

FRANKLIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



What's Your Spiel

A CROSS IN THE HEART OF GOD || MARCH 5, 2023

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.

GATHER

WELCOME

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

God, you know what we need.

We think we need cable television and the fastest internet, when what we really need is to see your world through your eyes.

God, you know what we need.

We think we need dozens of pairs of shoes—a pair for each different outfit, when what we really need is to walk your path in the shoes of a person who is suffering.

God, you know what we need.

We think we need the newest, most expensive vehicle we can afford, when what we really need is to simply go where you ask us to go, and do what you tell us to do.

God, you know what we need.

We think we need other people to validate our worth, when what we really need is to find our true selves in relationship with you.

God, you know what we need.

We trust you to open us to receive all that we need to become more like you.

SONG

“MORE LIKE YOU”

No. 2167, FWS (2001)

1.

More like you, Jesus,
more like you,
Fill my heart with your desire
to make me more like you.
More like you, Jesus,
more like you.
Touch my lips with holy fire
and make me more like you.

2.

Lord, you are my mercy.
Lord, you are my grace.
All my deepest sins
have forever been erased.
Draw me in your presence.
Lead me in your ways.
I long to bring you glory
in righteousness and praise.

PRAY

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

SILENT PRAYER

PRAYER OF THE DAY

REFLECT

SCRIPTURE READING

ESTHER 4:5-16

SONG

“PERHAPS YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN”

Words by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2015

Tune by Samuel Sebastian Wesley (AURELIA)

1.

"Perhaps you have been chosen
for such a time as this!"
So Mordecai told Esther to serve
as she'd been blessed.
Their people were in danger and
needed someone brave:
a queen who knew her calling to
risk and act and save.

3.

The king gave what she wanted
and let her people live,
and all because Queen Esther
used what she had to give.
She faced her fear with courage,
she changed the things she could,
She chose to make a difference,
to use her life for good.

2.

She stood up for her people and
dared approach the king
although he might have killed
her for doing such a thing.
Inviting him to dinner,
a feast to satisfy,
she asked of him a favor:
"Don't let my people die!"

4.

O God, we look around us and
see a world in need.
There's violence and injustice,
there's prejudice and greed.
Remind us of our calling to
bravely use our gifts.
Perhaps we have been chosen
for such a time as this.

REFLECTION

WHAT'S YOUR SPIEL

SONG

“COME, LET US HONOR ESTHER”

Words by Edith Sinclair Downing

Tune by Hal H. Hopkins (MERLE'S TUNE)

1.

Come, let us honor Esther,
her courage we applaud.
When she could live with riches,
she dared to serve her God.
She could not rest with privilege
deny her people's fate.
She chose to live her calling:
serve those outside the gate.

2.

God, grant that we, like Esther,
have courage for our quest,
and use our past experience
to serve those not as blessed.
Help us to trust you fully
that we may find our bliss,
and answer when you call us
for 'such a time as this.'

COMMUNE

INVITATION

THE GREAT 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.

...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.

... 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.

... Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,

all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever. Amen

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

HYMN

“PEACE BE TO THIS CONGREGATION”

Words by Charles Wesley TUNE: PROMISE (No. 707, *UMH*)

1.

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.

2.

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.

POSTLUDE

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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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

LENTEN STUDY & WORSHIP

Join Pastor Jacob this Lenten season on Wednesdays at 7pm (via Google Meet) and Sundays during worship as we explore the cross in the heart of God. We will explore the centrality of Jesus' passion to Christianity and what it says about God's desire to be with us. We will be reading together *A Cross in the Heart of God: Reflections on the death of Jesus* by Samuel Wells (Norwich, UK: Canterbury Press, 2020). Limited copies are available. If you would like a free copy of the book, need joining information, or have questions about this study, please contact Pastor Jacob (jacob@franklinumc.org).

MARCH FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION: FAMILY SIZED SNACKS

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 March we will be collecting family-sized snacks for the Food Pantry.*** Donations can be placed on the table in the sanctuary.

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet (virtually) on **Tuesday March 14 at 7pm.** We will be reading *Forever Boy* by Kate Swenson. Joining information can be found on the church calendar.

LUNCH BUNCH

Lunch Bunch will meet at **noon on March 15th** at Box Seats, 391 East Central St, Franklin on March 15 at noon. Please contact Nancy Boates (NancyBoates49@hotmail.com, 508-654-2833) by 10 am the day before if you plan to attend.

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) or the Church Office.