

FRANKLIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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The Letters of John  
**Incarnate Love**

Sunday January 21, 2023

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

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# WELCOME TO FRANKLIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH!

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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**.

Prayer requests can be made by filling out the offering form enclosed with the print bulletins, or by going to **[franklinumc.org/pray](http://franklinumc.org/pray)**. Confidential requests will be sent to the pastor. Non-confidential requests will be distributed to the Prayer Team.

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/give](http://franklinumc.org/give)**.

To learn about ways you can volunteer, and sign up, go to **[franklinumc.org/volunteer](http://franklinumc.org/volunteer)**. You can also sign up to volunteer by filling out the offering form enclosed with the print bulletins. All persons who sign up to volunteer will receive an email confirmation of your volunteer registration.

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## WELCOME

## PRELUDE

## CALL TO WORSHIP

We worship the God who inhabits our world and indwells our lives.

**We need not look up to find God, we need only to look around: within ourselves, beyond ourselves, into the eyes of another.**

We need not listen for a distant thunder to find God, we need only listen to the music of life, the words of children, the questions of the curious, the rhythm of a heartbeat.

**We worship the God who inhabits our world, indwells our lives, and loves us fully.**

## SONG

### “HOW CAN WE NAME A LOVE”

No. 111, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

How can we name a Love that wakens heart and mind,  
indwelling all we know or think or do or seek or find?  
Within our daily world, in every human face,  
Love's echoes sound and God is found, hid in the commonplace.

If we awoke to life built on a rock of care  
that asked no great reward but firm, assured, was simply there,  
we can, with parents' names, describe, and thus adore,  
Love unconfined, a father kind, a mother strong and sure.

When people share a task, and strength and skills unite  
in projects old or new, to make or do with shared delight,  
our Friend and Partner's will is better understood,  
that all should share, create, and care, and know that life is good.

So in a hundred names, each day we all can meet  
a presence, sensed and shown at work, at home, or in the street.  
Yet every name we see, shines in a brighter sun:  
In Christ alone is Love full grown and life and hope begun.

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

### **COLLECT (PRAYER OF THE DAY)**

How deeply you have loved us, Jesus; how willingly you stepped into our experience, how completely you empathized with all that we endure.

**Teach us to love as you have loved us.**

How sacrificially you have loved us, Jesus; how completely you gave yourself for us, how courageously you suffered for our sakes.

**Teach us to love as you have loved us. We praise you for your love which is given so freely and so unconditionally. And we thank you for believing that we could learn to offer such love to each other. Amen.**

### **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**

### **1 JOHN 4:7-21**

*The New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition*

### **REFLECTION**

Pastor Jacob

## SONG

## “LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING”

No. 384, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down;  
fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown!  
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast!  
Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest.  
Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be;  
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return and never, nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,  
prayer and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be.  
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee;  
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

## OFFERING

Announcements

## DOXOLOGY

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

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

## PRAYER

## SONG

## “PASS IT ON”

No. 572, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

It only takes a spark to get a fire going,  
And soon all those around can warm up in its glowing.  
That's how it is with God's love Once you've experienced it;  
You spread his love to everyone; You want to pass it on.

What a wondrous time is spring, When all the trees are budding;  
The birds begin to sing, The flowers start their blooming.  
That's how it is with God's love Once you've experienced it;  
You want to sing, it's fresh like spring, You want to pass it on.

I wish for you, my friend, This happiness that I've found;  
You can depend on him, It matters not where you're bound.  
I'll shout it from the mountaintop; I want my world to know;  
The Lord of love has come to me, I want to pass it on

## SENDING

### THE PEACE

The peace of the Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

## POSTLUDE

# THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

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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.

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## **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

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## NEW WORSHIP SERIES: THE LETTERS OF JOHN

We have started a new worship and discussion series on the letters of John. 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](mailto:jacob@franklinumc.org)).

## JANUARY COLLECTION

This month's Food Pantry item is **Baby Wipes**. Donations can be brought on Sunday's. At the end of the month all items will be brought over to the Franklin Food Pantry.

## BOOK CLUB

Book Club is a monthly gathering where people discuss a book. For February, the Book Club will be reading "The Magnificent Life of Marjorie Post" by Allison Pataki. The next meeting will be on **February 13, at 7pm**. The group will meet in a hybrid format , online (<https://meet.goto.com/richp/churchbookclub>), or by phone (224-501-3412, access code is 789-141-869).

## 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.