

Prelude

Greeting & Announcements

Information may also be found on the screens before service.

Church Family Celebrations!

Call To Worship, Entrance of Acolytes & Children

“Jesus, Name Above All Names”

Jesus, name above all names,
Beautiful Savior, glorious Lord.

Emmanuel, God is with us,
Blessed Redeemer, Living Word.

Repeat

Lighting of the Advent Candle

As we get ready to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, we may expect to feel happy all the time. After all, as the saying goes, “it’s the most wonderful time of the year!” But, it’s easy to let the hustle and bustle of the season prevent you from the happiness we associate with Christmas. However, joy is not the same as happiness. Joy is a deeper feeling created by knowing that God cares for us. Joy is remembering that God sent his only begotten son, Jesus, so that we would be redeemed.

The first Sunday in Advent we lit one blue candle for hope. Last Sunday we lit one blue candle for peace. Today we light the pink candle for joy!

It really is the most wonderful time of the year, because as the prophet Isaiah forewarns, “They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.” All because of the baby in the manger, who was sent that we may have life everlasting.

Join the Children in Singing

Light one candle for joy, one bright candle for joy.

He brings joy to every heart, he comes! He comes! (Repeat)

FILL US ALL WITH

Joy



“Love Came Down at Christmas”

(Page 242 in Hymnal~All 3 verses)

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, love all divine;
Love was born at Christmas;
Star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the God-head,
Love incarnate, Love divine;
Worship we our Jesus,
But where-with for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token;
Love be yours and love be mine;
Love to God and all men,
Love for plea and gift and sign.

“God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen”

God rest ye merry, gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay.
Remember, Christ, our Savior,
Was born on Christmas day.
To save us all from Satan's power,
When we were gone astray.

Chorus

**O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.**

Now to the Lord sing praises,
All you within this place.

And with true love and brotherhood,

Each other now embrace.

This holy tide of Christmas,

All other doth deface.

Repeat Chorus

Opening Prayer

Wayne Huggins

First Scripture

Isaiah 35:1-10

The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God. Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; say to those with fearful hearts, “Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, He will come with vengeance; with divine retribution He will come to save you.” Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow. And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness; it will be for those who walk on that Way. The unclean will not journey on it; wicked fools will not go about on it. No lion will be there, nor any ravenous beast; they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk there, and those the LORD has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic (universal) church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Hymn

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

(Page 218 in Hymnal~Verses 1, 2 & 4)

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold;
"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains, they bend on hovering wing.
And ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

For lo! The days are hastening on, by prophet seen of old,
When with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold;
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

Second Scripture

Matthew 11:2-11

When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples to ask him, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?" Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me." As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written: 'I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

The Message

Rev. Polly D. Standing
"The Wonder of Christmas~Part 3"

Special Music~Choir
We All Bow Down

Time of Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

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 for ever. Amen.

Offering

As a forgiven and reconciled people, let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God.

Offertory

"Birthday of a King"

Doxology

**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.**

Invitational Hymn

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
(Page 211 in Hymnal~Verses 1, 5 & 7)

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.

Chorus

**Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel,
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

O come, Thou Key of David, come,
 And open wide our heavenly home;
 Make safe the way that leads on high,
 And close the path to misery.
Repeat Chorus

O come, desire of nations, bind,
 In one the hearts of all mankind;
 Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
 And be Thyself our King of peace.
Repeat Chorus

Closing Response

“Bind Us Together”

Bind us together, Lord bind us together, with cords that cannot be broken.
 Bind us together, Lord bind us together, bind us together in love.
 There is only one God. There is only one King.
 There is only one body, that is why I sing:
 Bind us together, Lord bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.
 Bind us together, Lord bind us together, bind us together in love.

Dates to Remember

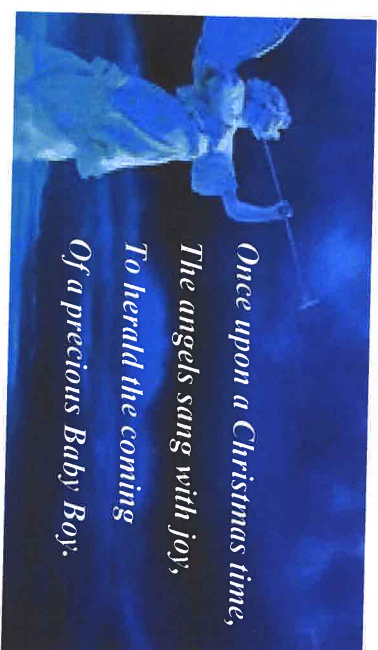
- Sunday, December 15
 Christmas Angels gifts due
- Monday, December 16
 MOPS
 Children's Christmas Choir Practice
- Tuesday, December 17
 Preschool Christmas Program
- Wednesday, December 18
 Women's Morning Emmaus Youth
 Women's Evening Emmaus
 Sonshine Strummers-Parc @ Traditions
- Thursday, December 19
 Men's Emmaus
- Sunday, December 22
 Birthday Party for Jesus
 Children's Choir Performance
- Monday, December 23
 Praying Piecers
- Tuesday, December 24
Candlelight Service

- 10:00AM - NOON
 3:30PM - 4:30PM
- 6:00PM in Sanctuary
- 7:00AM - 8:00AM
 6:00PM - 8:00PM
 6:00PM - 7:00PM
 6:00PM
- 6:30AM - 7:30AM
- 9:00AM in the Education Building
 During Worship
- 9:00AM - 12:00PM
6:00PM

Office Holiday Hours:
 Closed On: Dec. 24, Dec. 25, Dec. 26, Dec. 27, Jan. 1, Jan. 3
 Limited Hours On: Dec. 30, Dec. 31, Jan. 2

Sunday, December 15, 2019

Purpose: *Willing & Ready to Follow & Serve Jesus Christ*
Vision: *Franklin UMC shares God's love, Christ's sacrifice, and our faith for the salvation of the world.*
Mission: *We believe in Jesus Christ whom we follow, serve and share.*
Key Verse: *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." - John 3:16 - 17*



*Once upon a Christmas time,
 The angels sang with joy,
 To herald the coming
 Of a precious Baby Boy.*

Worship Attendance Last Sunday	80
General Giving	\$ 7,046.00
Building Fund Giving	\$ 6,550.00
Memorial/Designated	\$ 100.00

Franklin United Methodist Church
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 Franklin, Texas 77856
 Office: 979-828-3355
 Email: Franklinumc@gmail.com

Sunday Small Groups: 9:00 AM
 Sunday Worship: 10:15 AM

Please remember that the Church office will still be getting work done, but the hours and availability will be limited during the Holidays. Should you need assistance, you may always call, text or email us:
Rev. Polly D. Standing
 281-733-0978
Frances Boyette
 972-268-3558