

Asbury United Methodist Church

DECEMBER 31, 2023

Worship Leader: Joan White

Chancel: Barbara Bishop

* Please rise in body or in spirit

Gathering Song

Kyung Hee Lee

Greeting

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.

Announcements

Centering Hymn UMH 217 Away in a manger vs 1, 3

*Call to Worship

L: We have welcomed the Christ child and declared the glory of God's salvation that comes to live among us. And yet, still, we wait.

P: We watch and work for God's kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven.

L: We prepare to welcome a new year, thankful for how God has brought us through the past year and anxious to discover what the new year might bring.

P: We watch and work for God's kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven.

L: We join generations of Simeons and Annas who learned and taught us how to listen, notice, and discern divine love at work in the world.

P: We watch and work for God's kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven.

L: Come, let us worship God, whose love endures from generation to generation, guiding us from one year to the next.

P: Come, let us worship as we live in anticipation of God's kin-dom on earth as it is heaven. Amen.

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, June 2023.

Opening Hymn: UMH 246 Joy To the World vs 1,3,4

* Sharing Passing the Peace of Christ Among Us

Choir "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Gospel Reading

Luke 2: 22-40

Reader: Luke's gospel account of the life of Jesus also includes the story of the presentation of Jesus in the Temple, a part of every Jewish family's rituals regarding a first-born heir. There were people present who recognized him not just as an heir to the household of his earthly father's household that came from the lineage of David, but also his extra-ordinary lineage as the Messiah they were waiting to see. Hear this account:

When the day came for them to be purified, as laid down by the Law of Moses, the couple took Jesus up to Jerusalem and presented him to God. For it's written in the Law of our God, "Every firstborn heir is to be consecrated to God." They likewise came to offer in sacrifice "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons," in accord with the dictate of the Law of our God.

Now there lived in Jerusalem a man named Simeon. He was devout and just, anticipating the consolation of Israel, and he was filled with the Holy Spirit. She had revealed to Simeon that he wouldn't see death until he had seen the Messiah of God. Prompted by her, Simeon came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child to perform the customary rituals of the Law, he took the child in his arms and praised God, saying, "Now, O God, you can dismiss your servant in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the peoples to see — a light of revelation to the Gentiles

and the glory of your people Israel.” As the child’s mother and father stood there marveling at the things that were being said, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, the mother, “This child is destined to be the downfall and the rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that is rejected, so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare. And a sword will pierce your heart as well.”

There was a woman named Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher, who was also a prophet. She had lived a long life, seven years with her husband, and then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the Temple, worshiping day and night, fasting and praying. Coming up at that moment, she gave thanks to God and talked about the child to all who anticipated the deliverance of Jerusalem. When the couple had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the Law of God, they returned to Galilee and their own town of Nazareth. The child grew in size and strength. He was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was with him.

Songs of Illumination

UMH#454 Open My Eyes, That I May See vs1

Open my eyes that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me.
Place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me,
Spirit divine!

Sermon: Being Present with Assurance

Rev. Yohan Go

Response Song: UMH 369 “Blessed Assurance” vs 1,2,3

Joy and Concerns

Hymn: (UMH 186 Alleluia)

Alleluia Alleluia Alleluia Alleluia x 2

Pastoral prayer

Rev. Yohan Go

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, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Respond song: Hear our prayer, O Lord

Hear our prayer, O Lord, Hear our prayer, O Lord;
Incline Thine ear to us, And grant us Thy peace.

Offering Invitation

Interlude

Kyung Hee Lee

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Jesus Christ, our burdens know,
Praise Spirit through whom our hearts grow,
Praise Three-in-One, from here below.

Offering prayer

Rev. Yohan Go

* **Closing hymns:** UMH 251 Go, Tell it on the Mountain vs 1,3

Benediction

Rev. Yohan Go

* **Prayer for peace through hymn UMH #431 “Let There Be Peace on Earth”**

Postlude

Kyung Hee Lee

Announcements:

1. *The altar flowers on Christmas Eve were given in loving memory of Christine Arnold Alves, sister of Lee Arnold, by the Arnold Family.*

Birthdays

4 Maryann Williams

6 Derek LaCroix

Flowers

The flowers on the altar this week are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Charles and Beatrice Corey, their grandparents, by Carolyn Whitney and Marion Lightsey.