

Asbury United Methodist Church

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Worship Leader: Becky Arnold

Chancel: Danika Hallam

* Please rise in body or in spirit

“A Room with a View (Love)”

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Prelude “Angels We Have Heard on High” Hanna Noh

Greetings and Announcements

We Open the Door

(Threshold Moment)

Leader: This has been an Advent season of prophets: Jeremiah, Baruch, Isaiah, Micah. And now the prophet is Mary—the woman who was the original house for the holy. She was “the inn,” her womb gestating love for the world. With all her heart, she proclaims that the lowly are lifted, the hungry are fed, mercy reigns. Like Mary, we must envision, must see, must prophesy and act on that vision for the world that God continues to call us to co-create. What is the view from the room that God has prepared?

Together:

Love waits for us at Advent.

Love waits for us to care.

Love waits for our compassion

freely offered, freely shared.

In this time of preparation

for the work of co-creation,

for the birthing of a world

where faith shapes all we do,

Love is born in us anew!

Reader(s):

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

May this light shine in our hearts, in our lives, and in our church.

May Love awaken us to possibilities and lead us to greater hospitality.

There *IS* room in this Inn, a House for the Holy.

Together:

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Love waits for us to care.
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freely offered, freely shared.
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The Peace

The Love 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 worshipping at home)!

Opening Hymn/Song

“Hark! The herald Angels Sing” UMH 240 vs. 1,2

First Reading

Micah 5: 2-5a (CEB)

*As for you, Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
though you are the least significant of Judah s forces,
one who is to be a ruler in Israel on my behalf will come out from you.
His origin is from remote times, from ancient days.
Therefore, he will give them up
until the time when she who is in labor gives birth.
The rest of his kin will return to the people of Israel.
He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
They will dwell secure,
because he will surely become great throughout the earth;
he will become one of peace.*

Choir Anthem “Oh Little Town of Bethlehem”

Second Reading

Luke 1: 46-55

Mary got up and hurried to a city in the Judean highlands. She entered Zechariah s home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary s greeting, the child leaped in her womb, and

Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. With a loud voice she blurted out, God has blessed you above all women, and he has blessed the child you carry. Why do I have this honor, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy. Happy is she who believed that the Lord would fulfill the promises he made to her.”

Mary said,

With all my heart I glorify the Lord!

In the depths of who I am I rejoice in God my savior.

He has looked with favor on the low status of his servant.

*Look! From now on, everyone will consider me highly favored
because the mighty one has done great things for me.*

Holy is his name.

*He shows mercy to everyone,
from one generation to the next,
who honors him as God.*

He has shown strength with his arm.

*He has scattered those with arrogant thoughts and proud inclinations.
He has pulled the powerful down from their thrones
and lifted up the lowly.*

*He has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty-handed.*

*He has come to the aid of his servant Israel,
remembering his mercy,*

*just as he promised to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to Abraham's descendants forever.”*

Sermon

Build a Dwelling Place for God's Love

Rev. Yohan Go

Prayers of the People

Sung together:

**Make of my heart a stable,
a house for the holy,
a warm and sturdy place
for [love] 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 love 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...

Sung together:

**Make of my life a stable,
a house for the holy,
a warm and sturdy place
for [love] 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...

Sung together:

**Make of our church a stable,
a house for the holy,
a warm and sturdy place
for [love] 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

Offering / Interlude "Marvel Not" by Joseph Ned Quist, Alice Pace

Offering Prayer

Closing Carol

Leader: Today's closing carol is "O Come, All Ye Faithful," an 18th century hymn by John Francis Wade. This carol invites us to come "joyful and triumphant." It moves between exhortation and doctrine from the Nicene Creed in the second verse. But each verse moves from boisterous to almost a hushed tone at the beginning of the refrain as we tiptoe into the stable with "O come, let us adore him." A little-known verse focuses on love and places us in the manger with Jesus: [*see more about this history [HERE](#)*].

Child, for us sinners
poor and in the manger,
Fain we embrace thee, with awe and love:
Who would not love thee,

loving us so dearly?
O come, let us adore him...

Each one of us has known the need to love and be loved, to forgive and be forgiven, to embrace and be embraced. May we approach each person we meet with the adoration of Jesus Christ, tender and merciful, loving and kind, and make this a house of adoration for all.

Closing Hymn UMH 251 "O Come, All Ye Faithful" 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 "Joy to the World" Hanna Noh

Announcements

1. The Christmas Eve service will be held at Asbury UMC on Tuesday, December 24, at 5:00 PM. This will be a joint worship service with Zion Korean UMC.
2. The worship leader for Sunday, December 29th is Lee Arnold.

Birthdays

23rd Carter Harrell, Jacob Harrell, Dawson David Whitham
24th Janice Anderson
28th Michelle Dorsey, Allison McGovern

Flowers

The flowers on the altar this week are given to the glory of God and in honor of the staff of Brown University Health Cancer Institute by Tim and Cami Webb.