

FRANKLIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



NEW
YEAR'S EVE

DECEMBER 31, 2023

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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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Welcome to this time of quiet expectation.

We have come here from extremely busy times.

Come and find rest. Come and find hope.

This is the last day of this year; we do not know what is to come.

Do not fear. Look with eager joy from the presence of the Lord in your life.

Open our eyes, ears, and hearts, O Lord, to receive your message of hope for us.

SONG

“LORD OF ALL HOPEFULNESS”

No. 2196, *The Faith We Sing* (2001)

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy;
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace:
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

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

MATTHEW 25:31-40

The New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

SONG

“WHEN I NEEDED A NEIGHBOUR”

No. 600, *Voices United* (1996)

When I needed a neighbor, were you there, were you there?
When I needed a neighbor, were you there?
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,
were you there?

I was hungry and thirsty, were you there, were you there?
I was hungry and thirsty, were you there?
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,
were you there?

I was cold, I was naked, were you there, were you there?
I was cold, I was naked, were you there?
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,
were you there?

When I needed a healer, were you there, were you there?
When I needed a healer, were you there?
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,
were you there?

Wherever you travel I'll be there, I'll be there,
wherever you travel I'll be there.
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,
I'll be there.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, you have asked us to feed and give drink to those who hunger, to clothe those who are naked, to welcome the stranger, to visit those who are sick and imprisoned.

When we look back on this year we might be able to say we did some of those things. We remember the enthusiasm with which we started out this waning year, ready to do your work and witness to your love. But you know how things got in our way.

We allowed ourselves to be swallowed up by worries and fear. We placed comfort of self before service to others. We took the "easy way out" whenever we could.

And you wept for us.

Now we are on the brink of the new year. We cannot change what we did not do, but we can make a covenant with you to be your witnesses in our words, thoughts and deeds to your people so that when you say, "Have you given food and drink to those who hunger and thirst, have you clothed the naked, welcomed the stranger, visited the sick and imprisoned? We can respond with a joyful

"Yes! Lord, we have done these things with joy and love!"

Forgive us what we have not done.

Inspire us to do what you would have us do.

In Jesus' name, we pray.

Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God is making all things new. The past is over and done. It taught us many lessons. But God is God of the future, new opportunities, new hopes, new dreams, renewed vision. God dwells with us to be our God. We are not alone.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

JOHN 1:1-5, 9-13

The New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

MATTHEW 5:14-16

The New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

SONG

“AS A FIRE IS MEANT FOR BURNING”

No. 2237, *The Faith We Sing* (2001)

As a fire is meant for burning with a bright and warming flame,
so the church is meant for mission, giving glory to God’s name.
Not to preach our creeds or customs, but to build a bridge of care,
we join hands across the nations, finding neighbors everywhere.

We are learners; we are teachers; we are pilgrims on the way.
We are seekers; we are givers; we are vessels made of clay.
By our gentle, loving actions we would show that Christ is light.
In a humble, listening Spirit we would live to God’s delight.

As a green bud in the springtime is a sign of life renewed,
so may we be signs of oneness ‘mid earth’s peoples, many hued.
As a rainbow lights the heavens when a storm is past and gone,
may our lives reflect the radiance of God’s new and glorious dawn.

PASTORAL PRAYER

SONG

“LET THERE BE LIGHT”

No. 440, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

Let there be light, let there be understanding,
let all the nations gather, let them be face to face.

Open our lips, open our minds to ponder,
open the door of concord opening into grace.

Perish the sword, perish the angry judgment,
perish the bombs and hunger, perish the fight for gain.

Hallow our love, hallow the deaths of martyrs,
hallow their holy freedom, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your Spirit turn to language,
your people speak together, your Spirit never fade.

Let there be light, open our hearts to wonder,
perish the way of terror, hallow the world God made.

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

“O GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST”

No. 117, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

O God, our help in ages past, our hopes for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home!

Under the shadow of thy throne, still may we dwell secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood, or earth received her frame,
from everlasting, thou art God, to endless years the same.

A thousand ages, in thy sight, are like an evening gone;
short as the watch that ends the night, before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever rolling stream, bears all who breathe away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past, our hopes for years to come;
be thou our guide while life shall last, and our eternal home.

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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