



FRANCONIA
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

6037 Franconia Rd. Alexandria, VA 22310

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December 8, 2024 at 10:00 AM
Worship Series: On the Way to Bethlehem
Message: Jerusalem: A Place of Waiting

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*Stand in body or in spirit

Gathering *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus* Praise Band
Glory (Let There Be Peace)

Welcome/Announcements Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller

Threshold Moment

***Lighting of the Advent Wreath** The Van Wychen Family

Advent Wreath Readers

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

People: We are on our way to more peace.

Leader: Life is full of expectations and waiting for the right time,
the right answer, the right opportunity.

People: We are a people who wait for Good News.

Leader: It is hard to wait, but there are milestone moments
when we get a glimpse of what true peace feels like.

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 to You in the midst of unanswered questions.
Often we are anxious and impatient as we desperately
want to know outcomes and chart our life's path with certainty.
Give us patience, God.
Call us to pause in peaceful surrender,
even and especially when the pieces of our lives
seem to be falling apart rather than getting put together.
Open our hearts to know Your enduring presence

**in this very moment, in this waiting.
We pray this in the name of Your Son,
Jesus, the Christ, the Prince of Peace. AMEN.**

Children's Moment

Linda Biscardo

Prayer Song

A Star Shone Bright, vs. 3

See Screen

Prayers of People

Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller

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

Even So, Come

Praise Band

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller

Gospel Reading

Luke 1: 5-17

Joana Arthur

Message

Jerusalem: A Place of Waiting

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**

You are Holy, (Prince of Peace)

Praise Band

***Benediction**

Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller

Postlude

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus (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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Sarah Chambers
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Peggy Owusu-Ansah
Jessica Posey
Dan Upp

Staff:

Reverend: Melissa Porter-Miller
Church Office: Jade Miller
Children's Ministry: Linda Biscardo
Music Ministry: Amy McCarthy
Praise & Worship Leader: Sarah Chambers
Youth & Young Adult Ministries: Sarah Chambers
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Handbells: Linda Biscardo
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Nursery: Marie Bonhomme and Susann Ferre

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