

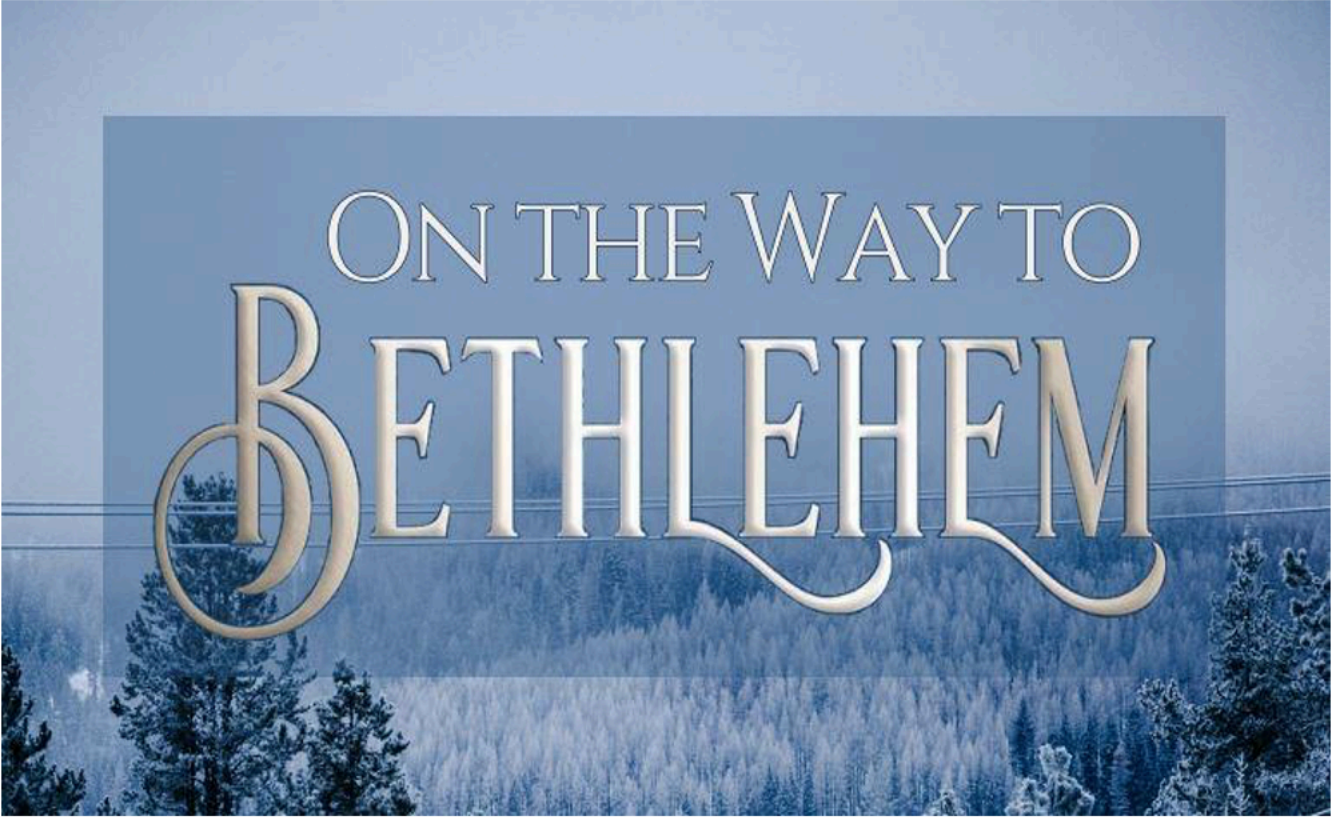


FRANCONIA
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

6037 Franconia Rd. Alexandria, VA 22310

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ON THE WAY TO
BETHLEHEM

December 29, 2024 at 10:00 AM

A Service of Carols and Covenant

Worship Series: On the Way to Bethlehem

Message: Persia: A Place of Return

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A Service of Carols and Covenant
Worship Series: On the Way to Bethlehem
Message: Persia: A Place of Return
***Stand in body or in spirit**

Gathering Music

Joy to the World, UMH 246
How Many Kings

Praise Leaders

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller

Threshold Moment

*Lighting of the Christ Candle

The Kaufax Family

Leader: The journey continues, and the light remains.

People: We have been changed on this journey.

Leader: We have journeyed from grand to humble places in search of Good News.

People: We are a people who believe that Good News resides in every place.

Leader: The milestones and markers of hope, peace, joy, and love
Have guided us along the way.

People: God's light continues to go before us, we are never alone.

*Song

O Little Town of Bethlehem (Emmanuel)

Praise Leaders

Opening Prayer

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: Holy and Living God, we pray for all who seek.

Too often, we are seeking things that do not satisfy.

Give us wisdom to pursue

what really matters as this new year approaches.

Call us to a "turning"— following Your Star of Wonder.

Call us to "re-turn" toward Your purposes for us.

We pray this in the name of Your Son,

Jesus, the Christ, the Savior of Our Lives. AMEN.

Children's Moment		Amy McCarthy
Reception of New Members	<i>Sonja Caison Lee Van <u>Wychen</u></i>	
Prayer Song <u> </u>	A Star Shone Bright v. 3	See Screen
Prayers of People		Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller
<p>The Lord's Prayer</p> <p>Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, <u>Thy</u> 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.</p>		
Offering <u>Song</u>	<i>It Came Upon A Midnight Clear, UMH 218 (vs 1, 4)</i>	Praise Leaders
Prayer of Thanksgiving		Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller
Gospel Reading	Matthew 2: 1-12	Dan <u>Upp</u>
Message	<i>Persia: A Place of Return</i>	Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller
*Closing Song	<i>Go Tell It on the Mountain</i>	See Screen
*Blessing		Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller
Postlude	<i>Go Tell It on the Mountain (Reprise)</i>	Praise Leaders



*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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