

Prelude

Sara Boyd

Greeting

### 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

Birthdays

December 13 Cheryl Francis

December 14 Nadia McGovern

December 17 Stephen Blanche

Centering Hymn UMH #206, Stanza 3 *“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”*

### Call to Worship

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

With expectant hearts we wait for the coming of the Christ-child.

**As he once came in humility, so may he come now and fill our hearts with joy and give our souls peace.**

For He is Lord forever and ever.

**Amen.**

Opening Hymn: TFWS #2095 *“Star-Child”*

### Advent Reading and Advent Candle Lightening

**THE JOY OF HOME**

[Zephaniah 3:14-20](#) & [Luke 3:7-18](#)

**Reader One:** It’s a reunion, every time we go home, every time we embrace those we love, no matter how long it has been. It feels like sunrise, like the clouds are parting and the rain has ended. It is joy, nothing less than pure joy to grab hold of those who are home for us, who make home for us. Whether we wake up to them every day, or travel many miles to see them again, it is joy to go home.

**Reader Two:** The prophet Zephaniah tells us to rejoice at the thought of going home. The prophet tells us to imagine being set free, being unburdened, being released to live, to fully live in the grace and wonder of life itself, surrounded by those who love us like no one else. And then to live like that was our truth even now, even here. It is joy to go home.

**Reader One:** John the Baptist reminds us, however, that it takes choices to live in this joy. It doesn’t just happen; we choose to make life a joy by how we love others, by how we serve and give and care for others, by how we do the job we do and how we impact the world around us. We build joy as we build a home in this world and the next.

**Reader Two:** We light these candles, the candle of hope, and of peace, and of joy, as a sign that we are on our way home, and we walk with a skip in our step because we can see the destination, and it is pure joy. It is time to go home.

*Light three candles in the Advent wreath. If using a rose or pink colored candle in the wreath, this is the time to light that one.*

\*Hymn UMH #204 *“Emmanuel, Emmanuel”* (Sing 2x)

Joy and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

### THE LORD’S PRAYER

**Our Father,**

**Who art in heaven. Hallowed be thy name; Thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who 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.**

Offering Invitation

Offering Our Gifts

Offering Prayer

### Scripture reading

**Isaiah 11:1-9**

<sup>1</sup> A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

<sup>2</sup> The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,

the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.  
<sup>3</sup> His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.  
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;  
<sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.  
<sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.  
<sup>6</sup> The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.  
<sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
<sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.  
<sup>9</sup> They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.

**Sermon**

**"Soul Joy"**

**Rev. John Holt**

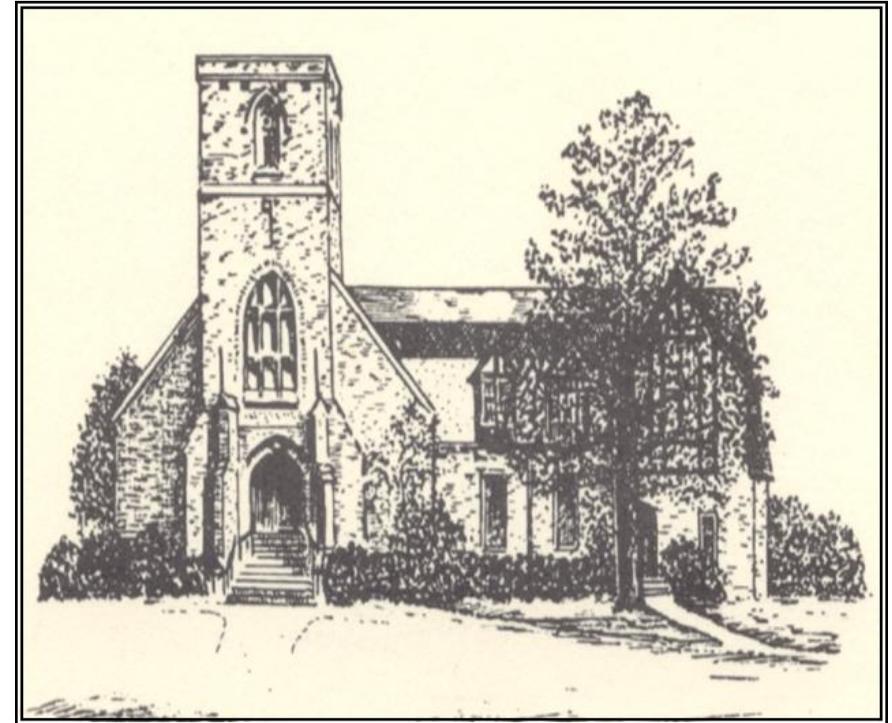
\*Closing Hymn UMH #377, Stanzas 1 & 4

***"It Is Well with My Soul"***

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

Sara Boyd



***Asbury United Methodist Church***

*Pastor*

*Rev. Yohan Go*

*Guest Pastor*

*Rev. John Holt*

*December 12, 2021*