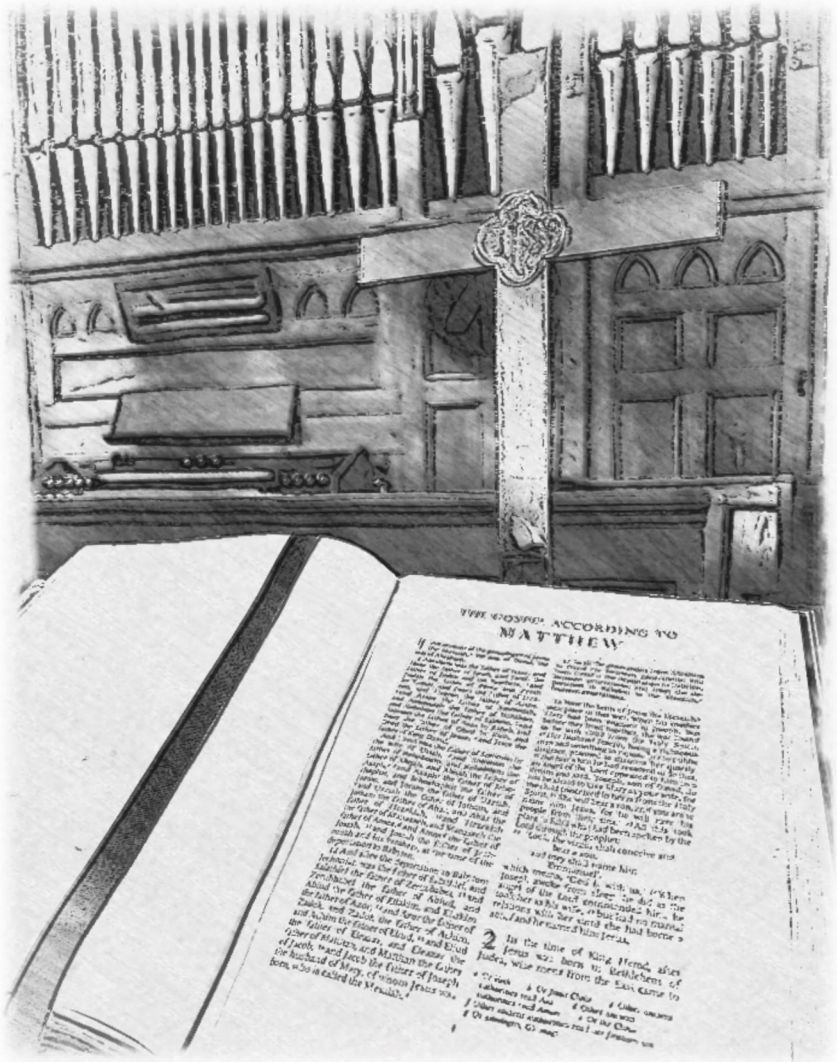


FRANKLIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Lament of a Mother Hen

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW || OCTOBER 1, 2023

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

franklinumc.org
office@franklinumc.org

WELCOME TO FRANKLIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH!

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

This worship aid, or “bulletin,” will guide you through this service, offering you a brief outline and instructions for the service along with the responses, prayers, and lyrics to the songs we will sing together. Congregational responses are typically **bolded**.

Please record your gift of presence and make your other offerings using the offering card included in the print bulletin. Online worshippers are encouraged to record their presence and offerings online at **franklinumc.org/offering**.

Financial contributions can be made in the offering plate (cash or check made payable to “Franklin United Methodist Church”) or online by going to **franklinumc.org/giving**.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come! God is leading us home.

Our wandering is over at last.

Come! God is leading us home.

Home, to a safe and prosperous place.

Come! God is leading us home.

There is no more hunger or thirst.

Come! God is leading us home.

Our lives have meaning and joy.

Come! God is leading us home.

Our souls find rest at last.

SONG

“BRING US HOME”

No. 61, *The Upper Room Worshipbook* (2007)

Refrain:

Bring us home on love's renewing tide

To the place of our belonging.

Bring us home to your redeeming side.

Bring your scattered people home.

1

From our weary night bring us to the light,

To the place of our belonging;

With your warm embrace, waken us to grace,

Bring your scattered people home.

Refrain

2

From our closed-in fears, To our wasted years,

To the place of our belonging;

To our highest call, sharing love with all

Bring your scattered people home.

Refrain

3

From our selfish views, learnings we refuse,

To the place of our belonging;

To the truth we are, to our rising star,

Bring your scattered people home.

Refrain

PRAYERS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
SILENT PRAYER
COLLECT (PRAYER OF THE DAY)

REFLECT

MINI-REFLECTION

READING

MATTHEW 23:1-39

REFLECTION

Pastor Jacob

SONG “MOTHERING GOD, YOU GAVE ME BIRTH”

No. 2050, *The Faith We Sing* (2001)

1

Mothering God, you gave me birth in the bright morning of this world.
Creator, source of every breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun

2

Mothering Christ, you took my form, offering me your food of light,
Grain of life, and grape of love, your very body for my peace.

3

Mothering Spirit, nurt’ring one, in arms of patience hold me close,
So that in faith I root and grow until I flow’r, until I know.

COMMUNE

INVITATION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (SUNG RESPONSES)

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! Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!
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.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!**

...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. Amen. Amen.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!**

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

RESPONSE

“PEACE BE TO THIS CONGREGATION”

Words by Charles 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.

SENDING

THE PEACE

The peace of the Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

POSTLUDE

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

We hope that you found, 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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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

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet (virtually) **Tuesday October 10 at 7pm**. The group will be reading *The Light We Carry* by Michelle Obama. Joining information can be found on the church calendar.

LUNCH BUNCH

Lunch Bunch will meet at **noon on Wednesday October 18 at Longhorn Steakhouse in the Stop & Shop Plaza, West Central St, Franklin**. Please contact Nancy Boates (NancyBoates49@hotmail.com, 508-654-2833) by 10 am the day before if you plan to attend.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM AT MIGRANT SHELTER IN FRANKLIN

As you may be aware, the state is providing emergency shelter for migrant families at the Best Western Hotel in Franklin. Some of the families are native English-speakers, and others speak Haitian-Creole, Spanish, or Portuguese.

All of them have children in the Franklin Public Schools who need after-school snacks, homework help, and fun activities.

We will begin offering this program one day per week, then expand as our capacity allows. We are waiting to hear which day will be best for the hotel's schedule.

All volunteers will be CORI checked and will have to complete abuse-prevention training, or show proof that they have already done so. If you think you may have interest in this program, please contact The Rev Kathy McAdams at St John's Episcopal Church to begin the process so we can hit the ground running when it's time: Rector@StJohnsFranklinMA.org or 857-237-9428

HOLIDAY FOOD PANTRY BASKET COLLECTION

The Food Pantry Collection for October will be boxes (eight individual packets each) of Swiss Miss Hot Chocolate. Our goal is 140 boxes. This collection is for the Thanksgiving *and* Christmas baskets handed out by the Franklin Food Pantry. The collection is coordinated by the Franklin Interfaith Council.