



**FRANCONIA**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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ON THE WAY TO  
**BETHLEHEM**

**December 15, 2024 at 10:00 AM**

**Worship Series: On the Way to Bethlehem**

**Message: Nazareth: A Place of Simplicity**

December 15, 2024 at 10:00 AM  
Worship Series: On the Way to Bethlehem  
Message: Nazareth: A Place of Simplicity  
\*Stand in body or in spirit

Gathering He Has Come For Us Praise Band  
*You are Holy (Price of Peace)*

Welcome/Announcements Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller

Threshold Moment

\*Lighting of the Advent Wreath The Boyington Camere Family

Advent Wreath Readers

Leader: The journey continues, and this candle will help light our way.

**People: We are on our way to more joy.**

Leader: Life can be so complicated and filled with distractions.

**People: We are a people who simply want Good News.**

Leader: We need a marker on the journey to tell us to stop and notice the wonder of the moments along the way.

**People: God's light goes before us, we are not alone.**

\* Song *O Little Town of Bethlehem (Emmanuel)* Praise Band

Opening Prayer

Pastor: Let us pray.

**People: Holy and Living God, we pray for the refocusing of our lives on what really matters.  
Too often, we allow the complexity of modern life to take over, and we fail to sense Your presence in our everyday lives.  
Call us to a simplified joy.  
Call us to simply pause in the midst of our scheduled mania and breathe in the possibility that You are asking for our attention.  
We pray this in the name of Your Son,  
Jesus, the Christ, the Joy of Our Lives. AMEN.**

**Children's Moment** Linda Biscardo

**Prayer Song** *A Star Shone Bright, vs. 3* See Screen

**Prayers of People** Sarah Chambers

**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. Forever. AMEN.**

**Offering** *Hymn of Joy* Praise Band

**\*Prayer of Thanksgiving** Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller

**Gospel Reading** Luke 1: 26-38 Bruce Bartolain

**Message** *Nazareth: A Place of Simplicity* Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller

**Breakthrough Prayer**

*God, guide Franconia United Methodist Church to become a community of Christ's love, where Your grace abounds and all people know that they are loved, respected for their diversity, grow in faith, and reflect Jesus by actively sharing their God-given gifts. AMEN.*

**\*Closing Song** *House of the Lord* Praise Band

**\*Benediction** Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller

**Postlude** *He Has Come for Us (Reprise)* Praise Band



*Franconia United Methodist Church believes that everyone is a child of God.  
We welcome all people to worship, join in membership, serve in lay leadership,  
and actively participate in the life of the church.*

*We welcome and affirm all persons without regard to gender, gender identity, race,  
sexual orientation, faith tradition, age, marital status, family structure,  
economic background, political affiliation, physical or mental ability or life experience.  
We commit to extend Christ's hospitality, creating a place of safety and sanctuary for all people.  
We recognize there are differences among us and although we may not think or look alike,  
we commit to respect and love one another as we are all the family of God.*

*We further commit ourselves to loving acts of invitation, hospitality, and community,  
providing ministry to, for, and with all persons without exception,  
fostering a sense of belonging where people are respected and valued as beloved children of God.*

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Praise Band:

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Andrew Hamilton  
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Jessica Posey  
Dan Upp

Staff:

Reverend: Melissa Porter-Miller  
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Children's Ministry: Linda Biscardo  
Music Ministry: Amy McCarthy  
Praise & Worship Leader: Sarah Chambers  
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All God's Children Preschool: Jessica Copes  
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