

Asbury United Methodist Church

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Worship Leader: Becky Arnold

Chancel: Becky Arnold

*Please rise in body or spirit

“Fill My Cup with Grace”

Week 6

Music for Gathering

“This Is My Father’s World - Hanna Noh

Welcome and 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

A Call to Plenty

Leader: In this series, we have reframed the four pillars of economics: earning, spending, saving, and investing. We have been reminded that our yearn to earn can become misplaced as fear of scarcity ravages our energy and keeps us only mindful of caring for “our own.” We have been reminded that when we spend the true commodities of hope, purpose, healing, meaning, and grace at the center of God’s vision of the future, we will never run out. Savings becomes salvific when are offering gratitude and storing up the will for generosity spurred by the gifts we are given by God every day. And investing our interest in the wellbeing of all is the way of freedom from fear. Today we hear that the measure of goodness will overflow into our laps when we dip from the stone jars of God’s love.

“Abundance” (sing refrain only)

**God s abundance is for all,
no one is left outside,
kin-dom come, all people one
in trust and love abide.**

L: In this world of striving,

P: we feel the yearn to earn.

L: The world measures our worth in those earnings.

P: But Jesus had different ideas.

L: Where they obsessed over payback and worried about how much is “enough,”

P: he offered love freely and fully to everyone, even his enemies.

L: When we feel our own resources are lacking,

P: we can view our lives and practices again from the economy of Jesus.

Let us pray:

God of Everlasting Love,
we come to you today, knowing that our earnings can never fulfill
our deepest human yearnings for security, peace, and connection.
In the midst of our greed, remind us of your grace
and the calling to love one another with extravagant generosity,
giving freely to others just a piece of what you so selflessly have given us. Amen.

Opening Hymn UMH 348 – “Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling” vs 1,3

The Peace

Leader: Just as our worth as humans is not dependent on the bottom line of our bank accounts, our relationships are not dependent upon the earning of favors and the limitations of “quid pro quo.” The peace of Christ has no limits, and we get more just by giving it. So may jar-fulls of peace be with you today.

***People:* And also with you.**

Leader: You are invited to pass the “plethora of peace” among you, remembering to pass it to those joining us remotely.

Choir Anthem “Blessed Assurance”

Gospel Lesson

Luke 6: 27-38

Reader: A scarcity mindset says that there is not enough for everyone. This attitude demands that others must have less in order for us to have more. But the economy according to Jesus says that love is the true currency, and it never runs out. We can't give too much of it away. We don't need to expect things in return in order to stay “stocked up” with goodness, grace, and provision for the future. Hear this word from the 6th chapter of Luke:

“But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who ask of you, and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.”

"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive payment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again.

Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap, for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

This is a Word of God reminding us that we can never out-spend
the grace that fills our hearts.

Thanks be to God.

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 "Fill My Cup with Grace" Rev. Yohan Go

Prayers of the People

UMH 389 "Freely, Freely" vs 1

Leader: In the economy of Jesus, we claim goodness and plenty for everyone—this is the savings that are, in the end, salvific for our communities. We know there is more than enough to go around, and we in this community are committed to acts of mercy and grace for all people. For we have freely received so much, and so we freely give.

Sing Together:

**Freely, freely you have received,
freely, freely give.**

**Go in my name, and because you believe,
others will know that I live.**

Leader: Each week of this series we have been focusing on naming gifts of abundance we have received in the week, instances where we have seen the abundance of Christ at work in the world, and we will ask for the wisdom and strength to change so that abundance is more available to all.

In this pause, O God, we ponder the many gifts you have given us.
Our gratitude seems never enough for the plenty you provide.
We call to mind the gifts of creation, of relationships, of sustenance.

[pause]

In this pause, Christ Jesus, we ponder the ways your love is still at work in the world.
Our awe and wonder at the goodness of others is profound.
We call to mind acts of kindness, generosity, and selflessness.

[pause]

In this pause, Holy Spirit, we come asking you for strength.
The temptation to live by the economics of not-enough is so strong in us.
We ask for revelation in our thinking and doing,
so that we might live with grace in the house.

[pause]

Loving God, Christ Jesus, Holy Spirit, we are yours.
May these prayers over these weeks continue as we discern how best
to share in the economy of Jesus moving forward.
We bring to you now the concerns of our day, of our communities,
knowing that already you are present, already you are working to bring about comfort
and healing.

Joys and Concerns

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.

**Freely, freely you have received,
freely, freely give.
Go in my name, and because you believe,
others will know that I live.**

Offering "My Mother's Bible"

Offering Prayer Rev. Yohan Go

Closing Hymn UMH 526 – “What a Friend We Have in Jesus” vs 1,2

Benediction

The jars are full in the Kin-dom of God.
The cup of salvation is full of the grace we need
and the grace we are called to give away.

We are transformed in the economy of Jesus,
bearing the witness of dividends of grace.
We have heard the call to invest our interest
in the transformation of our communities.

And so we go, doing likewise in the world,
with the help of God,
the guidance of Jesus,
and the power of the Holy Spirit.
Now and forever. Amen.

Postlude “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” Hanna Noh

Announcements

1. The worship leader for Sunday, March 2nd is Lee Arnold.
2. **New Member Orientation Class:** The class will be held on February 23rd and March 2nd from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., immediately following the worship service. If you are interested, please fill out the registration form and submit it to the pastor or the church office.
3. We will be having a food drive for the month of February. The foods needed are listed for 30 days. Proceeds from this drive will be donated to Holliman and Norwood Elementary School, which serve over 500 children. We are often unaware of those with food insecurities in our own neighborhoods. The team at these schools coordinates their efforts to help individual families who are struggling to put healthy food on the table for their children...either for a week, a month or for the school year we will be assisting them to help meet these needs. You can purchase all your items at once, daily, weekly, whichever is easiest for you. Please place them in a box and bring them to the church coffee room by the 1st week of March. Some gentle reminders: some folks may not have a can opener, so look for pull top tabs on canned items. No glass items. Please check the expiration dates. Try to search for healthy alternatives whenever possible. It would be helpful to bring your groceries to Asbury in a **sturdy box or bag**.
4. **Ash Wednesday Worship Service** – will be held at Asbury UMC on March 5th at 7 p.m.
5. **Six-Week Lenten Book Study** – *The Message of Jesus by Adam Hamilton*. Tuesday group meets in the Pastor’s Office, beginning March 11th at 10 am. Wednesday Group: meets in the library, beginning March 12th at 10 a.m. Please sign up if you are interested in participating in the book study.

Birthdays

- 24th Harry Jones
25th Buddy Ford & Benjamin Sunoskie
26th Erin Rose
27th Laura Quist
28th Mary Drury

Flowers *The flowers on the altar this week are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Barbara and Warren Cole by daughter Stacy and their loving family.*

The flowers on the altar this week are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of R Graham and Elizabeth Bosworth in honor of their 90th wedding anniversary by their daughter Joyce B Moore.