

FRANKLIN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Steadfast Love: A Lenten Playlist

April 18, 2025

82 West Central Street, Franklin, MA
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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**.

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

On this Holy Friday, we follow Jesus through a sham trial and up the hill to Golgotha, all the while questioning:

My God, my God, where are you?

We follow the women who held vigil at the foot of the cross, all the while despairing:

My God, my God, where are you?

We come near to Jesus as soldiers mock him, all the while crying out:

My God, my God, where are you?

We sit in grief and dismay, once again confronted with the horrible reality of sin and evil in our world that people just like us would crucify Love Incarnate. And all the while, God sits with us, saying:

My child, my child, I am here.

Come, let us worship God who, even on this day, is never far from us.
Amen.

SONG

“WHY HAS GOD FORSAKEN ME?”

No. 2110, FWS (2011)

“Why has God Forsaken me?” cried out Jesus from the cross
as he shared the loneliness of our deepest grief and loss

At the tomb of Lazarus Jesus wept with open grief
“Grant us God the tears which heal all our pain and unbelief.”

Jesus, as his life expired, placed himself within God’s care:
“At our dying, Christ, may we trust the love which conquers fear.”

Mystery shrouds our life and death but we need not be afraid,
for the mystery’s heart is love, God’s great love which Christ displayed.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

SONG

“WHY STAND SO FAR AWAY, MY GOD”

No. 2180, FWS (2011)

Why stand so far away my God? Why hide in times of need?
The proud, unbridled, chase the poor, and curse you in their greed.

Why do you hide when ,full of lies, they murder and betray?
They wait to pounce upon the weak as lions stalk their prey.

The weak are crushed and fall to Earth: the wicked strut and preen.
Why in these cruel, chaotic times cannot your face be seen?

In ages past you heard the voice of those the proud oppress.
Remember those who suffer now, who cry in deep distress.

Arise, O God, and lift your hand: bring justice to the poor.
Come, help us stop the flow of blood! Let terror reign no more!

PSALTER

PSALM 22

SONG

“JESUS WALKED THIS LONESOME VALLEY”

No. 2112, FWS (2001)

Jesus walked this lonesome valley; he had to walk it by himself.
Oh, nobody else could walk it for him; he had to walk it by himself.

We must walk this lonesome valley; we have to walk it by ourselves.
Oh, nobody else can walk it for us; we have to walk it by ourselves.

You must go and stand your trial; you have to stand it by yourself.
Oh, nobody else can stand it for you; you have to stand it by yourself.

PROCLAMATION OF THE PASSION STORY

REFLECTION

Pastor Jacob

SONG

“HERE AM I”

No. 2178, FWS (2001)

Here am I, where underneath the bridges
of our winter cities homeless people sleep.

Here am I, where in decaying houses
little children shiver, crying at the cold.
Where are you?

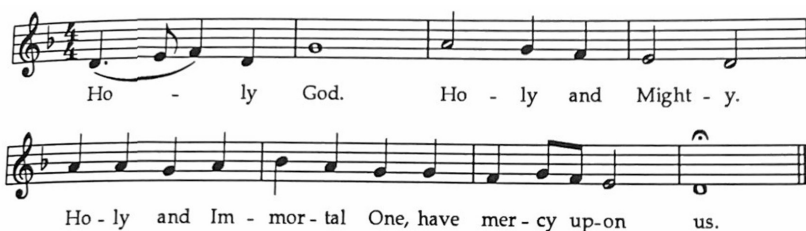
Here am I, with people in the lineup,
anxious for a handout, aching for a job.
Here am I, when pensioners and strikers
sing and march together, wanting something new.
Where are you?

Here am I, where two or three are gathered,
ready to be altered, sharing wine and bread.
Here am I, where those who hear the preaching
change their way of living, find the way to life.
Where are you?

