

*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*

We thank You, Gracious God, for the love You have given through Your son, Jesus Christ. This morning, as we prepare our hearts, as we anticipate his coming, shine Your light on us. Prepare us to share Your light and love with those in this world that have not seen past the pain and darkness.

There are three candles that have been lit: one for hope, one for peace and one for joy. Today we light the last blue candle for love!

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.” John 3: 16-17. What amazing love!

*Join the Children in Singing*

Light one candle for love, one bright candle for love.  
He brings love to every heart, he comes! He comes! (Repeat)

FILL US ALL WITH

*Love*



*“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You”*

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,  
God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flow’rs before Thee,  
Op’ning to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;  
Drive the dark of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
Fill us with the light of day!

All Thy works with joy surround Thee,  
Earth and heav’n reflect Thy rays,  
Stars and angels sing around Thee,  
Center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
Flow’ry meadow, flashing sea,  
Singing bird and flowing fountain,  
Call us to rejoice in Thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving,  
Ever blessing, ever blest,  
Wellspring of the joy of living,  
Ocean depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother,  
All who live in love are Thine;  
Teach us how to love each other,  
Lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the happy chorus,  
Which the morning stars began;  
Father love is reigning o’er us,  
Brother love binds man to man.  
Ever singing, march we onward,  
Victors in the midst of strife,  
Joyful music leads us sunward  
In the triumph song of life.

*“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”*  
*(Page 229 in Hymnal)*

Infant holy, infant lowly,  
For his bed a cattle stall;  
Oxen lowing, little knowing,  
Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
Swift are winging angels singing,  
Noels ringing, tidings bringing;  
Christ the babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping,  
Vigil till the morning new;  
Saw the glory, heard the story,  
Tidings of a gospel true.

Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,  
Praises voicing, greet the morrow;  
Christ the babe was born for you.

*Opening Prayer*

*Wenona Taylor*

*First Scripture*

*Psalms 98*

Sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him. The LORD has made His salvation known and revealed His righteousness to the nations. He has remembered His love and His faithfulness to Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music; make music to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing, with trumpets and the blast of the ram’s horn— shout for joy before the LORD, the King. Let the sea resound, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy; let them sing before the LORD, for He comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity.

*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. Amen.

## ***Hymn***

### ***“O Little Town of Bethlehem”***

*(Page 230 in Hymnal~Verses 1, 3 & 4)*

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
The hopes and dreams of all the years are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given;  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

## ***The Message***

### ***“The Wonder of Christmas~Part 4”***

#### ***Children’s Christmas Choir***

***Seth Kissinger, Away in a Manger***

***Rev. Polly D. Standing***

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to *continued next page*

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fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”). When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus. *Matthew 1:18-25*

### ***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***

***“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”***

### ***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***

***“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”***

*(Page 240 in Hymnal~All Verses)*

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King:  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"

Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
With angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

### ***Chorus***

**Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King"**

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb:  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity,  
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel.

**Repeat Chorus**

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.

**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**

Monday, December 23  
Praying Piecers  
9:00AM - 12:00PM

Tuesday, December 24  
**Candlelight Service**  
**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

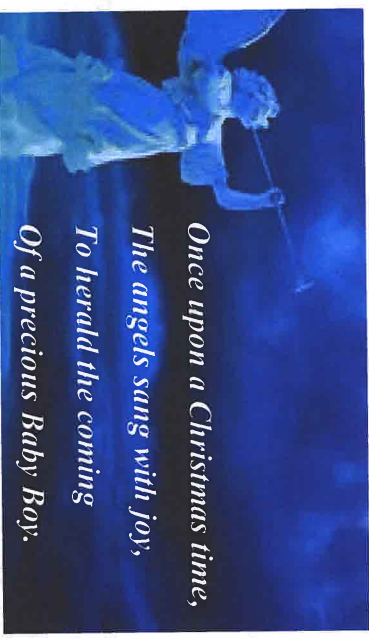
**Sunday, December 22, 2019**

**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, th 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*



Worship Attendance Last Sunday	81
General Giving	\$ 3,042.00
Building Fund Giving	\$ 4,239.25
Memorial/Designated	\$ 2,310.00

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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