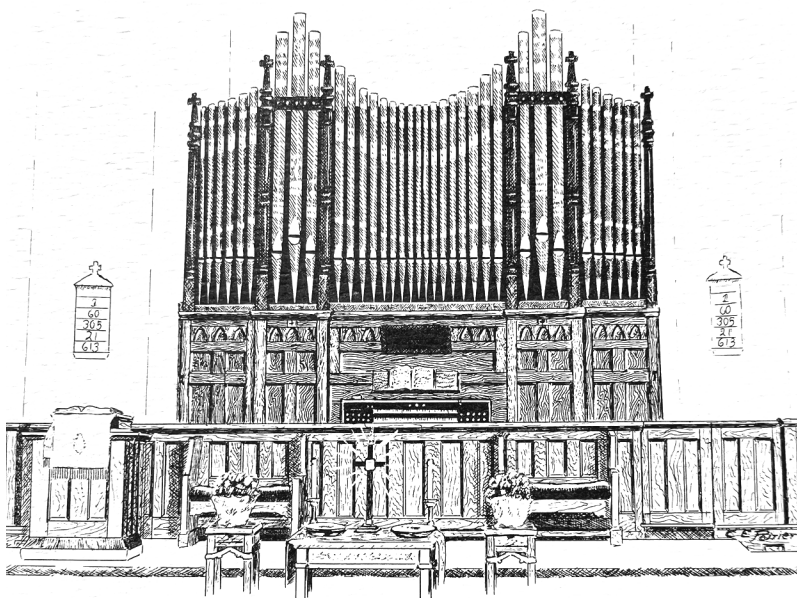


FRANKLIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



An Altogether Joy

ALMOST CHRISTMAS || DECEMBER 18, 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

The joy of the living Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

The Lord has lifted up our soul from dark caverns of death,
and has restored our life from the deep pit of despair.

God has turned our weeping into dancing,
and has removed the rags of sorrow and clothed us with happiness.

To the One who sits upon the throne and to the Lamb of God,
be blessing and honor, and glory and might, for ever and ever. Amen!

SONG

“WE, THY PEOPLE, PRAISE THEE”

No. 67, *UMH* (1989)

We, thy people, praise thee, praise thee, God of every nation!

We, thy people, praise thee, praise thee, Lord of Hosts eternal!

1.

Days of wonder, days of beauty,
days of rapture filled with light
tell thy goodness, tell thy mercies,
tell thy glorious might.

We, thy people, praise thee, praise thee,
praise thee evermore!

2.

For thy blessings, for thy bounty,
joyful songs to thee we sing,
songs of glory, songs of triumph to
our God and King.

We, thy people, praise thee, praise thee,
praise thee evermore!

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

Gracious God, our hearts leap for joy knowing that you, though almighty and everlasting, will soon be born as a humble baby, revealing to us the depths of your love for all of creation. By your Spirit, give us the courage to share the everlasting joy of your messiah. Amen.

RESPONSE

“JOY IN THE MORNING ”

No. 2284, *The Faith We Sing* (2001)

1.

There'll be joy in the morning
on that day,
there'll be joy in the morning
on that day,
for the daylight will dawn
when the darkness is gone,
there'll be joy in the morning
on that day.

3.

There'll be love and forgiveness
everywhere,
there'll be love and forgiveness
everywhere,
and the way of the Lord
will that day be restored,
there'll be love and forgiveness
everywhere.

2.

There'll be peace and contentment
evermore,
there'll be peace and contentment
evermore,
every heart, every voice
on that day will rejoice,
there'll be peace and contentment
evermore.

REFLECTION

PASTOR JACOB

SONG

“BLESSED QUIETNESS”

No. 2142, *The Faith We Sing* (2001)

1.

Joys are flowing like a river,
since the Comforter has come;
Christ abides with us forever,
makes the trusting heart a home.

3.

Like the rain that falls
from heaven,
like the sunlight from the sky,
so the Spirit, too, is given,
coming on us from on high.
[Refrain]

Refrain:

Blessed quietness, holy quietness,
what assurance in my soul,
On the stormy sea,
Jesus speaks to me,
and the billows cease to roll.

4.

See, a fruitful field is growing,
blessed fruit of righteousness;
and the streams of life are flowing
in the lonely wilderness.
[Refrain]

2.

Bringing life and health
and gladness
all around, this heavenly Guest
banished unbelief and sadness,
changed our weariness to rest.
[Refrain]

5.

What a wonderful salvation,
when we always see Christ's face,
what a peaceful habitation,
what a quiet resting place.
[Refrain]

OFFERING

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER

CLOSING

“JOY TO THE WORLD”

No. 246, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

1.

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven, and na-
ture sing.

2.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks,
hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3.

No more let sins
and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make
his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

4.

He rules the world
with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

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
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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).

CHRISTMAS MAILBOX

There is a mailbox set up in the fellowship hall for anyone wanting to give a card/gift to Jacob and his family this Christmas.

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!