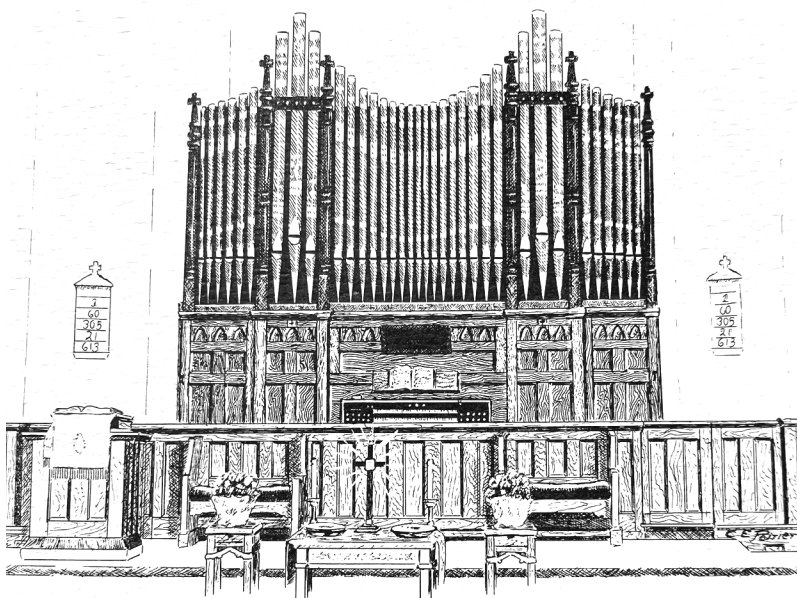


# FRANKLIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

---



## An Altogether Hope

ALMOST CHRISTMAS || DECEMBER 4, 2022

---

82 West Central Street, Franklin, MA  
508-528-1092

[franklinumc.org](http://franklinumc.org)  
[office@franklinumc.org](mailto:office@franklinumc.org)

---

This service of worship is gathering in-person in the sanctuary, in-person using Google Meet, and streaming on YouTube.

---

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

† denotes when you are invited to stand, as you are able

## WELCOME

## CALL TO WORSHIP

We long for an altogether hope.

### **Where can we find it?**

Hope is found in the presence of God who is here among us, who lives in us, surrounds us, and holds us in the palm of God's hand.

### **We embrace God's presence here, at this moment, in this place.**

Hope is found when God brings people together that need each other, when words are spoken that are deeper than life.

### **We embrace God's wisdom spoken by those around us.**

Hope is found when bad suspicions remain unfulfilled, when life is born where death reigned, when love overcomes fear.

### **We embrace the one who brings life.**

Hope is found when people find God and find themselves in God.

### **Lord, speak to us this morning! Amen.**

## SONG

## “LORD, SPEAK TO ME”

No. 463, *UMH* (1989)

### 1.

Lord, speak to me, that I may  
speak  
in living echoes of thy tone;  
as thou hast sought, so let me seek  
thine erring children lost and lone.

### 2.

O strengthen me, that while I stand  
firm on the rock, and strong in  
thee,  
I may stretch out a loving hand  
to wrestlers with the troubled sea.

### 3.

O teach me, Lord, that I may teach  
the precious things thou dost im-  
part;  
and wing my words, that they may  
reach  
the hidden depths of many a heart.

### 4.

O fill me with thy fullness, Lord,  
until my very heart o'erflow  
in kindling thought and glowing  
word,  
thy love to tell, thy praise to show.

### 5.

O use me, Lord, use even me,  
just as thou wilt, and when, and  
where,  
until thy blessed face I see,  
thy rest, thy joy, thy glory share.

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

### **SILENT PRAYER**

### **COLLECT (PRAYER OF THE DAY)**

### **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

After the scripture is read and the candle lit, the congregation prays together.

**Gracious God, you are the source of our hope and the One we hope for. May the hope we find in you surround us and lift us, driving out fear and inspiring us to love. And may this lively hope lead us into new birth through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### **RESPONSE “COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS ”**

No. 196, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

#### **1.**

Come, thou long expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us,  
let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.

#### **2.**

Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child and yet a King,  
born to reign in us forever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all sufficient merit,  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

## **REFLECTION**

**PASTOR JACOB**

## SONG “VIEW THE PRESENT THROUGH THE PROMISE”

No. 3048, *Worship & Song* (2011)

### 1.

View the present through the promise, Christ will come again.  
Trust despite the deepening darkness, Christ will come again.  
Lift the world above its grieving through your watching and believing in the hope past hope's conceiving: Christ will come again.