SILENT MEDITATION

THE REPROACHES: CHRIST'S LAMENT AGAINST HIS FAITHLESS CHURCH

O my people, O my Church,
 what have I done to you, or in what have I offended you?
 I led you forth from the land of Egypt
 and delivered you by the waters of baptism,
 but you have prepared a cross for your Savior. **Response:**



I led you through the desert forty years and fed you with manna;
 I brought you through times of persecution and of renewal
 and gave you my body, the bread of heaven;
 but you have prepared a cross for your Savior. **R**

I made you branches of my vineyard and gave you the water of
 salvation, but when I was thirsty you gave me vinegar and
 gall and pierced with a spear the side of your Savior. **R**

I went before you in a pillar of cloud, but you have led me to the
 judgment hall of Pilate. I brought you to a land of freedom
 and prosperity, but you have scourged, mocked, and beaten
 me. **R**

I gave you a royal scepter, and bestowed the keys to the king-
 dom, but you have given me a crown of thorns. I raised you
 on high with great power, but you have hanged me on the
 cross. **R**

My peace I gave, which the world cannot give, and washed your
 feet as a servant, but you draw the sword to strike in my
 name and seek high places in my kingdom. **R**

I accepted the cup of suffering and death for your sakes, but you
 scatter and deny and abandon me. I sent the Spirit of truth
 to lead you, but you close your hearts to guidance. **R**

I called you to go and bring forth fruit, but you cast lots for my
 clothing. I prayed that you all may be one, but you continue
 to quarrel and divide. **R**

I grafted you into the tree of my chosen people Israel,
but you turned on them with persecution and mass murder.
I made you joint heirs with them of my covenants,
but you made them scapegoats for your own guilt. **R**

I came to you as the least of your brothers and sisters. I was
hungry but you gave me no food, thirsty but you gave me
no drink. I was a stranger but you did not welcome me,
naked but you did not clothe me, sick and in prison but you
did not visit me. **R**

LORD'S PRAYER

No. 895, *UMH* (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.**

SONG

“WERE YOU THERE”

No. 288, *UMH* (1989)

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (were you there)
Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (were you there)
Oh! sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (were you there)

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? (were you there)
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? (were you there)
Oh! sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? (were you there)

Were you there when they pierced him in the side? (were you there)
Were you there when they pierced him in the side? (were you there)
Oh! sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they pierced him in the side? (were you there)

Were you there when the sun refused to shine? (were you there)
Were you there when the sun refused to shine? ((were you there)
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when the sun refused to shine? (were you there)

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? (were you there)
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? (were you there)
Oh! sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? (were you there)

DEPART IN SILENCE

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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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

EASTER MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10 AM

COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT

The Franklin UMC will host its 4th Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt on **Sunday, April 20 after the service**. Children ages 0-10 are invited to hunt eggs in designated areas separated by age-group. Participants are asked to bring their own basket or bag. Participants will be released to find eggs at 11:15a. Light refreshments and coffee will be served inside the church.

INTERFAITH COMMUNITY ACTIVITY

We reached our collection goal of 45 bottles of cleaning spray! Now it's time to assemble the baskets. **Wednesday, April 23rd 10am - 11:30am at First Universalist Society in Franklin**. Please join the Franklin Interfaith Council to assemble and deliver "Welcome Baskets" filled with donated household supplies to the Franklin Family Shelter. The shelter is set to close this summer and each departing family will receive a basket to welcome them into their new residences. This is a wonderful opportunity and we look forward to serving with you! Please show up as close to 10am as possible. Assembly will likely only take 30 minutes and then we will load baskets into our cars and deliver them to the shelter together!

COMMUNITY CONCERT: MICHAEL RIVELIS

Saturday, April 26, at 7pm.

Michael moved to the Boston Metro area after graduating from Northeastern in 1984. For over 15 years, he's been performing Folk Rock and Classic Rock hits from the '60s to the '90s, including songs by Bob Dylan, John Prine, The Beatles, Bruce Springsteen, and more. . Michael has played at numerous benefits, pubs, and bars, and has hosted open mics throughout the Metro West area.

2025 COMMUNITY COOKOUTS SCHEDULED

The Franklin UMC is excited to announce dates for the 2025 Community Cookouts—**June 28, July 26, August 23, and September 27!** Free burgers, hot dogs, chips, and drinks will be served from 5:30-6:30p in the grassy area behind the church. Vegetarian options will be made available. All are invited. In case of rain, these events are cancelled. To learn more, go to franklinumc.org/community/cookouts.

THE COMMUNITY CLOSET

The closet is now open Every Tuesday from 11:00am-1:00 pm (and by appt). You can sign up to volunteer at franklinumc.org/volunteer or your Offering sheet.