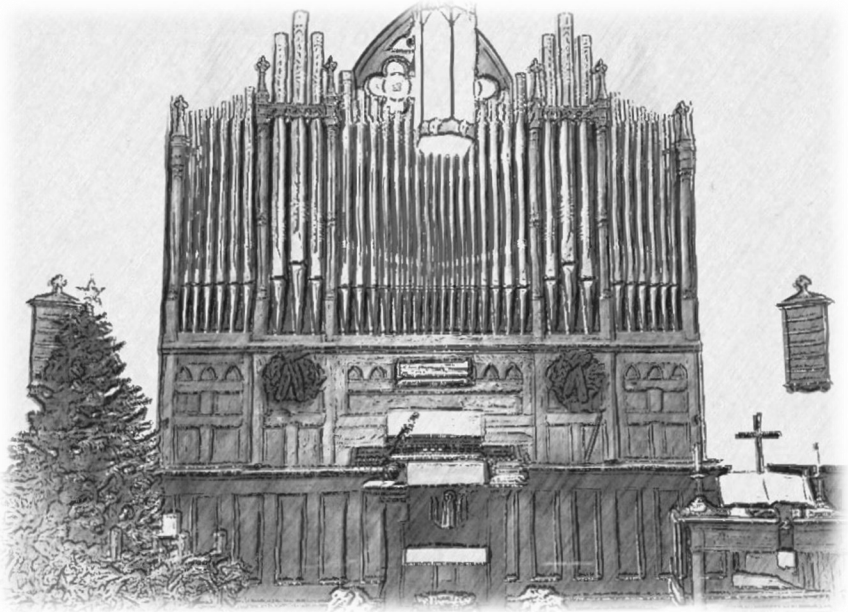


# FRANKLIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Search On  
**What Can Be**

COVENANT RENEWAL || JANUARY 8, 2023

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

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

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

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# gather

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 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) CCLI #11179170

**Star-Child, earth-Child, go-between of God,  
love Child, Christ Child, heaven's lightning rod,**

#### Refrain:

**This year, this year let the day arrive  
when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!**

**Street child, beat child, no place left to go,  
hurt child, used child, no one wants to know, [Refrain]**

**Grown child, old child, memory full of years,  
sad child, lost child, story told in tears, [Refrain]**

**Spared child, spoiled child, having, wanting more,  
wise child, faith child, knowing joy in store, [Refrain]**

**Hope-for-peace Child, God's stupendous sign,  
down-to-earth Child, Star of stars that shine, [Refrain]**

# pray

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### SILENT PRAYER

## 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.

## reflect

### ISIAH 60:1-6 & MATTHEW 2:1-12

*Common English Bible*

### “WE THREE KINGS”

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

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

#### Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of light,  
star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,  
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign. [Refrain]

Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a Deity nigh;  
prayer and praising, voices raising, worshiping God on high. [Refrain]

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. [Refrain]

Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice:  
Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies. [Refrain]

## **“WHAT CAN BE”**

Pastor Jacob

### **“SPIRIT-CHILD JESUS”**

No. 3062, *Worship & Song* (2011)

**Spirit-child Jesus, in joyful refrain,  
echoing songs over Bethlehem's plain,  
what will we do when the carols all fade?  
"Take up my song: Glory! Be not afraid!"**

**Spirit-child Jesus, in animal shed,  
smiling at shepherds from strange borrowed bed,  
what will we do when the manger's away?  
"Take up my story, and live it each day!"**

**Spirit-child Jesus, in starry white light,  
twinkling on evergreens, shiny and bright,  
what will we do when the branches are shorn?**

**"Take up my cross that for you I have borne!"**

**Spirit-child Jesus, in vigilant eyes,  
awaiting the gift bearing Love's great surprise,  
what will we do when the presents are done?  
"Take up my presence, for I am God's Son!"**

**Spirit-child Jesus, in hot tongues of flame,  
melting the candle alight in your name,  
What will we do when the candle is gone?  
"Take up my light! Pass it on, pass it on!"**

## **covenant & communion**

### **THE INVITATION**

This covenant I advise you to make, not only in heart, but in word; not only in word, but in writing; and that you would with all possible reverence spread the writing before the Lord, as if you would present it to him as your act and deed: and when you have done this, set your hand to it: keep it as a memorial of the solemn transactions that have passed between God and you, that you may have recourse to it in doubts and temptations.

**O Most Holy God, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves to you as prodigals at your doorstep. We have fallen short because of our sins, and are prone to wickedness and evil in the world. But you have promised**

**mercy to us in Christ, and you call us to turn to you with all of our hearts. Therefore, by the call of your gospel, we come now, without reluctance, to submit ourselves to your mercy.**

Response: "A Charge to Keep I Have," No. 413, v. 1, The United Methodist Hymnal (1989)

**A charge to keep I have, a God to glorify,  
a never-dying soul to save, and fit it for the sky.**

## **WE CONFIDE IN GOD**

Having a full, life-giving relationship with God means putting away our idols, and being against that which God is against. Therefore, renounce those things from the bottom of your hearts, and in full covenant, use all the means that you know to refuse sin and corruption in your lives.

**O God, though we once were of the world, we now resign our hearts to you, humbly bowing before your majesty, with firm resolution in our hearts.**

Response: "A Charge to Keep I Have," No. 413, v. 2, The United Methodist Hymnal (1989)

**To serve the present age, my calling to fulfill;  
O may it all my powers engage to do my Master's will!**

## **WE COMPOSE OUR SPIRITS**

Let us pray.

