

**#MoreLife**  
**#DoNotBeAfraid**



We make a living by what we get.  
We make a life by what we give.  
- Winston Churchill

Asbury United Methodist Church  
January 1, 2023 9:30 A.M.  
143 Ann Mary Brown Drive  
Warwick, RI 02888  
(401)467-5122

Pastor  
Rev. Yohan Go

**Sunday after Christmas:**  
*"Get Up and Go: #morelife"*

**WE GATHER**

***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.

***Announcements***

1. Pastor Yohan Go will have a spiritual leave from January 2<sup>nd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>. Jan Jones will share the message with us next Sunday.

***January Birthdays***

- 4 Maryann Williams  
6 Derek LaCroix

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

**Threshold Moment**

*Leader:* By now Joseph was used to angels. And now he needed their timely warnings more than ever. Jesus was barely a toddler and his trouble with the Roman Empire had begun. Jesus, the Savior of Humankind becomes a refugee—forced from home by oppression and violence. How might we usher in *#morelife* in the face of that which feels destructive?

**Together:**

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

Grant us openness to hear your message.

**Grant us courage to be your messengers in the world,  
creating more life in the midst of fear.**

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

**Together:  
Do not be afraid  
Do not be afraid**

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

**Postlude**

**Opening Hymn**

UMH # 89 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee vs 1, 2, 4

**Passing the Peace**

I invite you to pass the peace of Christ with your neighbors,  
for each time we connect with one another, we are given more  
peace, more hope, more joy and more love.

**WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD**

**Scripture Reading**

*Matthew 2: 1-23*

*adapted from The Voice translation*

**Narrator:** Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem, in the province of Judea, at the time when King Herod reigned. Not long after Jesus was born, magi, wise ones or seers from the East, made their way from the East to Jerusalem. They made inquiries.

**Wise Ones:** *[in unison]* Where is this newborn, who is the King of the Jews? When we were far away in the East we saw His star, and we have followed its glisten and gleam all this way to worship Him.

**Narrator:** King Herod began to hear rumors of the wise one's quest, and he, and all of his followers in Jerusalem, were worried. So Herod

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 Father (God), now and for ever.

**Prayer**

**Rev. Yohan Go**

**WE GO FORTH**

**Closing Hymn**

*W&S # 3158 "Go to the World" vs 1,2, 4*

**The Mission to the Messengers**

*Pastor:* Every week I have given you a mission, "should you choose to accept it." It is a mission with a message. So this last week of this series I'm inviting you to be "hashtaggers of life" and to Facebook, Tweet, Instagram, Snapchat our quote meme for the week and hashtag it #morelife. Thank you for being witnesses in this series in this way!

Let us turn toward the Candle—for Christ is our Life  
in the center of our sanctuary  
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**

called all of the leading Jewish teachers, the chief priests and head scribes,

**Herod:** Where does Hebrew tradition claim the long-awaited Anointed One will be born?

**Scribes and Priests:** *[in unison]* An ancient Hebrew prophet, Micah, said this:

But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are no poor relation—  
For from your people will come a Ruler  
who will be the shepherd of My people Israel.

**Narrator:** Herod called the wise ones to him, demanding to know the exact time the special star had appeared to them.

**Herod:** Go to Bethlehem and search high and low for this Savior child; and as soon as you know where He is, report it to me so that I may go and worship Him. Then Herod sent them to Bethlehem.

**Narrator:** The wise ones left Herod's chambers and went on their way. The star they had first seen in the East reappeared—a miracle that, of course, overjoyed and enraptured them. The star led them to the house where Jesus lay; and as soon as the wise ones arrived, they saw Him with His mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped Him. They unpacked their satchels and gave Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

And then, just as Joseph did a few months before, the wise ones had a dream warning them not to go back to Herod. The wise ones heeded the dream. Ignoring Herod's instructions, they returned to

their homes in the East by a different route. After the wise ones left, a messenger of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream.

**Messenger of the Lord:** Get up, take the child and His mother, and head to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you it is safe to leave. For Herod understands that Jesus threatens him and all he stands for. He is planning to search for the child and kill Him. But you will be safe in Egypt.

**Narrator:** So Joseph got up in the middle of the night; he bundled up Mary and Jesus, and they left for Egypt, heeding this guardian angel's words.

**Hymn: By Gentle Powers (video)**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tDGx5r2L\\_o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tDGx5r2L_o)

**Narrator:** After a few months had passed, Herod realized he'd been tricked. The wise ones were not coming back. Herod, of course, was furious. He simply ordered that all boys who lived in or near Bethlehem and were two years of age and younger be killed. He knew the baby King was this age because of what the wise men told him.

This sad event had long been foretold by the prophet Jeremiah:

**People: A voice will be heard in Ramah,  
weeping and wailing and mourning out loud all day and  
night.**

**The voice is Rachel's, weeping for her children,  
her children who have been killed;  
she weeps, and she will not be comforted.**

You sent a star to guide wise men to where the Christ was born;  
and in your signs and witnesses, in every age and through all the world,  
you have led your people from far places to his light.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection  
you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death,  
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On 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."

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 these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,  
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving  
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,  
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

**for the sake of the world. Amen.**

### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

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,

Father Almighty (almighty God), creator of heaven and earth.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or you had formed the earth,

from everlasting to everlasting, you alone are God.

You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth.

You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God,

and spoke to us through your prophets.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ,

in whom you have revealed yourself, our light and our salvation.

**Narrator:** Joseph, Mary, and Jesus stayed in Egypt until Herod died. This fulfilled yet another prophecy. The prophet Hosea once wrote, "Out of Egypt I called My Son."

And after Herod died, a messenger of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt:

**Messenger of the Lord:** You may go home now. Take the child and His mother and go back to the land of Israel, for the people who were trying to take the child's life are now dead.

So Joseph got up and took Mary and Jesus and returned to the land of Israel. Soon he learned that Archelaus, Herod's oldest and notoriously brutal son, was ruling Judea. Archelaus might not be any friendlier than Herod had been. Joseph was simply afraid. He had another dream, and in this dream, he was warned away from Judea; so Joseph decided to settle up north in a district called Galilee, in a town called Nazareth. And this, too, fulfilled what the prophets have taught, "The Savior will be a Nazarene."

### **Sermon**

**"More Life!"**

Rev. Yohan Go

### **WE RESPOND**

*"Angels Among Us" [refrain]*

**Together:**

**There are angels among us,**

**there are angels among us,**

**there are angels among us,**

**bringing love 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

### **Prayers of the People**

*Leader:* In this moment we pray for all those who are in need of new life, who live in fear and violence or threat of violence.  
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 love in the midst of fear.  
For humanitarians around the world who work tirelessly to alleviate suffering...

*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 love on earth.

*Pastor:* We believe there are angels among us  
Called within us, not just from up above  
You give us hope 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 hope and possibility,  
we offer these gifts so that they may be transformed into your  
good news**