

Worship

TOGETHER

*"...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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Sunday, January 2, 2022

*You can join this service virtually, in-person, using
To join, go to*

meet.google.com/ens-kcoq-bgg

or call

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

Push *6 to un/mute yourself on a phone.

This service is being live-streamed and recorded to

gather

**Welcome
Prelude
Call to Worship**

We gather wondering, 'Where will we find
the Babe born in Bethlehem?'

**We will find the Babe in the
laughter of children, in the wisdom
of grandparents.**

We gather asking, 'where will we find the
Child of Christmas?'

**We will find the Child where the
needy are gifted with hope, where
the oppressed are set free.**

We gather wanting to know, 'where will we
find the Christ who has come for us?'

**We will find our Hope where fear
is overwhelmed by grace, where
hatred is overwhelmed by love,
where all people are overwhelmed
by joy.**

"Star-Child"

No. 2095, *The Faith We Sing* (2001)

Prayer of the Day

We have heard of your grace,
Shaper of stars;
from those set free from injustice;
from our children who whisper of your joy;
from greeters of dawn's fresh start;
from late risers who listen to the stories of
the needy.

We have heard of your Light,
Bright Star of the morning:
which can illumine the shadows of our lives;
which can show the path to God's heart;
which can point the way
to where we become servants of the gospel.

We have heard of your promised peace,
Wisdom's Radiance:
that peace which can end war,
as well as heal our hearts;
that peace which can conquer our fears,
and flood us with faith;

that peace which can enter our lives
and overwhelm us with hope.
We have heard of you,
God in Community,
Holy in One,
and will proclaim your glory to all,
even as we pray, saying,

The Lord's Prayer

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

Our Father . . .

read

Scripture

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

Song "We Three Kings"

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

Reflection

By: Rev. Nancy Allen

Song "The First Noel". No. 245, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

covenant

adapted from *Wesley's Covenant Renewal Service*

***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 at the rail 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.**

commune

Invitation to the Table

Prayer at the Table¹

Let us pray:

We give you thanks, O God,
for making your love evident since the very beginning of time
when you spoke the word
which replaced the darkness of chaos with
life-giving light. A light which has nurtured
generations of people,
and plants and creatures, great and small.
A light which also revealed the fear
and powerlessness caused by corrupt and
evil actions.
And so you spoke the Word
which would once and for all
dispel the darkness of chaotic lives.
Through your love for the world
the Word became flesh and lived among us
full of grace and truth.
The angels caroled

¹ Moira Laidlaw, "Prayer at the Table: Epiphany," <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/12/prayer-at-table-epiphany.html>, accessed December 14, 2018.

glory to you in the highest heavens
and peace to all people on earth,
and we join with them
and with all people to praise your holy
name:

**Holy Lord, God of endless love,
heaven and earth are surely full of
your glory.
The angels sang of it—we have been
lavished with it.
Blessed is he who was born that we
might have life.
Glory to God and on earth peace to all
people.**

Holy God, as the travelers with their
treasures
were overwhelmed with joy on finding
Jesus,
so we also are overwhelmed
on finding out the depth of his love for us.
For Jesus showed just how beloved we are
to him,
by loving us and giving himself for us.

On that night when he gave himself up for
us,
as he sat at the table and broke bread with
his friends,
he said:
'Take and eat; this is my body which is
broken for you. Remember me each time
you do this.'
After they had eaten, he took the cup
and said:
'Remember me as you drink from this,
for it is my life, poured out for you
—the beginning of a new relationship with
God.'

Send the power of your Holy Spirit
upon these gifts of bread and cup, O God,
that we may experience the presence
of the Word-made-flesh
—Jesus Christ.

Breathe your Spirit in us
that we may be one with Christ, one with
each other, and one in ministry to all the
world.

This we pray in Jesus' name.

Amen

Response

“What Feast of Love” No. 3170, *Worship & Song* (2011)

Sharing Bread and Cup

*As people come forward they are invited to also bring
their offerings to place in the offering baskets after
receiving communion.*

Song “Glory to God in the Highest”

No. 2276, *The Faith We Sing* (2001)

go

***Witness**

***Amen**

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

Thank you for joining us for worship!

Rev. Dr. Jacob W. Juncker, Pastor

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Paul Seaver, Custodian

Linda Zardeskas, Church Council Chair

George Remus, Lay Leader/Treasurer

Dawn Pokorny, Lay Member to Annual Conference

Vickie Low, Personnel Committee Chair

Rich Pokorny, Resource Committee Chair

All of us are ministers

called to share God's love and grace

with our community and world!