

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 6 Amy Quinn

December 7 Isla Poplar Arnold

December 7 Bob Bradbury

December 7 Grant Horatio Taylor

December 8 Annie Olive Arnold

December 10 Logan Moore

December 11 Barbara Marcoccio

*Centering Hymn: TFWS #2128 ***Come and Find the Quiet Centre vs 1***

Call to Worship

L: O come, O come, Immanuel,

P: And be light for our darkness.

L: Be comfort in our grief,

Be a friend for our loneliness,

P: An oasis for our searching.

L: O come, O come, Immanuel,

P: Restore our joy, heal our wounds, and bring us peace.

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

Opening Hymns: W&S #3003 *How Great Is Our God*

Advent Reading and Advent Candle Lightening

THE FEAR OF HOME

[Malachi 3:1-4](#) & [Luke 3:1-6](#)

Reader One: For many of us, the call to head home is one of joy and of hope. We can’t wait to reconnect with family, with history and tradition, with a wonderful time of freedom and loving support. We can’t wait to go home.

Reader Two: There are those who fear going home, however, and there are times when going home brings back memories that are not so good, not so healing. We are reminded of when we didn’t fit in, when we didn’t measure up, when we weren’t loved like we needed to be loved. Home can be a difficult place for some.

Reader One: The prophet Malachi tells us that even when we are in the hottest of fires, there is a presence who can make us better, who can refine and purify. John the Baptist tells us that the road home is always under construction, mountains leveled, and valleys filled in, to make smooth the path that leads us to our true destination, where we can live in peace and unity with all.

Reader Two: We light these candles, the candle of hope and the candle of peace, as a sign of our assurance that though the road is hard, we believe it is worth the journey. It is time to go home.

Light two candles of 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

Scripture reading

Malachi 3:1-4

3:1 See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight--indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts.

3:2 But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap;

3:3 he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness.

3:4 Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Luke 3:1-6

3:1 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene,

3:2 during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

3:3 He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins,

3:4 as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

3:5 Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth;

3:6 and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

Sermon Prepare the way of the Lord, make his path straight Rev. Yohan Go

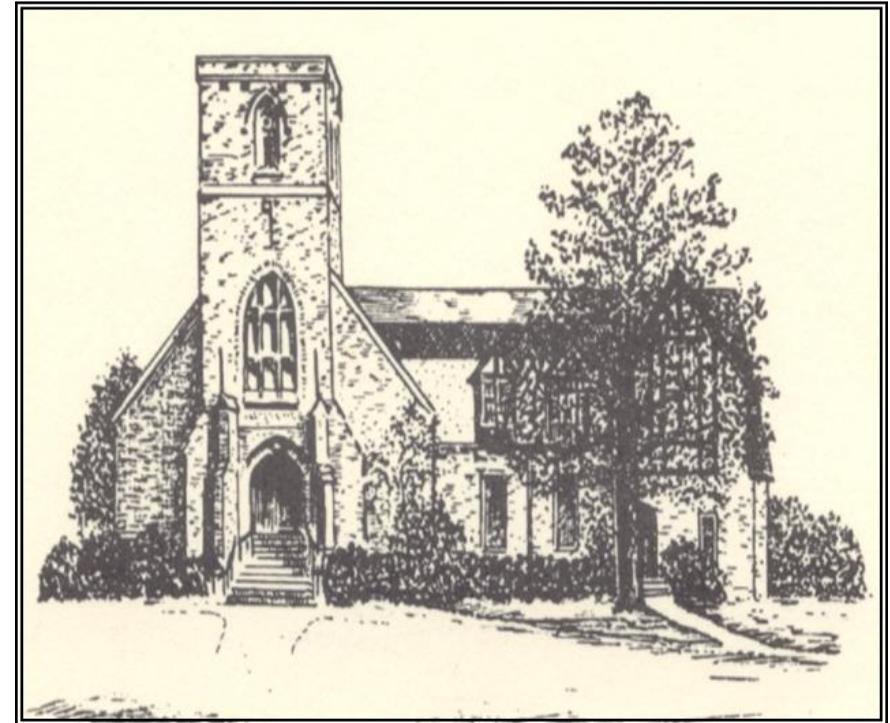
*Hymn TFWS #2226 *Bind Us Together vs 1*

Holy Communion

*Closing Hymn W&S #3149 *A Place at the Table*

*Benediction

*Postlude Sara Boyd



Asbury United Methodist Church

Pastor

Rev. Yohan Go

December 5, 2021