

FRANKLIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



ADVENT III: JOY

DECEMBER 17, 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 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

When God's people were surrounded by hardship, suffering, and grief, Isaiah proclaimed,

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit (Isaiah 61:1-3a).

We come today as people who are also surrounded by suffering and grief. And yet, the Spirit hovers among us, tending and anointing, inspiring freedom where there is captivity, declaring blessing in places the world has cursed, and igniting fierce joy where mourning and heartache prevail.

We wait as people who experience hardship and pain, yet we are called to witness to the persistent joy that sustains our life as God's people.

We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, just peace, and fierce joy. May our lives shine with the fierce, tenacious joy of the Light who lives in our hearts as we wait and work for the coming of God' kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

SONG

“HAIL TO THE LORD'S ANOINTED”

No. 203, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free;
to take away transgression, and rule in equity.

He comes with succor speedy to those who suffer wrong;
to help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious in his sight.

He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth;
love, joy, and hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth.
Before him, on the mountains, shall peace, the herald, go,
and righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.

To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend;
his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.
The tide of time shall never his covenant remove;
his name shall stand forever; that name to us is love.

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 61:1-4, 8-11

The New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

GOSPEL READING

JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28

The New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

SONG

“DOWN BY THE JORDAN”

No. 3045, *Worship & Song* (2011)

Down by the Jordan, a prophet named John was baptizing,
preaching a message the people found bold and surprising.

“God will forgive!
Show that you’ll change how you live!
Surely God’s new day is rising!”

There by the river, the crowd came with great expectation:
“Are you God’s Chosen One, sent here to recuse our nation?”

“No!” John replied.
“He who is mightier than I
judges and offers salvation.”

Jesus, you went to be baptized along with the others,
taking your place among sinners, God’s lost sons and daughters.

Then with great love,
God’s Spirit came as a dove!
Your work began in those waters.

Here in the Church, we are baptized and filled with God’s Spirit.
Freed and forgiven we’re welcomed with joy! Can you hear it?

This is God’s sign!
This is how God says, “You’re mine!”
Let’s take the good news and share it!

REFLECTION

Pastor Jacob

SONG

“HERALDS OF CHRIST”

No. 567, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

Heralds of Christ, who bear the King’s commands,
immortal tidings in your mortal hands,
pass on and carry swift the news you bring;
make straight, make straight the highway of the King.

Through desert ways, dark fen, and deep morass,
through jungles, sluggish seas, and mountain pass,
build now the road, and falter not, nor stay;
prepare across the earth the King’s highway.

Lord, give us faith and strength the road to build,
to see the promise of the day fulfilled,
when war shall be no more, and strife shall cease
upon the highway of the Prince of Peace.

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 “I WANT TO WALK AS A CHILD OF THE LIGHT”

No. 206, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.

REFRAIN:

In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,
and show me the way to the Father.

REFRAIN

I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
we shall know the joy of Jesus.

REFRAIN

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

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
John Milot, Chair of Resource Committee
Inger Anderson, Chair of Committee on Ministry

UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

WORK TO BEGIN TOMORROW

Work is scheduled to begin in the sanctuary on Monday, 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.

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 candle lighting service with lessons and carols.

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.

STAY UP-TO-DATE & SHARE THE WORD

The easiest ways to stay up-to-date on all that is going on is to subscribe to the church website and follow our social media accounts. Go to **franklinumc.org**, scroll to the bottom of the page, enter your email address, and hit subscribe. All new posts to the website will be sent directly to your email!

You can also find regular updates on **Facebook.com/FranklinMaUMC** and **Instagram.com/FranklinUMC**. You can find all past services archived under the "Live" section of our YouTube channel (**YouTube.com/@FranklinMaUMC**). Follow, like, share, and comment on the content to help make others aware of all that we do and are together for Christ's sake.