### 2.

Probe the present with the promise, Christ will come again.  
Let your daily actions witness, Christ will come again.  
Let your loving and your giving and your justice and forgiving be a sign to all the living: Christ will come again.

### 3.

Match the present to the promise, Christ will come again.  
Make this hope your guiding promise, Christ will come again.  
Pattern all your calculating and the world you are creating to the advent you are waiting: Christ will come again.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (SUNG)

Congregational Response:

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.*

### 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.

# SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

## RESPONSE

## “PEACE BE TO THIS CONGREGATION”

Words by Charles Wesley

TUNE: PROMISE (No. 707, *The UMH*)

Peace be to this congregation,  
peace to ev'ry soul therein,  
peace, which flows from Christ's salvation,  
peace, the seal of cancelled sin,  
peace that speaks its heavenly Giver,  
peace, to earthly minds unknown,  
peace divine that lasts forever  
here erect its glorious throne.

Jesus, Prince of peace, be near us;  
fix in all our hearts your home;  
with your gracious presence cheer us;  
let your sacred kingdom come;  
raise to heav'n our expectation,  
give our favored souls to prove  
glorious and complete salvation,  
in the realms of bliss above.

## SENDING

### THE PEACE

The peace of the Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

All are encouraged to share signs of peace and greetings through the congregation as they exit the worship space.

## POSTLUDE

---

Scripture and Psalter readings are from the *New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition*, copyright 2022, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. The songs and hymns are from *The United Methodist Hymnal*, copyright 1989, *The Faith We Sing*, copyright 2001, and, *Worship & Song*, copyright 2011, unless otherwise noted.

# WELCOME TO FRANKLIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH!

---

Thank you for joining us for worship. We hope that you find, in our community, a place to experience meaningful relationship with God, grow in Christ, and reach out in love to others. We hope that this community has been a place where you feel welcome, acceptance, and love. If you have questions about the church, or are interested in becoming a member of the church, please feel free to contact any of the leaders listed below.

---

**franklinumc.org**

Franklin United Methodist Church  
PO Box 313  
82 W. Central Street  
Franklin, MA 02038

508-528-1092  
office@franklinumc.org

Rev. Dr. Jacob W. Juncker, Pastor  
jacob@franklinumc.org

Deidre Bassignani, Administrator  
deidre@franklinumc.org

Paul Seaver, Custodian  
Linda Zardeskas, Chair of Church Council  
George Remus, Lay Leader & Treasurer  
Dawn Harlow, Financial Secretary  
Dawn Pokorny, Lay Member to Annual Conference  
Allen Smith, Chair of Personnel Committee  
Rich Pokorny, Chair of Resource Committee  
Inger Anderson, Chair of Committee on Ministry

# UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

---

## **COFFEE & PRAYER W/ THE PASTOR**

Join Pastor Jacob on Mondays at 10am for coffee and prayer in the chapel. This small group meets in a hybrid format. To learn more and to get joining information, contact Pastor Jacob ([jacob@franklinumc.org](mailto:jacob@franklinumc.org))

## **THE PASTOR'S STUDY**

Join Pastor Jacob on Wednesdays at 7pm to discuss the book, *Almost Christmas: A Wesleyan Advent Experience* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2019). This group meets virtually ONLY. To learn more and to get joining information, contact Pastor Jacob ([jacob@franklinumc.org](mailto:jacob@franklinumc.org)).

## **BOOK CLUB**

The Book Club will meet on Tuesday, December 13 at 7pm and discuss *The Guest List* by Lucy Foley. This group meets virtually. To learn more contact Linda Zardeskas ([lindazee50@hotmail.com](mailto:lindazee50@hotmail.com)).

## **LUNCH BUNCH**

Lunch Bunch will meet at noon on December 21st at New England Steak and Seafood, 11 Uxbridge Road in Mendon. (Route 16). Please call or email [NancyBoates49@hotmail.com](mailto:NancyBoates49@hotmail.com), 508-654-2833 by 10 am the day before if you plan to attend.

## **LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE**

**Wednesday, December 21, the longest night of the year, at 7 pm** there will be a service of reflection entitled "Turning Toward the Light." This service acknowledges the deep emotional darkness that can sometimes hinder our holiday cheer. During this service, we will sing hymns, read scripture, offer a litany of remembrance, and light candles as a sign of hope and in recognition that a light shines in the darkness and the darkness will not overcome it.

## **CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

On **Christmas Eve** we will offer two services of worship. **At 4 pm**, we will offer a more informal service geared toward children. **And, at 8 pm**, there will be a more traditional service of lessons and carols.

On **Christmas Day at 10 am** we will celebrate Christmas together by gathering around the Christmas tree, singing carols, reading scripture, praying together, and eating Christmas cookies!