

FRANKLIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



EPIPHANY SUNDAY

JANUARY 7, 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

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the midst of rising costs, debt, illness, all the hardships of life, why have you come to worship?

We come because Isaiah reminds us that no suffering or pain can separate us from God.

I hear the Prophet calling, "Arise, shine for your light has come!" I'm ready for that bright light from God to light my way. We see that light in Jesus, God-with-Us, and we recognize that light in our lives too. We are all created in God's image: God's light was born in us as we breathed our first breath.

We come to worship to connect God's light in us to God's light in Christ, and so illumine the world.

What a reason to worship!

How do we recognize that light?

In compassion for all, in justice for the poor, in welcome for the stranger we shine God's light into the world. So come let us bring the joys and hardships of life to worship

and celebrate that God's light is already with us and within us.

SONG "RISE, SHINE, YOU PEOPLE"

No. 187, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered
our human story; God in him is centered.
Christ comes to us, by death and sin surrounded,
with grace unbounded.

See how he sends the power of evil reeling,
and brings us freedom, light and life and healing.
All men and women, who by guilt are driven,
now are forgiven.

Come, celebrate, your banners high unfurling,
your songs and prayers against the darkness hurling.
To all the world go out and tell the story
of Jesus' glory.

Tell how the Father sent his Son to save us.
Tell of the Son, who life and freedom gave us.
Tell how the Spirit calls from every nation
God's new creation.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SILENT PRAYER

COLLECT (PRAYER OF THE DAY)

THE 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 60:1-6 & MATTHEW 2:1-12

The New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

SONG

"WE THREE KINGS"

No. 254, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

REFRAIN

O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a King of Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.

REFRAIN

Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising voices raising, worshipping God on high.

REFRAIN

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

REFRAIN

Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies.

REFRAIN

REFLECTION

Pastor Jacob

SONG

“ARISE, YOUR LIGHT IS COME!”

No. 744, *Glory to God: the Presbyterian Hymnal* (2013)

Arise, your light is come!
The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God,
which shines on you today.

Arise, your light is come!
Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captives' liberty,
good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light is come!
all you in sorrow born,
bind up the brokenhearted ones
and comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light is come!
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing;
God's power will make us strong.

COVENANT & COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

This covenant I advise you to make, not only in heart, but in word; not only in word, but in writing; and that you would with all possible reverence spread the writing before the Lord, as if you would present it to him as your act and deed: and when you have done this, set your hand to it: keep it as a memorial of the solemn transactions that have passed between God and you, that you may have recourse to it in doubts and temptations.

O Most Holy God, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves to you as prodigals at your doorstep. We have fallen short because of our sins, and are prone to wickedness and evil in the world. But you have promised mercy to us in Christ, and you call us to turn to you with all of our hearts. Therefore, by the call of your gospel, we come now, without reluctance, to submit ourselves to your mercy.

Response: "A Charge to Keep I Have," No. 413, v. 1, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

**A charge to keep I have, a God to glorify,
A never-dying soul to save, and fit it for the sky.**

WE CONFIDE IN GOD

Having a full, life-giving relationship with God means putting away our idols, and being against that which God is against. Therefore, renounce those things from the bottom of your hearts, and in full covenant, use all the means that you know to refuse sin and corruption in your lives.

O God, though we once were of the world, we now resign our hearts to you, humbly bowing before your majesty, with firm resolution in our hearts.

Response: "A Charge to Keep I Have," No. 413, v. 2, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

**To serve the present age, my calling to fulfill;
O may it all my powers engage to do my Master's will!**

WE COMPOSE OUR SPIRITS

Let us pray.

O God, we wholeheartedly desire your grace, so that we might follow your call with resolve, forsake the world, turn away from sin, and turn to you. We will guard against all temptations, in good times and bad, lest they draw us away from you. We acknowledge our own powerlessness against such forces, and rely on your righteousness and strength.

Silent prayer of confession.

God is boundless in mercy and great grace, and offers us again to be our God through Christ. Therefore we solemnly pledge ourselves to God, bowing before God's majesty.

We take you as our Lord Jehovah, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We yield our whole selves, body and soul, for your service, promising and vowing to serve you in holiness and righteousness every day of our lives.

Response: "A Charge to Keep I Have," No. 413, v. 3, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

**Arm me with jealous care, as in thy sight to live,
And oh, thy servant, Lord, prepare a strict account to give.**

WE CLAIM THE COVENANT

Since God has given Jesus as the only way to God, solemnly accept Jesus as the only new and living way, by which sinners may come to God. I call you to join in covenant with God.

