of you, God will take care of you.**

**Through days of toil when heart doth fail, God will take care of you;
when dangers fierce your path assail, God will take care of you. [Refrain]**

**All you may need he will provie, God will take care of you;
nothing you ask will be denied, God will take care of you. [Refrain]**

**No matter what may be the test, God will take care of you;
lean, weary one, upon his breast, God will take care of you. [Refrain]**

Third Reading

John 1:1-11

“Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light”

No. 223, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

**Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light, and usher in the morning;
O shepherds, shrink not with affright, but hear the angel's warning.**

**This child, now weak in infancy, our confidence and joy shall be,
the power of Satan breaking, our peace eternal making.**

**This night of wonder, night of joy, was born the Christ, our brother;
he comes, not mighty to destroy, to bid us love each other.**

**How could he quit his kingly state for such a world of greed and hate?
What deep humiliation secured the world's salvation!**

Come, dearest child, into our hearts, and leave your crib behind you!

Let this be where the new life starts for all who seek and find you.

**To you the honor thanks, and praise for all your gifts this time of grace
come, conquer and deliver this world, and us, forever.**

Fourth Reading

John 1:9-14

“When Christmas Morn is Dawning”

No. 232, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

CCLI #11179170

**When Christmas morn is dawning, I wish that I could be
there by the manger cradle, God's Son, newborn, to see.
there by the manger cradle, God's Son, newborn, to see.**

How kind of you, our Savior, for us to come to earth.

O may we not by sinning, despise your lowly birth.

O may we not by sinning, despise your lowly birth.

**We need you, O Lord Jesus, to be our dearest friend.
Your love will guard and guide us and keep us to life's end.
Your love will guard and guide us and keep us to life's end.**

pray

Lord's Prayer

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.

go

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

No. 221, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

CCLI #11179170

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign.

In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
but his mother only, in her maiden bliss,
worshiped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him: give my heart

Benediction

Postlude

Thank you for joining us for worship!

Upcoming Christmas Eve Services

To view the church calendar, go to franklinumc.org/calendar.

Family (Pop-up) Christmas Pageant

Join the Franklin United Methodist Church for a Family (Pop-up) Christmas Pageant on Christmas Eve, **December 24, at 5pm**. We will sing Christmas Carols while our esteemed pageant directors pick the cast from those in attendance in order to set the nativity scene. Everyone will have a part to play. Everyone can be a star!

This service will occur in-person in-the-sanctuary, in-person virtually using Google Meet (<https://meet.google.com/ouk-zahh-jmv>), and live-streamed via YouTube. All are welcome.

Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols

Join the Franklin United Methodist Church for a traditional service of Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve, **December 24, at 11pm**. This service will include scripture, song, and communion. It will occur in-person in-the-sanctuary, in-person virtually using Google Meet (<https://meet.google.com/ake-mykk-sxf>), and live-streamed via YouTube. All are welcome.