

December 22, 2024

10:00 A.M.

Order for Our Worship of God

(*those who are able are invited to stand)

Welcome

Prelude "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" Pachelbel

Call to Worship

Leader: Come, people of God, to celebrate the love that changes everything.

People: **We come, grateful for the love that gives our lives meaning.**

Leader: Jesus came to show us the power of love.

People: **In Christ, we know a love that is deep, wide, and everlasting.**

Leader: Let us worship the One who is love incarnate, dwelling among us.

People: **We rejoice in the God of love, whose presence brings light to the world. Amen.**

Opening Prayer

God of Love, You remind us that every life matters, and Your love is at the center of it all. Just as George Bailey discovered his impact on others and the shepherds heard of Jesus' arrival, we, too, are called to share Your love. As we worship today, fill us with awe for the gift of Your presence and inspire us to carry Your love into the world. Be with us, Emmanuel, and teach us to love as You love. Amen.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Choral Introduction "Lift Up Your Eyes"

Reader One: When the people were looking for deliverance, the prophet Micah declared, "But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah...from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient day" (Micah 5:2). But what if Micah is also talking to us, proclaiming, "But you, O Franklin Lakes United Methodist Church, from you shall come forth for me..." What? What might God be calling forth from us?

***Congregation:* God invites us to receive the promise of God's salvation and the sustenance of God's mercy and grace, enabling us to live the promise as God-bearers to the world. As Christ was born in Bethlehem, so too we answer God's invitation to have Christ born among us today and every day.**

Reader Two: We light this candle of love as a sign of our commitment to live as people of God's promise, a promise of salvation and flourishing for all people that springs forth from God's love for all creation.

Light the fourth candle of the Advent wreath.

Choral and Congregation Response "Lift Up Your Eyes" Insert

*Opening Hymn "Angels We Have Heard on High" No. 238

Passing the Peace

Prayer for Illumination

Prepare our hearts, O God, to accept your Word. Silence in us any voices but your own, so that we may hear your Word and also do it; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture Reading Luke 2:8-14

Children's Time

Choral Anthem "The King Is Coming Soon" Paige

Sermon "Your Presence Matters" Rev. JongIn Lee

*Hymn of Reflection "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" No. 240

Prayer Time

The Giving of Our Offering

Offertory "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" Brahms

*Presentation "Angels from the Realms of Glory" (vs. 4 & refrain) No. 220

*Prayer of Dedication

God of Love, You have shown us that every life matters, and Your love changes everything. We recognize the power of generosity and love in action. Accept these gifts as an offering of our love and gratitude for all You have done. May they be used to share Your love with a world in need, and to remind all people of the gift of Emmanuel—God with us. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

*Closing Hymn "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" No. 224

*Blessing

Postlude "In dulci júbilo" Drischner

* * *

WE WELCOME ALL to this service of worship including newcomers and visitors among us. We welcome also Deborah Holloway as our guest organist.

FLOWERS on the altar this morning are given by Michele Newman in loving memory of her aunt, Janet LaBadia.

PARTICIPATING IN OUR SERVICE ~ Rev. JongIn Lee, Pastor; Deborah Holloway, Guest Organist; and Michele Newman, Liturgist. We appreciate them sharing their gifts with us as we gather to worship and praise God today!

2024 CLOSE THE GAP ~ We are excited to report our progress on Closing the Gap: We have crossed the halfway point! We have raised \$29,319, which is 53% toward our goal. Thank you for all that you have contributed and please prayerfully continue to consider helping us close the gap to fund all our ministries.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS ~ We invite all to share in the joy and peace of Christmas at our Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols, Tuesday, December 24, 5:00 PM.

BLESSED BARGAINS THRIFT SHOP ~ The Thrift Shop is open on Thursdays and Saturdays from 9am–2pm to shop and drop off donations (but closed this month on Thursday, December 26). Please see the sign-up sheet in the donation room for open time slots when help is needed. Please contact Barbara Doka or Joan Pandorf with any questions.

FLOWER CALENDAR ~ The 2025 flower calendar is now posted listing all the Sundays in the new year. Sign up for the dates when you would like to order flowers for the altar. Speak to Elaine Watson for details or any special requests.

OFFERING ENVELOPES ~ On the table in the narthex are offering envelopes for 2025. If you do not find a box in your name and would like one, please contact Donna in the Church Office (secretary@franklinlakesumc.org, 201-891-0022).