If you are looking to find meaningful relationship with God and are willing to commit to the Way found in Jesus Christ, I invite you join me in this covenant prayer in the Wesleyan tradition.

**I am no longer my own, but thine.
Put me to what thou wilt,
rank me with whom thou wilt.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed for thee or laid aside for thee,
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things
to thy pleasure and disposal.**

**And now, O glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it
be ratified in heaven. Amen.**

Response: "A Charge to Keep I Have," No. 413, v. 4, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

**Help me to watch and pray, and on thyself rely,
assured, if I my trust betray, I shall forever die.**

WE CHOOSE FAITHFULNESS

Let us pray.

O God, because you have been pleased to give your holy law as the rule of my life and the way I should walk in your kingdom, I willingly submit myself to you, set my shoulder to your burden, and subscribe in all your laws as holy, just, and good. I solemnly take them, as the rule of my words, thoughts and actions, promising that though my flesh might contradict and rebel, I will try to order and govern my whole life according to your direction, and will not allow myself to neglect any of my duties to you. Now, Almighty God, searcher of hearts, you know that I make this covenant with you today without deceit or reservation, asking you, that if you see any flaw or falsehood in me, that you would reveal it to me and help me to get right with you.

WE OFFER OUR THANKS AND PRAISE

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.

The pastor gives thanks appropriate to the occasion, remembering God's acts of salvation, and concludes:

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.**

The pastor continues the thanksgiving. The institution of the Lord's Supper is recalled. The pastor concludes:

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.

The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and then praises the Trinity, concluding:

And now, glory be to you, O God the Father.

From this day forward I look upon you as my Light and my God, knowing that you will forever show me the Way even when I am lost.

Glory be to you, O God the Son.

You have loved me and washed me from my sins, and you are my Savior and Redeemer.

Glory be to you, O God the Holy Spirit. By the power of your hand, you have turned our hearts away from sin and back to you.

O holy and powerful God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you are now my Covenant-Friend, and through your infinite grace, I am your Covenant-Servant. Amen.

So be it.

And the covenant which we have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven.

WE COMMUNE WITH GOD AND ONE ANOTHER

After everyone has shared in the meal, offered their response, and returned to their seats, we will sing our response.

RESPONSE

“PEACE BE TO THIS CONGREGATION”

Words by Charles Wesley

TUNE: HYFRYDOL (UMH No. 196, “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”)

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.

And also with you.

All are encouraged to share signs of peace and greetings through the congregation as they exit the worship space.

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

BOOK CLUB

Book Club is a monthly gathering where people discuss a book. For January, the Book Club will be brainstorming and planning books to be discussed in 2024. The next meeting will be on **January 9, at 7pm**. The group will meet in a hybrid format at the home of Nancy Boates (17 Vincent Road, Mendon), online (<https://meet.goto.com/richp/churchbookclub>), or by phone (224-501-3412, access code is 789-141-869).

NEW WORSHIP SERIES: THE LETTERS OF JOHN

We will be starting a new worship and discussion series on the letters of John beginning on Wednesday, January 10. This set of letters is one of four general epistles (along with James, 1 and 2 Peter, and Jude) found in the New Testament.

Join us for worship (in-person at the church and via Google Meet on Sundays at 10am or streaming on YouTube) and discussion (in-person via Google Meet on Wednesdays at 7pm) as we reflect upon the nature of God, who Jesus is, what Jesus does, and who we're called to be as Christians.

If you have any questions about this series and/or would like to get the joining information for the discussion on Wednesdays, contact Pastor Jacob (jacob@franklinumc.org).

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 **King Street Café (390 King Street, Franklin) on January 17 at 12 PM**. All are welcome. Please notify Nancy Boates by phone 508-654-2833 or email NancyBoates49@hotmail.com by 10 am if you plan to attend.

2024 PLEDGES

One of the ways we show our commitment and dedication to the work of Christ and the church is through our financial contributions. While our dedication cannot be measured by the amount we give, our dedication is reflected in our commitment to give. As such, we are asking everyone to consider making a commitment (a pledge) as a sign of their dedication to the church. Pledges can be made going to <https://franklinumc.org/dedicated/> and following the link. Paper pledge cards can be found at the entrance to the worship space and can be turned into the church office or offering plate.