

Asbury United Methodist Church

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Worship Leader: Jan Jones

Chancel: Barbara Bishop

* Please rise in body or in spirit

Sunday June 23, 2024

PRELUDE: 'For the Beauty of the Earth" Hanna Noh

GREETING: We are here today to celebrate the greatness of God...all of His blessings great and small. We greet God as we greet each other, acknowledging God among us in this time and place. We ask that this time of worship is blessed so that we may be uplifted by His presence.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ASBURY MISSION STATEMENT: We are Asbury! Abundantly thankful to God; Saved by Christ's resurrection; Blessed by God; United by Christ's love for each of us; Reaching out to our church family and our community; Yearning to tell the Good News to all by being Christ's voice, hands, and feet in the world.

MOMENT OF SILENCE: We pause this morning to refocus ourselves and our energies on the true purpose of gathering together. Allow for silence to calm your mind, body and soul. Be still and know that He is God.

CENTERING HYMN: UMH #334 Sweet, Sweet Spirit.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

L: We see light, hope and joy. We bring heart, soul, mind and body. We share blessings and fears. We bring faith and doubt.

P: With all that we are and all that we have, let us worship God.

L: A time set apart, a time to come together: a space filled with silence, a space filled with song, hearts seeking solace, hearts overflowing with joy.

P: This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us worship God.

L: Joy, wonder, delight. Doubt, peace, restlessness. Sorrow, contentedness anxiety. Confidence, hope, pardon. We lay our hearts full of these things before our God. Unburdened and awaiting.

P: Let us worship God

L: There is silence, and there is light. There is music, and there is grace. There are people and there is life. There is hope...

P: And there is God. Let us worship well today.

L: Look around. Listen carefully. Peer into your heart. What do you see? What do you hear? What do you find?

P: Let us seek the presence of God in this moment. And let us worship Him.

L: For summer graces, for worship music, for beaches and mountains and flowers, for prayers asked and answered, for a sense of peace, and a sense of hope:

P: For all these things we give thanks and worship the One who gives them to us.

L: God is here! How do we know that? Do you hear the rustle of papers? Does your heart sing a little with the music? Do tears come unbidden to your eyes? Do you look across the sanctuary and see someone who makes you smile? Do you feel gladness in this space? That is of God. The rustle, the song, the tears, the smile, the gladness – those point to the holy.

ALL: And God is holy. Let us worship and celebrate God's day. AMEN.

(Adapted from Beth Merrill Neel "Hold Fast to What is Good")

***OPENING HYMN:** UMH # 77 "How Great Thou Art vs. 1,3,4

***SHARING PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST AMONG US:** Remembering those worshipping away from us.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: Joys (Response: "Praise God") and Concerns (Response: "Lord, Hear our prayer.")

PASTORAL PRAYER

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. 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 INVITATION:

L: Green is the color of Ordinary Time in the life of the church, and the color of nature during its season of growth. The Offering is a time of joyful celebration of God's marvelous gifts, including the green earth and the home and nourishment it provides. The offering is our response to God's generosity with our own gifts, so that the ministry carried on in God's name will grow and thrive.

ALL: LET US GATHER OUR GIFTS TOGETHER AND OFFER THEM TO GOD IN GRATITUDE AND PRAISE!

INTERLUDE: "I Just Keep Trusting My Lord" feat. Carlos Capacho – cuatro, Frank Rose – harmonica, Hanna Noh – piano

***DOXOLOGY: UMH #94**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING: Gracious Lord, turn our gaze toward the beautiful gifts of your creation, signs of abundance and grace that are always surrounding us. On this summer morning, we come together to thank you and to offer our small gifts to you. From these small gifts we ask that you bring about miraculous results in abundant harvest of joy and hope for each person touched by the ministry of this church. **AMEN.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Psalms 103:2 Praise the Lord O my soul and forget not all His benefits.

(Take notice of the little things in life and offer praise and gratitude to God for them.)

James 1:17 Every good thing we have in life is a gift from God. Even the smallest blessings we receive are from Him.

*God's meticulous care and attention is in every detail of our life. Appreciate the smallest signs of His care and concern for us.)

Psalms 118:24 This is the day which the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

(Rejoice in each new day. Appreciate the little moments of beauty, joy and grace that come with each new day.)

1st Thessalonians 5:18 Give thanks in all circumstance; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

(Thank God no matter what happens. This is the way God wants you who belong to Christ Jesus to live...even in the challenging times.)

Luke 12: 6-7 Five sparrows are sold for only two pennies, and God does not forget any of them. But God knows how many hairs you have on your head. Don't be afraid. You are worth much more than many sparrows.

(Sparrows in the Bible represent how far the Creator's love extends for creation. While people may overlook sparrows, God always sees them and cares about them. Sparrows show us that no creature – no matter how small or common – is beyond the reach of God's love.)

Zechariah 4:10 An angel of the Lord told the prophet, "The people should not think that small beginnings are unimportant."

(Whatever your circumstance, whatever the kingdom task that looms before you, don't despise today because your initial efforts seem small and insignificant.)

***RESPONSE HYMN: UMH #144** This is my Father's World vs. 1,2

SERMON: THE LITTLE THINGS Jan Jones

***CLOSING HYMN: UMH # 707** Hymn of Promise vs. 1,2,3

BENEDICTION: God of rising sun, embrace us. God of mist and rain, refresh us. God of flowing stream, revive us. God of gentle breezes, speak to us. God of day and night, hear us. God of tears and laughter, bless us. God of love and power, uphold us. May we be mindful of all of your blessings, both large and little. May the peace, joy, love and grace of God be in the song that your life sings. **AMEN.**

(Adapted from John Birch: Faith and Worship.com)

***SONG FOR PEACE:** UMH #431 "Let there be Peace on Earth"

POSTLUDE: "When the Roll is Called Up Yonder" Hanna Noh

Announcements

1. A joint Vacation Bible School will be held from June 28 (Friday)-30(Sunday). Half day (Friday, Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.; Sunday from 9:30) Asbury & Zion' churches are seeking donations of the following for the joint Vacation Bible School:

2 cases of bottled water

Fruit - oranges, grapes, etc. for 10

Theme snacks for 10

S'mores Mix - 2 C chocolate chips, 2 C mini marshmallows, 2-3 C graham cereal or teddy grahams, 2 C chex mix

Leaves and Trees - 1 box maple leaf cookies, 1 package pretzel rods

Going Fishing - 10 chocolate pudding cups, 10 chocolate cookies, package gummy worms

Other items:

We would like to borrow 2 standing fans

10 yellow plastic tablecloths

Cash donations towards arts & crafts, and other VBS supplies are also welcomed.

We will have a church picnic on June 30 after the worship service. Plan to stay for this important community event.

Birthdays

24th Aubrey Heller & Shirley Keene

25th Matthew Bradbury

26th Sarah Jones, Violet LaCroix, & Christopher Moore

29th Tim Webb

Flowers

The flowers on the altar this week are given to the glory of God and in memory of Judith Anderson, on her Anniversary into Heaven, by Paul, Janice, Peter, Cheryl and their Loving families.