



#MoreJoy
#DoNotBeAfraid

Worry never robs tomorrow
of its sorrow,
it only saps today of its joy.
- Leo Buscaglia

Asbury United Methodist Church
December 11, 2022 9:30 A.M.
143 Ann Mary Brown Drive
Warwick, RI 02888
(401)467-5122

Pastor
Rev. Yohan Go

The Third Sunday of Advent

Angels Among Us: #morejoy

WE GATHER

Prelude

Welcome and 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.

December Birthdays

- 11 Barbara Marcoccio
- 13 Cheryl Francis
- 14 Nadia McGovern
- 17 Stephen Blanche

**A MOMENT OF SILENCE TO CENTER OUR SOULS AND
PREPARE FOR WORSHIP**

Postlude

Threshold Moment

Leader: Every angel seems to use “do not be afraid” as an opening line. But perhaps no one needed to hear it more than Joseph. What was happening to him was the stuff that ruins lives. As a man in that time, he had all the rights to abandon Mary and preserve his dignity when he learned of her pregnancy. The stakes were high. But the angel’s message of encouragement was to see a difficult circumstance not with dread, but with joy.

There are angels among us that may not meet the eye
There are messages of joy coming from a choir on high
But don’t just look up;
For the way God works
is to plant more joy right here on earth
just like it was with Jesus birth.
There are angels among us,
there are angels among us,
bringing joy on earth.

Do not be afraid
Do not be afraid
Do not be afraid
Do not be afraid

Prayer

Holy Living God, Blessed Jesus, Guiding Spirit,

alight within us your flame of joy this day.

Grant us openness to hear your message.

Grant us courage to be your messengers in the world,

creating more joy in the midst of fear.

Pastor: And with the angel messengers above us, among us and within us, we sing...

**Do not be afraid
Do not be afraid
Do not be afraid
Do not be afraid**

Opening Hymn

UMH # 213“ Lift up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” vs 1, 2, 4

Passing the Peace

I invite you to pass the joy of Christ with your neighbors,
for each time we connect with one another, joy grows.

WE PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

Scripture Reading

Matthew 1: 18-25 adapted from The Voice translation

Narrator: So here is the story of the birth of Jesus the Anointed... it is quite a remarkable story:

Mary was engaged to marry Joseph, son of David. They hadn’t married. And yet, some time well before their wedding

When this Christmas song comes across your path this week, as it most probably will, stop for a moment and remember the reason for the season... we can know joy right now, even in the midst of fear. For God desires so much to be with and for humanity that God sent Jesus, Emmanuel, and this Spirit continues with us, always and forevermore.

UMH#246 “Joy to the World” vs 1, 2, 4

The Mission to the Messengers

Pastor: Every week I will give you a mission, “should you choose to accept it.” It is a mission with a message. So I’m inviting you to share our quote #morejoy meme for the week from our church Facebook page to your Facebook or other social media. If you don’t use social media, please cut the picture on the front page of the bulletin and mail it to someone, give it to someone and send it in a message-whatever you can do in whatever channels of communication are available to you.

Let us turn toward the Candle of Joy
and sing to one another the message
we must take to the world:

Benediction

**Do not be afraid
Do not be afraid
Do not be afraid
Do not be afraid**

Pastor: We believe there are angels among us
Called within us, not just from up above
You give us joy enough in these times of trial
You show us how to live, You teach us how to give
You call us to be light and love

Offering

Intrude

Hanna Noh

Doxology

Tune: O Come, O Come Emmanuel

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God, all Spirit messengers below.
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Unison Prayer of Dedication

*God of joy and possibility,
we offer these gifts so that they may be transformed into your good
news
for the sake of the world. Amen.*

WE GO FORTH

Closing Hymn/Song

date, Mary learned that she was pregnant by the Holy Spirit. Joseph, because he was kind and upstanding and honorable, wanted to spare Mary shame. He did not wish to cause her more embarrassment than necessary.

Now when Joseph had decided to act on his instincts, a messenger of the Lord came to him in a dream.

Messenger of the Lord: Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid, do not be afraid. Do not be afraid to wed Mary and bring her into your home and family as your wife. She did not sneak off and sleep with someone else—rather, she conceived the baby she now carries through the miraculous wonderworking of the Holy Spirit. She will have a son, and you will name Him Jesus, which means “the Lord saves,” because this Jesus is the person who will save all of His people.

Narrator: Joseph woke up from his dream and did exactly what the messenger had told him to do: he married Mary and brought her into his home as his wife (though he did not consummate their marriage until after her son was born).

Joseph: When the baby is born, I will name him Jesus, Savior, Emmanuel, God with Us.

Narrator: Years and years ago, Isaiah, a prophet of Israel, foretold the story of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus in this way:

Emmanuel, God With Us by Chris Tomlin
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U9HcsERoxm8>

Sermon

"Emmanuel, God with Us!"

Rev. Yohan Go

WE RESPOND

Prayers of the People

"Angels Among Us" [Refrain]

**There are angels among us,
there are angels among us,
there are angels among us,
bringing joy on earth.**

Pastor: I believe there are angels among us
Sent down to us from somewhere up above
They come to you and me in our toughest hours
To show us how to live, to teach us how to give
To guide us with a light of love

Leader: In this moment we pray for all those who are in need of joy.

After the end of sharing each prayer concern...

Response:

"We hear the message of God,
Do not be afraid."

Leader: In this moment we give thanks for all the ways we have experienced God's presence among us, in the words and actions that bring joy in the midst of fear.

Response:

"For all who proclaim your reign on earth,
we join their refrain,
Do not be afraid."

Pastoral Prayer by Rev. Yohan Go

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that 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.

Sing "Angels Among Us" Refrain

There are angels among us,
there are angels among us,
there are angels among us,
bringing joy on earth.