

Postlude



Asbury United Methodist Church
December 25,
9:30 A.M.
143 Ann Mary Brown Drive
Warwick, RI 02888
(401)467-5122

Pastor

Rev. Yohan Go
Christmas Day
Angels Among Us: *morehospitality*”

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. Merry Christmas! I hope you have the very best Christmas and a Happy New Year!

December Birthday Celebrations

- 28 Michelle Dorsey
Allison McGovern
- 29 Joann Mancini
Bob Carter
- 30 Jordan Jones

Threshold Moment

Leader: On this day when the baby is lying in the manger, doing what one-day-old babies do (which is not much except eat, sleep, cry, and well... you know... get the digestive system going), we will hear two scriptures that refer to angels and hospitality to strangers. This is an important connection. Jesus would grow up to make hospitality to

WE GO FORTH

Closing Hymn/Song

UMH # 251 Go, Tell It on the Mountain vs 1, 2, 3

The Mission to the Messengers

Pastor: Our message for today is one about #more hospitality. So I’m inviting you to be “hashtaggers of hospitality” and to share our quote meme for today from our church [Facebook page/website] to your Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or Snapchat accounts and hashtag it #morehospitality. If that all sounds like Greek to you and you are not into social media, I invite you to take the insert in your worship guide and mail it to someone, give it to someone, take a photo of it 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 Christ
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

Narrator: Now Sarah was behind her guests, listening to all of this from the entrance of the tent. Abraham and Sarah were quite old at this time, well advanced in years, and Sarah had long ago gone through “the change.” So Sarah laughed to herself, saying under her breath,

Sarah: At my age—old and decrepit, as is my husband—both of us long past having any desire to engage in “you-know-what?”

Narrator: But the Messengers heard what Sarah said and addressed Abraham.

Messenger 1: Why does Sarah laugh and say to herself, “There’s no way I’m going to give birth at my age!”

Messenger 2: Is anything too difficult for the Eternal One to accomplish?

Messenger 3: At a time that the Eternal One will determine, I will return here to you when life emerges from her womb. I’m telling you, Sarah will give birth to a son!

Hebrews 13: 1-2

Narrator: And now, we hear from the Book of Hebrews in the Second Testament that says: “Let mutual affection continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.”

Christmas Day Message and Prayers
“Story To Live By” Rev. Yohan Go

strangers one of his main preaching points. He made these points with his life and his words—practicing what he preached around tables where he invited the most unlikely of guests. On this Christmas Day, we are called to remember all those who may feel like strangers today—people who need our hospitality for their lives to be #more hopeful, #more peaceful, #more joyful, #full of more love.

Together:

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

There are angels among us,
there are angels among us,
there are angels among us,
bringing hope 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 hospitality this day.

Grant us openness to hear your message.

**Grant us courage to be your messengers in the world,
creating more hospitality 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

Opening Hymn
UMH # 234 O Come, All Ye Faithful vs 1, 2, 4

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Scripture Readings
Genesis 18: 1-15

Narrator: The Eternal One appeared once again to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, while he was resting at the entrance to his tent in the middle of a hot afternoon. Abraham glanced up and saw there were three men standing nearby. They seemed to appear out of nowhere. As soon as he saw them, he ran from the entrance of the tent out to where they were standing and greeted them warmly, instinctively bowing to the ground.

Abraham: My lord, if you would like to stay for a while, I beg you not to pass me by. I am your humble servant. Let me send someone for water in order to wash your feet. Please go and sit down under that tree over there and rest. Meanwhile, let me send for some bread so that you can nourish yourselves. After that I will not detain you further—you may be on your way—since you have come and honored your servant with your presence.

Messenger 1: Please, go and do what you have suggested.

Narrator: In spite of the heat, Abraham hurried into his tent to Sarah.

Abraham (to Sarah): Sarah, we have guests. Quickly prepare three measures of our best flour, knead it, and make cakes.

Narrator: Then Abraham ran to where his herds were pastured. He took a tender calf and gave it to one of his servants, who rushed off to prepare the choice meat. When it was ready, Abraham took curds and milk, along with the meat, and he placed all of this lavish feast before his honored guests. He stood nearby under the tree while they ate to their fill.

Messenger 2: Where is Sarah, your wife?

Abraham: She's right in there . . . in the tent.

Messenger 3: I will return here to you when life emerges from the womb of your wife, Sarah. She will give birth to a son.