



Asbury United Methodist Church
December 18, 2022 9:30 A.M.
143 Ann Mary Brown Drive
Warwick, RI 02888
(401)467-5122

Pastor
Rev. Yohan Go

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Angels Among Us: #morelove

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. Asbury UMC and Zion KUMC will have a joint Christmas Eve worship service on December 24, at 5 p.m. at Asbury UMC.

December Birthday Celebrations

- 19 Deb Marshall
- 20 Zach Diffley
- 23 Carter Harrell
Jacob Harrell
Dawson David Whitham
- 24 Janice Anderson

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

Pastor: Every week I have given you a mission, “should you choose to accept it.” It is a mission with a message. So I’m inviting you to share our quote #morelove meme for the week from our church Facebook page to your Facebook or other social media We also invite you to pick up extra copies of this and give it to someone today that might need to come to Christmas Eve service to hear the message and see a sign of how Love Wins over fear.

Let us turn toward the Candle of Love
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

Postlude

Threshold Moment

Leader: The sky was brighter than usual that night, making it easier to keep track of the sheep. And then it got *really* bright. You would have thought that all that “glory” shining would have been “the sign.” That’s what most of us look for—great big obvious clues about God’s presence. But instead, the angel says that a baby... a newborn helpless baby in a feeding trough was it—God’s sign that more love is possible for all of us.

Soloist: Alice Pace

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

Together:

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 love this day.

Grant us openness to hear your message.

**Grant us courage to be your messengers in the world,
creating more love 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#220 *"Angels from the Realms of Glory"* vs 1,2,4

Passing the Peace

I invite you to pass the love of Christ with your neighbors,
for each time we connect with one another, love grows.

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading

Luke 2: 1-20

adapted from The Voice translation

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 love and possibility,
we offer these gifts so that they may be transformed into your good
news
for the sake of the world. Amen.

WE GO FORTH

Closing Hymn

The word "Noel" comes from the French word meaning a shout
of joy. But it may have even older roots in the Latin for "news."

Indeed it is the day that we proclaim the news that love has
come to town. May you be humming this all day and into the
night as we celebrate the birth of Jesus this day.

UMH#245 "The First Noel" vs 1, 2, 5

The Mission to the Messengers

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 love 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

Narrator: Around the time of Elizabeth’s amazing pregnancy and John’s birth, the emperor in Rome, Caesar Augustus, required everyone in the Roman Empire to participate in a massive census—the first census since Quirinius had become governor of Syria. Each person had to go to his or her ancestral city to be counted.

Narrator 2: Mary’s fiancé Joseph, from Nazareth in Galilee, had to participate in the census in the same way everyone else did. Because he was a descendant of King David, his ancestral city was Bethlehem, David’s birthplace.

Narrator 3: Mary, who was now late in her pregnancy that the messenger Gabriel had predicted, accompanied Joseph. While in Bethlehem, she went into labor and gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped the baby in a blanket and laid Him in a feeding trough because the inn had no room for them.

Narrator 1: Nearby, in the fields outside of Bethlehem, a group of shepherds were guarding their flocks from predators in the darkness of night. Suddenly a messenger of the Lord stood in front of them, and the darkness was replaced by a glorious light—the shining light of God’s glory. They were terrified!

Messenger: Don’t be afraid! Listen! I bring good news, news of great joy, news that will affect all people everywhere. Today, in the city of David, a Liberator has been born for you! He is the promised Anointed One, the Supreme Authority! This will be a sign for you—you will know you have found Him when you see a baby, wrapped in a blanket, lying in a feeding trough.

The Shepherds: *REALLY!!!? THAT’S the sign?*

Narrator 2: At that moment, the first heavenly messenger was joined by thousands of other messengers—a vast heavenly choir. They praised God.

Heavenly Choir [*in unison*]: To the highest heights of the universe, glory to God! And on earth, peace among all people who bring pleasure to God!

Hymn

UMH#238 Angels We Have Heard on High vs 1, 2, 4

Narrator 3: As soon as the heavenly messengers disappeared into heaven, the shepherds were buzzing with conversation.

Shepherds [*in unison*]: Let's rush down to Bethlehem right now! Let's see what's happening! Let's experience what the Lord has told us about!

Narrator 1: So they ran into town, and eventually they found Mary and Joseph and the baby lying in the feeding trough. After they saw the baby, they spread the story of what they had experienced and what had been said to them about this child.

Narrator 2: Everyone who heard their story couldn't stop thinking about its meaning. Mary, too, pondered all of these events, treasuring each memory in her heart.

Narrator 3: The shepherds returned to their flocks, praising God for all they had seen and heard, and they glorified God for the way the experience had unfolded just as the heavenly messenger had predicted.

Sermon

"More Love!" Rev. Yohan Go

WE RESPOND

Prayers of the People

"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

Leader: In this moment we pray for all those who are in need of love.

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.