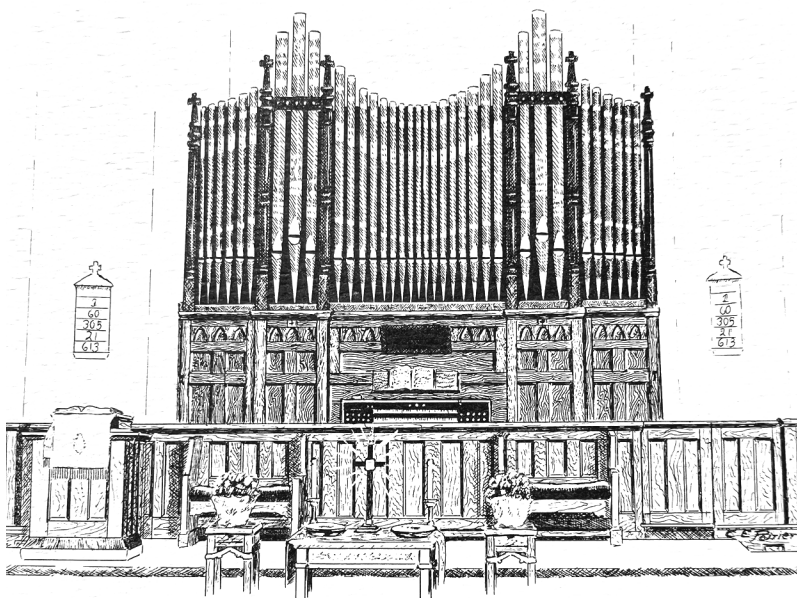


FRANKLIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



An Altogether Love

ALMOST CHRISTMAS || DECEMBER 11, 2022

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

franklinumc.org
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

Our souls magnify the Lord!

Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!

The mighty One has done great things for us!

Holy is God's name!

Let us worship God.

For God is our Maker and our Redeemer;

from generation-to-generation God gives mercy.

SONG

“GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS”

No. 140, *UMH* (1989)

1.

Great is thy faithfulness,
O God my Father;
there is no shadow
of turning with thee;
thou changest not,
thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been,
thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning
new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand
hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness,
Lord, unto me!

2.

Summer and winter
and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars
in their courses above
join with all nature
in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness,
mercy, and love. **Refrain**

3.

Pardon for sin and a peace
that endureth,
thine own dear presence
to cheer and to guide;
strength for today
and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine,
with ten thousand beside! **Refrain**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SILENT PRAYER

COLLECT (PRAYER OF THE DAY)

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.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Eternal God, we stand in awe of your overwhelming love. It is frightening to welcome it, to allow ourselves to be fully loved as we are, to say yes to your love without knowing where it will lead us. By your grace, fill us with love and drive out all the darkness in our hearts, that we might say yes to you and bring your love to others. Amen.

RESPONSE “LOVE DIVINE ALL LOVES EXCELLING ”

No. 384, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

1.

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down;
fix in us thy humble dwelling;
all thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation;
enter every trembling heart.

2.

Breathe O breathe thy loving Spirit
into every troubled breast!
Let us all in thee inherit;
let us find that second rest.
Take away our bent to sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

3.

Come, Almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray and praise thee
without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

4.

Finish, then, thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

REFLECTION

PASTOR JACOB

SONG “O LOVE THAT WILT NOT LET ME GO”

No. 480, *UMH* (1989)

1.

O Love that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
that in thine ocean depths
its flow may richer, fuller be.

3.

O Joy that seekest me
through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow thru the rain,
and feel the promise is not vain,
that morn shall tearless be.

2.

O Light that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to thee;
my heart restores its borrowed ray,
that in thy sunshine's blaze
its day may brighter, fairer be.

4.

O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
and from the ground
there blossoms
red life that shall endless be.

OFFERING

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER

CLOSING “LOVE CAME DOWN AT CHRISTMAS”

No. 242, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

1.

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas; star
and angels gave the sign.

3.

Love shall be our token; love be
yours and love be mine;
love to God and all men, love for
plea and gift and sign.

2.

O Light that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to thee;
my heart restores its borrowed ray,
that in thy sunshine's blaze
its day may brighter, fairer be.

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

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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)

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).

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).

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, 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!