**O God, we wholeheartedly desire your grace, so that we might follow your call with resolve, forsake the world, turn away from sin, and turn to you. We will guard against all temptations, in good times and bad, lest they draw us away from you. We acknowledge our own powerlessness against such forces, and rely on your righteousness and strength.**

*Silent prayer of confession.*

God is boundless in mercy and great grace, and offers us again to be our God through Christ. Therefore we solemnly pledge ourselves to God, bowing before God's majesty.

**We take you as our Lord Jehovah, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We yield our whole selves, body and soul, for your service, promising and vowing to serve you in holiness and righteousness every day of our lives.**

Response: "A Charge to Keep I Have," No. 413, v. 3, The United Methodist Hymnal (1989)

**Arm me with jealous care, as in thy sight to live,  
and oh, thy servant, Lord, prepare a strict account to give.**

## **WE COMPOSE OUR SPIRITS**

Since God has given Jesus as the only way to God, solemnly accept Jesus as the only new and living way, by which sinners may come to God. I call you to join in covenant with God.

If you are looking to find meaningful relationship with God and are willing to commit to the Way found in Jesus Christ, I invite you join me in this covenant prayer in the Wesleyan tradition.

**I am no longer my own, but thine. Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be employed for thee or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee or brought low for thee. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal. And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.**

Response: "A Charge to Keep I Have," No. 413, v. 4, The United Methodist Hymnal (1989)

**Help me to watch and pray, and on thyself rely,  
assured, if I my trust betray, I shall forever die.**

## **WE CHOOSE FAITHFULNESS**

Let us pray.

**O God, because you have been pleased to give your holy law as the rule of my life and the way I should walk in your kingdom, I willingly submit myself to you, set my shoulder to your burden, and subscribe in all your laws as holy, just, and good. I solemnly take them, as the rule of my words, thoughts and actions, promising that though my flesh might contradict and rebel, I will try to order and govern my whole life according to your direction, and will not allow myself to neglect any of my duties to you. Now, Almighty God, searcher of hearts, you know that I make this covenant with you today without deceit or reservation, asking you, that if you see any flaw or falsehood in me, that you would reveal it to me and help me to get right with you.**

## **WE CONNECT TO GOD IN PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The pastor give thanks appropriate to the occasion, remembering God's acts of salvation, and

concludes:

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

The pastor continues the thanksgiving. The institution of the Lord's Supper is recalled. The pastor concludes:

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and concludes:

And now, glory be to you, O God the Father.

**From this day forward I look upon you as my Light and my God, knowing that you will forever show me the Way even when I am lost.**

Glory be to you, O God the Son.

**You have loved me and washed me from my sins, and you are my Savior and Redeemer.**

Glory be to you, O God the Holy Spirit. By the power of your hand, you have turned our hearts away from sin and back to you.

**O holy and powerful God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you are now my Covenant-Friend, and through your infinite grace, I am your Covenant-Servant. Amen.**

So be it.

**And the covenant which we have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven.**

**WE COMMUNE WITH GOD AND ONE ANOTHER**



## **“PEACE BE TO THIS CONGREGATION”**

Words by C Wesley; TUNE: PROMISE (No. 707, *The United Methodist Hymnal*)

**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.**

# **go**

## **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**

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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.

The covenant renewal service was adapted from resources found *Almost Christmas: A Wesleyan Advent Experience* (Abingdon Press: Nashville, 2019) by Magrey R. Devega, Ingrid McIntyre, April Casperson, and Matt Rawle. The communion liturgy is adapted from *The United Methodist Book of Worship* (The United Methodist Publishing House: Nashville, 1992).

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# WELCOME TO FRANKLIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH!

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Thank you for joining us in 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, love, and are inspired to love others. 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.

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## **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

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## THE PASTOR'S STUDY

Join Pastor Jacob on Wednesdays at 7pm to discuss the Gospel of Matthew. 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 meets monthly on the second Monday of the month at 7pm. The Book Club will meet (virtually) on **January 10 at 7pm**. We will be reading *Mailibu Rising* by Taylor Jenkins Reid. Joining information can be found on the church calendar.

## LUNCH BUNCH

Lunch Bunch will meet at noon on January 28 at The Railery in Franklin at the Village Plaza. Please contact Nancy Boates ([NancyBoates49@hotmail.com](mailto:NancyBoates49@hotmail.com), 508-654-2833) by 10 am the day before if you plan to attend.

## FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION: CEREAL

The Franklin Food Pantry, located at 43 West Central Street (Franklin), offers supplemental food assistance and housing necessities to neighbors in need. ***During the month of January we will be collecting cereal for the Food Pantry.*** Donations can be placed on the table in the sanctuary.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

We are looking to restart our Sunday School ministry. We will begin by offering it once per month during worship. If there is enough interest, we will expand it to twice per month. As we make preparations, we are looking for volunteers to help teach. Are you interested in volunteering? If so, please contact Inger Anderson, Chair of the Committee on Ministry ([inger1210@aol.com](mailto:inger1210@aol.com)) or the Church Office.

## MOVIE NIGHT

Join the church for a movie on Friday January 20th at 6:30pm in the vestry. Bring a comfy blanket and pillow (or use one of our folding chairs). Popcorn and drinks will be provided.

## FAT TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER

Mark your calendar for a Fat Tuesday pancake dinner on Tuesday February 20 from 5:30-6:30pm. Come when you can and enjoy a time of fellowship and merriment before we begin our Lenten journey.