



WELCOME TO FRANKLIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH!

This service of worship is gathering in-person at the church building, 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

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

In days when God's people longed for peace, Isaiah declared, "Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins" (Isaiah 40:1).

We who gather today also seek comfort and peace, yet we are unsatisfied with ideas of peace that tell us to keep quiet and go with the flow. We long for real peace, true peace, just peace.

We wait as people who yearn for peace that bears the fruit of community, equity, and flourishing for all.

As we prepare ourselves to welcome the birth of the Prince of Peace, we understand the festive lights that normally shine bright in Bethlehem will not be lit this year in memory of those killed in the recent violence. To stand alongside our sisters and brothers in Christ, and all who mourn this holiday season, we will leave our second Advent candle unlit during Advent and Christmas.

SONG "I HEARD THE BELLS ON CHRISTMAS DAY"

No. 187, *The Baptist Hymnal* (2008)

I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to [all].

I thought how, as the day had come,
The belfies of all Christendom
Had rolled along th'unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good will to [all].

And in despair I bowed my head:
"There is no peace on earth," I said,
"For hate is strong, and mocks the song
Of peace on earth good will to [all]."

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
With peace on earth, good will to [all]."

Till, ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day
A voice, a chime, a chant subline,
Of peace on earth, good will to [all].

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SILENT PRAYER

COLLECT (PRAYER OF THE DAY)

LORD'S PRAYER No. 895, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (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.**

SCRIPTURE READING

ISAIAH 40:1-11

The New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

GOSPEL READING

MARK 1:1-8

The New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

SONG “TODA LA TIERRA (ALL EARTH IS WAITING)”

No. 210 (v. 1-3), *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

All earth is waiting to see the Promised One,
and the open furrows, the sowing of the Lord.
All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty;
it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.

Thus says the prophet to those of Israel,
“A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel,”
for his name is “God with us,” our brother shall be,
with him hope will blossom once more within our hearts.

Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain;
open new highways, new highways for the Lord.
He is now coming closer, so come all and see,
and open the doorways as wide as wide can be.

REFLECTION

Pastor Jacob

SONG

“HERE IS PEACE”

No. 3123, *Worship & Song* (2011)

Here is peace, when grace astounds us,
quelling all our wild pretense.
Here is peace, shalom and kindness,
passion ruled by reasoned sense.

Here is peace, when grace engenders
love that neither fades nor ends.
Here is peace when people welcome;
enemies become as friends.

Here is peace, when grace surprises
ignorance with words of hope.
Here is peace to light our senses;
see, God’s love has boundless scope.

OFFERING

DOXOLOGY

No. 95, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise [God], all creatures here below;
praise [God] above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER

SONG

“LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH”

No. 431, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

Let there be peace on earth,
and let it begin with me;
let there be peace on earth,
the peace that was meant to be.

With God our creator,
children all are we.
Let us walk with each other
in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me;
let this be the moment now.

With every step I take,
let this be my solemn vow:
to take each moment
and live each moment
in peace eternally.

Let there be peace on earth,
and let it begin with me.

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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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

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES, 10AM & 7PM

Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year. We will offer two services on Christmas Eve. At 10am, we will celebrate the 4th Sunday of Advent and light the Christ Candle at the conclusion of worship. At 7pm, we will have a candlelighting service with lessons and carols.

WORK TO BEGIN IN SANCTUARY

Work is scheduled to begin the week of December 18. As work is being done, the sanctuary will be closed. Beginning on Sunday, December 17, Sunday morning worship will be in the vestry and continue in the vestry until the ceiling work and painting has been completed. We anticipate being back in the sanctuary for the season of Lent and the celebration of Easter.

LUNCH BUNCH

Lunch Bunch is a monthly gathering where people talk and fellowship over a meal at area restaurants. The next gathering will be at **Mak's (451 West Central St., Franklin), on December 20 at 12 PM**. All are welcome. Please notify Nancy Boates by phone 508-654-2833 or email NancyBoates49@ hot mail.com by 10 am if you plan to attend.

BOOK CLUB

Book Club is a monthly gathering where people discuss a book. For December, the Book Club will be discussing *The Kitchen House* by **Kathleen Grisson**. The next meeting will be on December 12, at 7pm. The group will meet in a hybrid format at the home of Linda Zardeskas (1103 Old Bridge Lane, Bellingham), online (<https://meet.goto.com/richp/churchbookclub>), or by phone (224-501-3412, access code is 789-141-869).

GET & STAY CONNECTED TO THE CHURCH

The Franklin United Methodist Church uses Realm, an online database software, to better communicate with and connect people into the life of the church. It is simple and easy to use! Every person in the church gets a unique profile. Your profile enables you to RSVP to events (including volunteer opportunities), track your giving, update your contact information, change your family details, and replace that outdated directory photo. And, most importantly, it allows the church to communicate better with you. To create and log into the database, go to **onrealm.org/FranklinUMC**.