

Asbury United Methodist Church

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Worship Leader: Jan Jones

Chancel: Marilyn Blanche

* Please rise in body or in spirit

“Making Room (Hope)”

First Sunday of Advent

Prelude “O Come, All Ye Faithful” 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.

Greetings and Announcements

We Open the Door

“Hope Waits for Us at Advent”

Leader: Economic disparity runs rampant, locally and globally. As we enter the Advent season, how can our churches become houses where the Holy will be born anew—offering respite, sustenance and care, opening the doors ever wider to those seeking shelter from the onslaught of life? No one church can do it all, but each can do something. As we study the biblical prophets that call us to care for our neighbors and make room in the inn,” the lonely and frightened spaces within us are filled with the light of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

Together:

**Hope waits for us at Advent
Hope waits for us to trust.
Hope waits for our commitment
to a land that’s kind and just.
In this time of preparation
for the work of co-creation,
for the birthing of a world
that heals the ones in pain.
Hope is born in us again!**

Reader(s):

Today we offer the Light of Hope to illumine the Door of Welcome.

May this light shine in our hearts, in our lives, and in our church.
May Hope awaken us to possibilities and lead us to greater hospitality.
There *IS* room in this Inn, a House for the Holy.

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The Peace

The Hope of Christ be with you!
And also with you!

As we rise in body or spirit for our opening hymn, I invite you to pass the peace of Christ
with those around you (and the people worshiping at home)!

Opening Hymn/Song

"Hail to the Lord's Anointed" (UMH 203, vs. 1, 4)

First Reading

Jeremiah 33: 14-16 (CEB)

The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfill my gracious promise with the people of Israel and Judah. In those days and at that time, I will raise up a righteous branch from David's line, who will do what is just and right in the land. In those days, Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is what he will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

Choir Anthem "Prepare for the Coming of the Lord"

Gospel Reading

Luke 21:25-36

25 "There will be signs in the sun, moon, and stars. On the earth, there will be dismay among nations in their confusion over the roaring of the sea and surging waves. 26 The planets and other heavenly bodies will be shaken, causing people to faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world. 27 Then they will see the Human One coming on a cloud with power and great splendor. 28 Now when these things begin to

happen, stand up straight and raise your heads, because your redemption is near.” 29 Jesus told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. 30 When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. 31 In the same way, when you see these things happening, you know that God’s kingdom is near. 32 I assure you that this generation won’t pass away until everything has happened. 33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will certainly not pass away. 34 “Take care that your hearts aren’t dulled by drinking parties, drunkenness, and the anxieties of day-to-day life. Don’t let that day fall upon you unexpectedly, 35 like a trap. It will come upon everyone who lives on the face of the whole earth. 36 Stay alert at all times, praying that you are strong enough to escape everything that is about to happen and to stand before the Human One.”

Song 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
Making Room Rev. Yohan Go

Prayers of the People
“Make of My Heart a Stable”

***Make of my heart a stable,
a house for the holy,
a warm and sturdy place
for [hope] to live and grow.***

In this moment we open the doors of our hearts to honesty before God
about what we’ve done and left undone that created less hope in a hurting world.

Let us breathe out this regret...
and breathe in the life-giving, for-giving Spirit of God...
and out again with the Peace of Christ...

***Make of my life a stable,
a house for the holy,
a warm and sturdy place
for [hope] to live and grow.***

In this moment we open the doors of our lives to the call of the Spirit,
inviting us to become more than we can ask or imagine.

Let us breathe out our fear...
and breathe in the courage of the Spirit of God...
and out again, with the Peace of Christ...

**Make of our church a stable,
a house for the holy,
a warm and sturdy place
for [hope] to live and grow.**

In this moment we open the doors of this church, filling it with
the compassion of Christ for all those who are struggling.

Sharing Joy and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

A Communion Prayer

Great Thanksgiving

The Holy One be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to our God.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Birthing God, creator of heaven and earth.

Leader: You formed us in our mother's womb, house of the holy,
growing us in your image.

Our hearts and lungs became a place of opening and welcoming,
doors for the Spirit of Life that you breathed into us.