MITTEN TREE ~ You can give the gift of warmth by decorating the mitten tree in the narthex with a new scarf or hat or gloves or mittens, which will then be brought to CUMAC to help keep our neighbors warm this winter.

SPECIAL CHARGE CONFERENCE ~ A special charge conference is planned for Monday, January 6, 7:10 PM via Zoom to approve the pastor's compensation report for 2025.

PASTOR: *Rev. JongIn Lee*

LAY LEADER: *Dave Murray*

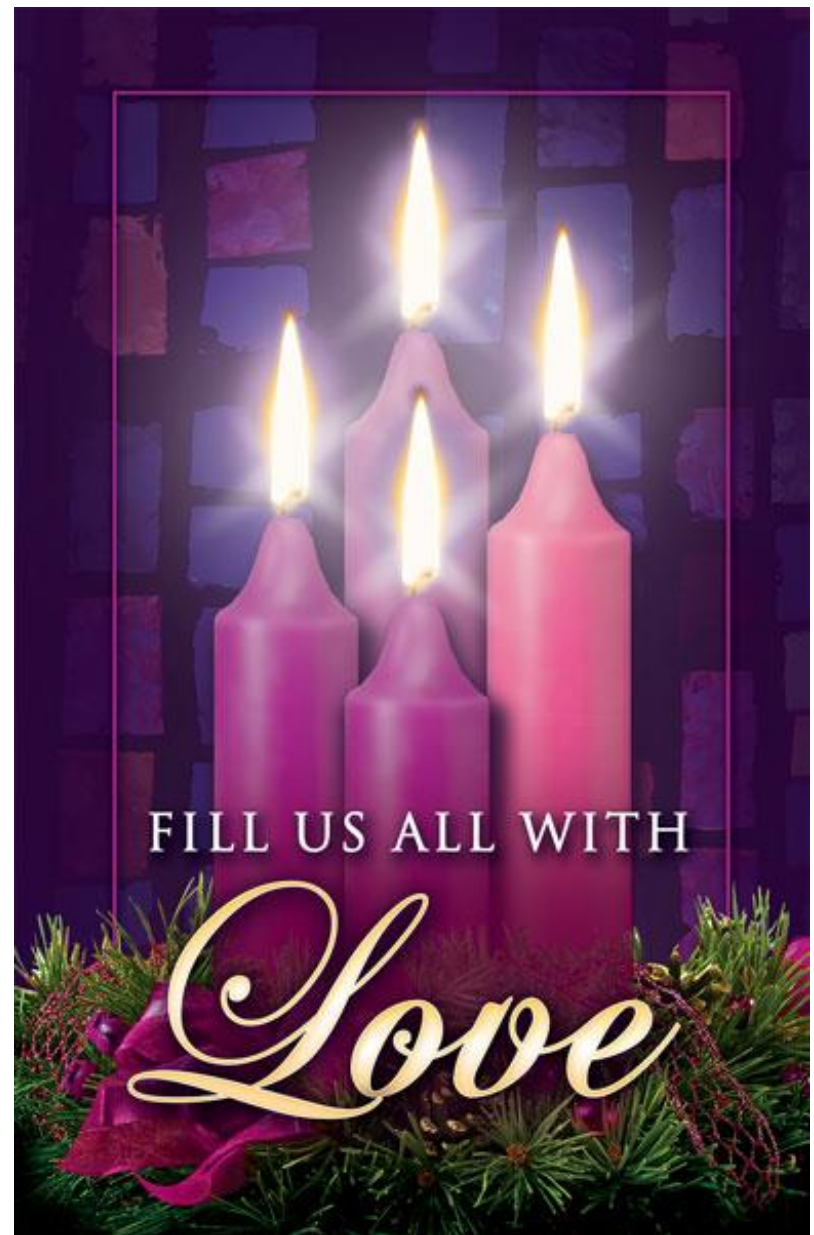
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC/ORGANIST: *Dr. Russell Wagoner*

SECRETARY: *Donna E. Mulder*

SEXTON: *Bonnie Mann*

FRANKLIN LAKES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

454 Pulis Avenue, Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417 / Telephone: (201) 891-0022
Email: office@franklinlakesumc.org / Web: www.franklinlakesumc.org



FRANKLIN LAKES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

a center of community sharing God's love

Rev. JongIn Lee, Pastor