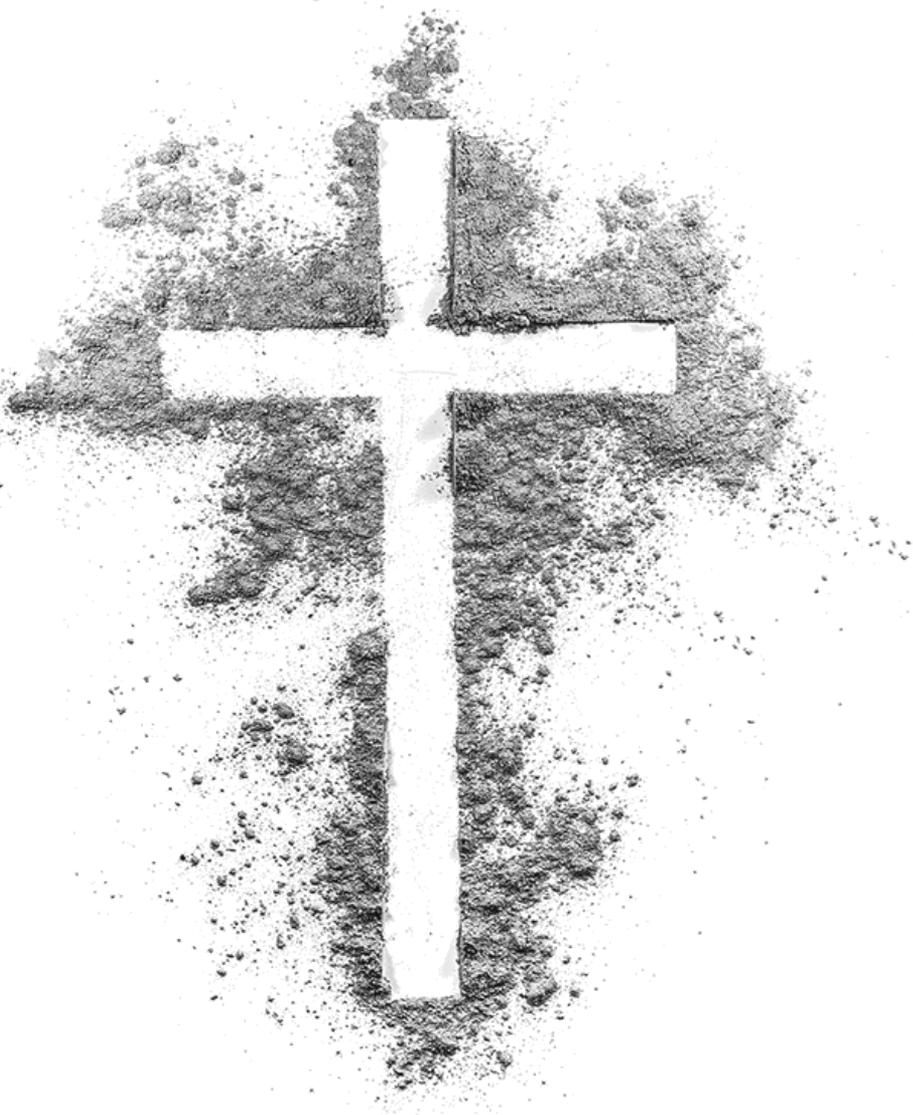


FRANKLIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



ASH WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 14, 2024

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**.

Prayer requests can be made by filling out the offering form enclosed with the print bulletins, or by going to **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**.

To learn about ways you can volunteer, and sign up, go to **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.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Bless the Lord who forgives our sins.

God's mercy endures for ever.

OPENING PRAYER

SONG

“LORD, WHO THROUGHOUT THESE FORTY DAYS”

No. 269, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

Lord, who throughout these forty days for us didst fast and pray,
teach us with thee to mourn our sins and close by thee to stay.

As thou with Satan didst contend, and didst the victory win,
O give us strength in thee to fight, in thee to conquer sin.

As thou didst hunger bear, and thirst, so teach us, gracious Lord,
to die to self, and chiefly live by thy most holy word.

And through these days of penitence, and through thy passion-tide,
yea, evermore in life and death, Jesus, with us abide.

Abide with us, that so, this life of suffering over past,
an Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.

SCRIPTURE READING

JOEL 2:1-2, 12-17

The New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

EPISTLE READING

2 CORINTHIANS 5:20B-6:10

The New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

SONG

“IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL”

No. 377, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll;
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

REFRAIN

It is well (It is well) with my soul, (with my soul,
it is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come;
let this blest assurance control,
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and hath shed his own blood for my soul.

REFRAIN

My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part but the whole,
is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

REFRAIN

And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
the trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,
even so, it is well with my soul.

REFRAIN

GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 6:1-6, 16-21

The New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

REFLECTION

Pastor Jacob

SONG

“GIVE ME A CLEAN HEART”

No. 2133, *The Faith We Sing* (2001)

Give me a clean heart so I may serve thee.
Lord, fix my heart so that I may be used by thee.
For I'm not worthy of all those blessings.
Give me a clean heart, and I'll follow thee.

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE

THANKSGIVING OVER THE ASHES

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

All are invited forward to receive ashes. The pastor will dip a thumb in the ashes and make a cross on the forehead of each person and say, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

LITANY OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

Let us pray:

**Have mercy on me, O God,
because of your unfailing love.
Because of your great compassion,
blot out the stain of my sins.**

Our God is merciful and gracious,
slow to get angry, and full of unfailing love.

**Wash me clean from my guilt.
Purify me from my sin.
For I recognize my shameful deeds—
they haunt me day and night.**

God will not constantly accuse us,
nor remain angry forever.

**Against you, and you alone, have I sinned;
I have done what is evil in your sight.
You will be proved right in what you say,
and your judgment against me is just.**

God has not punished us for all our sins,
nor does God deal with us as we deserve.
For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is God's love for those who fear God;
as far as the east is from the west,
so far has God removed our transgressions from us.

**I was born a sinner—
from the moment my mother conceived me.**

God is like a father to his children,
tender and compassionate to those who fear him.
For God understands how weak we are;
God remembers that we are only dust.

**You desire honesty from the heart;
teach me to be wise in my inmost being.**

For our days on earth are like grass;

like wildflowers, we bloom and die.
The wind blows, and we are gone—
as though we had never been here.

**Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and make me willing to obey you.**

For the love of the Lord remains forever
with those who fear him.

God's salvation extends to the children's children
of those who are faithful to God's covenant;
those who obey God's commands.

**The sacrifice you want is a broken spirit.
A broken and contrite heart, O God,
you will not despise.**

Our God is merciful and gracious.

SONG

“BLESS THE LORD”

No. 2013, *The Faith We Sing* (2001)

Bless the Lord my soul and bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord my soul who leads me into life.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord our God.

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.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and cup. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your Holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. 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.

SHARING BREAD AND CUP

OUR THANKSGIVING

Let us give thanks.

**Thank you, God,
for life in the Spirit of Jesus, for gladness in this bread and cup, for love that cannot die, for peace the world cannot give, for joy in the company of friends, for the splendors of creation, and for the mission of justice you have made our own.**

Give us the fruits of this holy communion:

oneness of heart, love for neighbors, forgiveness of enemies, the will to serve you every day, and life that never ends. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

BLESSING & SENDING

THE PEACE

The peace of the Christ be with you.

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