We have not always understood ourselves as sacred creation,
a place for the dwelling of the Holy inside of us.

We have not always seen that in others.

When we turn away from each other and from you,
your love remains steadfast.

You deliver us from the captivity of isolation and fear,
make covenant to be our steadfast, indwelling God,
and continue to speak to us through prophetic utterance,
in the Spirit and through the people.

And so,
with your people on earth

and all the company of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Together: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might;
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Pastor: In the midst of a time of despair, oppression, division, and fear,
your gestation in the house of a holy womb—
through an unlikely midwife of salvific power—
brought Jesus, the Christ, into this world.

Into The Inn of simple means
came a life dedicated and anointed by the Spirit
to preach good news to the poor,
to proclaim release to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
and to announce that the time had come
when you would save your people.

Leader: A common birth for common people,
he healed the sick, fed the hungry,
and sat in houses at table with those who suffer,
and those who perpetuated suffering,
laying bare complicity and compassion.

His baptism, ministry, death, and resurrection
gave the blueprints for the building of church community,
and rejection of slavery to sin and death.
You made a new covenant with us
to be midwives, by water and the Spirit,
birthing more hope, more peace, more joy, more love in this world,
making more room in this house, at this table, for all.

Pastor: When the Lord Jesus ascended,
he promised to be with us always,
in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.
In another house, on another night—
the night in which he gave himself up for us—
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,
gave it to his disciples, and said:
“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

Leader: When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

“Drink from this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.”

And so,
in remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ’s offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Together: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pastor: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Open our hearts in and through this act,
stripping away any excuse or fearful hesitation,
so that we will open our doors to the world
as the body of Christ, redeemed by his love.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other,
and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory
and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ
with the Holy Spirit in your holy church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God,
now and forever.

Amen.

Breaking Bread and Sharing the Cup

Offering / Interlude “What Child Is This?” (UMH 219) Hanna Noh

Offering Prayer

Closing Carol

Leader: Each week of this series we will close out with a Christmas Carol. Yes, Advent is not yet the birth of Christ. However, as we prepare our homes and this house for the Holy, we live in the “already and not yet.” We already know “the rest of the story” AND YET we have not seen the fulfillment of a time when suffering ends. Today we sing “O Little Town of Bethlehem,” a carol written by Phillips Brooks in 1865 after a horseback ride between Jerusalem and Bethlehem on Christmas Eve. An original verse not included in our hymnals is especially poignant for our theme:

“Where children pure and happy
Pray to the blessed Child,
Where misery cries out to thee,
Son of the Mother mild;
Where charity stands watching
And faith holds wide the door,
The dark night wakes, the glory breaks,
And Christmas comes once more.”

Let us remember that it was in a little and unassuming town where the Holy was housed. We too can offer light and hope and a place where “faith holds wide the door,” even and especially in our little town.

Closing Hymn *“O Little Town of Bethlehem”* (UMH 230, vs. 1, 4)

Benediction

May God’s Door of Welcome
swing open in your heart and in your life.
May Christ’s humble first dwelling
remind you of the plenty you already know.

And may the Spirit lead you into
more possibility and hospitality than you can imagine,
making room in The Inn for all.

May it be so for you.
May it be so for us.
May it be so for this church.
Amen.

Postlude “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing” Hanna Noh

Announcements

1. We are collecting mittens, socks, and hats for our neighbors in need throughout the month.

2. Our Advent Book Study begins on Dec. 3rd. We'll be reading *An Unlikely Advent*. The sign-up sheet is in the narthex.
3. The worship leader for next Sunday, December 8th is Patricia Smith-Disu
4. Haven UMC music concert will be on Dec 8 (Sun) at 3 PM.

Birthdays

- 2nd Ashley Anderson Williams
- 3rd Kevin Quinn
- 6th Amy Quinn Morin
- 7th Isla Poplar Arnold, Bob Bradbury, Grant Horatio Taylor, & Seamus Sullivan O'Rourke

Flowers *The flowers on the altar this week are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Rita Eaton, her mother, and Jack Eaton, her brother by Joan and Dick White, Cheryl, and Carrie and Michael.*