

Prelude

Cesar Garcia

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 19 Deb Marshall

December 20 Zach Diffley

December 23 Carter Harrell

December 23 Jacob Harrell

December 24 Janice Anderson

Centering Hymn TFWS# 2236

***Gather Us In vs 1***

**Call to Worship**

L: Come, joy, lighten our spirits.

**P: Come, hope, lift us from despair.**

L: Come, peace, ease our frantic worry.

**P: Come, love, shine in all we do.**

L: Come, Jesus, be born in us.

**P: Come, Lord, set us free.**

L: Come, God,

**P: Rule in our hearts and teach us to sing with joy!**

Dr. Derek C. Weber, Director of Preaching Ministries, Discipleship Ministries of the UMC

Opening Hymn UMH #234

***O Come, All Ye Faithful 1, 2, 4***

**Advent Reading and Advent Candle Lightening**

Evelyn Jacobson and Deb Rose

**THE BLESSING OF HOME**

[Micah 5:2-5a](#) & [Luke 1:39-45](#)

**Reader One:** Sometimes when we are trying something new, or when we are facing a difficult decision, or when we want to celebrate something, or when we just feel lost and alone and uncertain about life, the universe and everything, we need a blessing. We don’t always think of it that way, or word it like that. We say we need advice, or support, or companions, or someone to come along beside and lift us up again so we can see more than the tops of our shoes. We seek a blessing.

**Reader Two:** For many of us, we go home; we ask mom; we talk to dad, or brothers and sisters, close friends, those we grew up with, those who know us best. We want them alongside; we want to be in their presence. Somehow, we know that being there, being home, will make all things better. Maybe it won’t be fixed, or solved, or wished away, but at least we won’t be alone. We seek a blessing.

**Reader One:** Mary, faced with an incomprehensible burden and gift, ran to Cousin Elizabeth’s house, looking for someone who knew a little of what she was going through, looking for a place to hide until the reality of her condition could become something real. And she received a blessing. The prophet Micah spoke of a blessing coming to an unexpected place, an unassuming town. Yet by God’s grace would become the means through which God would bless the whole world. Bethlehem, the little town of blessing. We seek a blessing.

**Reader Two:** We light these candles, the candle of hope, of peace, of joy and of today, love, as a sign that we know blessing and we know waiting for blessing to be felt and lived. We light these candles as a sign that we still seek a blessing. It’s time to go home.

*Light all four candles in the Advent wreath*

\*Hymn TFWS #2226

***Bind Us Together vs 1***

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

**The Christmas Story Mini Pageant**

(The congregation will sing the FIRST verse of the following songs)

UMH #217 *Away in a Manger*

UMH #227 *The Friendly Beasts*

UMH #240 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

UMH #251 *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

UMH #254 *We Three Kings*

UMH #246 *Joy to the World* vs. 1,2 & 4

**Scripture Reading**

**Micah 5:2-5a**

<sup>5:2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

<sup>5:3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

<sup>5:4</sup> And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth;

<sup>5:5</sup> and he shall be the one of peace.

**Sermon**

**"The Blessing of Home"**

**Rev. Yohan Go**

\*Closing Hymn UMH #251

***Go Tell it on the Mountain* 1,2, 3**

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

Cesar Garcia



**"If you are without a church home, we invite you to join us for Sunday worship at 9:30 a.m. You are always welcome here."**

***Asbury United Methodist Church***

***Pastor***

***Rev. Yohan Go***

***December 19, 2021***