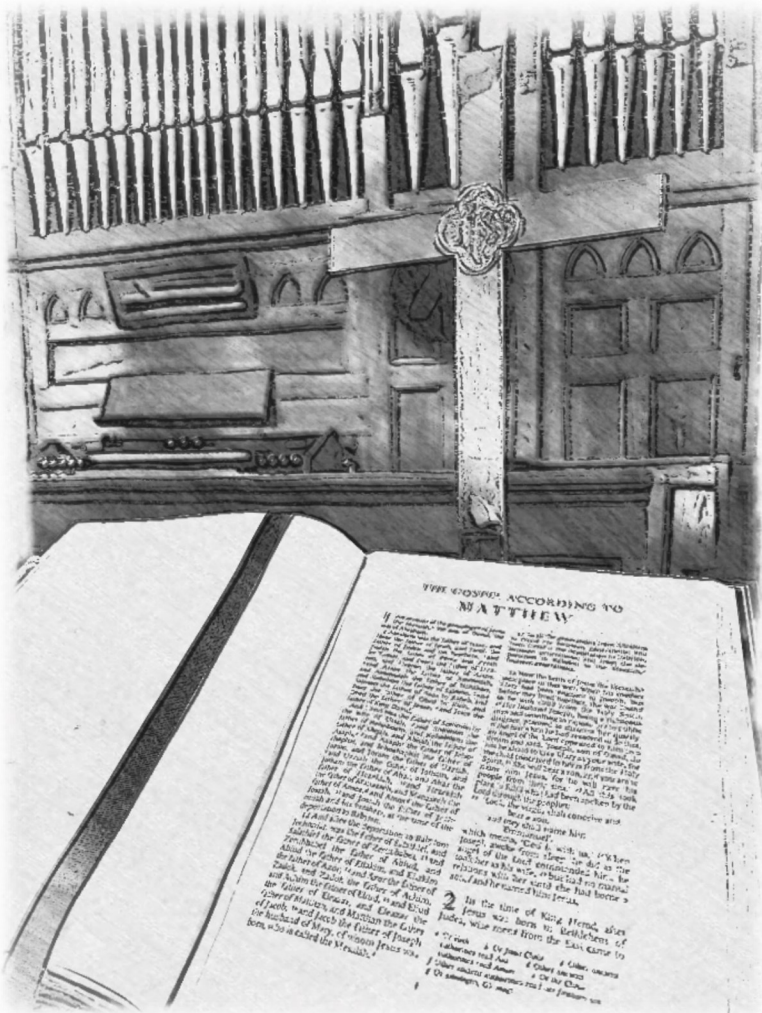


FRANKLIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sparking the Imagination

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW || MAY 7, 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

We gather at the name of Jesus.

We are here.

We have come with eyes longing to see and
ears waiting to hear Jesus.

We are here.

Jesus, we are here.

We are here for you!

SONG

“BLESSED JESUS, AT THY WORD”

No. 596, *UMH* (1989)

1.

Blessed Jesus, at thy word
we are gathered all to hear thee;
let our hearts and souls be stirred
now to seek and love and fear thee,
by thy teachings sweet and holy,
drawn from earth to love thee solely.

2.

All our knowledge, sense, and sight
lie in deepest darkness shrouded,
till thy spirit breaks our night
with the beams of truth unclouded.
Thou alone to God canst win us;
thou must work all good within us.

3.

Glorious Lord, thyself impart!
Light of light, from God proceeding,
open thou our ears and heart;
help us by thy spirit's pleading;
hear the cry thy people raises;
hear and bless our prayers and praises.

PRAY

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SILENT PRAYER

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

Whispering God, the noise of the world is loud.

Open our ears to your still, small, voice.

God of revelation, the darkness of the world threatens.

Open our eyes to the light of your presence.

God of abundance, we cling tightly to so many things.

Open our hands in generosity and joy.

God of all people, we feel the fear of those who are “other.”

Open our arms to the stranger and the enemy.

God of mystery, we want so desperately to understand you.

Open our minds to the depths of your truth.

Creating God, we long to know your presence.

Open our hearts to receive your love.

Amen

and amen.

REFLECT

MINI-REFLECTION (CHILDREN’S TIME)

SCRIPTURE READING

MATTHEW 13:10-17

SONG

“OPEN MY EYES, THAT I MAY SEE”

No. 454, *UMH* (1989)

1.

Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.

Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.

Open my eyes,
illumine me, Spirit divine!

2.

Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear;
and while the wavenotes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear.

Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.

Open my ears,
illumine me, Spirit divine!

3.

Open my mouth, and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere;
open my heart and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share.

Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.

Open my heart,
illumine me, Spirit divine!

REFLECTION

“SPARKING THE IMAGINATION”

SONG

“THE WORLD IS FULL OF STORIES”

Words by Alan Gaunt

Tune by Hal H. Hopson, 1983 (MERLE'S TUNE, UMH No. 209)

1.

The world is full of stories,
of stories that have passed
to us along the ages;
great stories that still last,
to tell of human feelings
drawn deep from heart and mind,
more true than fact: their meaning
the surest we can find.

2.

The world is full of stories,
new stories people tell,
and young and old come under
the storyteller's spell
which stirs imagination
and opens wide our eyes
to duty and conviction,
to wonder and surprise.

3.

The world is full of stories
that capture and enthrall;
but joyful faith discovers
that one transcends them all:
God's love as told in Jesus,
who shared our life on earth,
and human recreation
beginning at his birth .

4.

It tells us of the anguish
God's love was bound to bear,
to conquer death and evil
and fathom our despair.
As we repeat the story,
hope comes to life and thrives,
to make the love of Jesus
the story of our lives.

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 Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
**all honor and glory is yours, almighty God,
now and for ever. Amen**

LORD'S PRAYER

No. 895, *UMH* (1989)

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 OF THE BREAD & CUP

RESPONSE

“PEACE BE TO THIS CONGREGATION”

Words by Charles Wesley TUNE: PROMIS (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

Franklin United Methodist Church
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82 W. Central Street
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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
John Milot, Chair of Resource Committee
Inger Anderson, Chair of Committee on Ministry

UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

MAY FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION: DIAPERS

We will be collecting diapers for the Food Pantry. Donations can be placed on the table in the sanctuary.

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet (virtually) on **Tuesday May 9 at 7pm**. We will be reading *The Violin Conspiracy* by Brendan Slocumb . Joining information can be found on the church calendar.

LUNCH BUNCH

Lunch Bunch will meet at **noon on May 17 at Sol De Mexico, 191 Mechanic St, Bellingham**. Please contact Nancy Boates (NancyBoates49@hotmail.com, 508-654-2833) by 10 am the day before if you plan to attend.

BLOOMIN 4 GOOD

FUMC has been selected as a beneficiary of the Franklin Stop & Shop *Bloomin' 4 Good Program* for the month of May. FUMC will receive a \$1 donation for every \$10.99 bouquet in the sleeve marked “Bloomin’ 4 Good” purchased. Money raised will be used to offset the cost of our community garden beds.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The next date for Sunday School will be **Sunday, May 7th during worship**. Children ages 4-12 (preschool—6th grade) will be dismissed during worship and will be returning to the sanctuary for communion. There is no need to RSVP or register.

The curriculum we are using is [Mini Revolutions from Illustrated Ministry](#). In addition to the (current) once-per-month class during worship at the church, we will be providing supplementary materials for persons who would like to use the curriculum for family devotions. Print materials will be made available each week at the church. We can also email you materials in a montly packet, if you're interested in using them in your home.

If you are interested in volunteering as a teacher please see Inger Anderson oe email at inger1210@aol.com.