

WELCOME

We extend a cordial welcome to each person worshipping with us today. If you need any assistance, please call on our ushers. They would be glad to help you. We hope you will join us in the Social Hall after the service for our Coffee Hour. If you would like to know more about Asbury, please drop by our "Connection Corner" in the Social Hall. We hope you have a meaningful worship experience and will leave Asbury renewed, fulfilled, and challenged!

**The flowers for today's worship service
are given in loving memory of Eric Montford
by Rachel Porter.**



Mission Statement

Asbury Memorial UMC is a place where all people, individually and collectively, develop their spirituality, use their talents, and grow in faith as we become a living example of people who love, serve, and celebrate God, each other, and our community.

Our Tithes and Offerings

Weekly Budget Need - \$11,217.14

Given Last Sunday - \$12,165.78

Year-to-Date Budget Need - \$527,205.58

Year-to-date Received - \$545,082.17

Billy Hester, Senior Minister

Randy Canady, Church Administrator

Claudette DeLong, Office Manager

Candace Jenkins, Connectional Ministries

Christina Kincade, Asst. Youth Director

Ray Ellis, Minister of Music

Laura Angell, Youth Director

Ruthie Deffley, Family Ministries

Ashley Stroud, Children Ministries

Kay Deffley, Organist/Pianist

Asbury Memorial United Methodist Church

1008 East Henry St., Savannah, GA 31401

Phone (912)233-4351; Fax (912) 233-5026

Web Site: www.asburymemorial.org

E-Mail: church@asburymemorial.org

**Asbury Memorial
United Methodist Church
December 3, 2017
11:15 A.M.**



*It's Time for
Otis Redding*

1st Sunday of Advent

WORSHIP SERVICE

PRELUDE Asbury Musicians

ANNOUNCEMENTS Chris Fahey

CHIMES Preparing hearts and minds for worship

SONG OF PREPARATION *Come, O Redeemer Come*

Soloist sings stanzas

Choir & Congregation sing the refrain:

Come, O Redeemer, Come...grant us mercy

Come, O Redeemer, Come...grant us peace

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: This is the Season of Advent...

All: A time for getting ready.

One: Just as we would prepare for a splendid feast,

All: Just as we would prepare for a little child joining our family,

One: Just as we would prepare to give or receive a most precious gift,

All: So let us prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Jesus Christ.

One: Let us praise God for the anticipation of wonderful times to come.

All: Let us praise God together this day!

*HYMN *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* No. 196

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE Omkari & Cate Hill-Williams

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 64:1-9 Cheri Hester
Tim Ethridge & Bonnie Kaar

TITHES & OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY *I Believe* Asbury Choir

*DOXOLOGY No. 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**

SERMON **It's Time for Otis Redding** Rev. Hester

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION see insert

HOLY COMMUNION & CLOTH FOR THE CRADLE

All people are welcomed at God's table. If you would like to receive Communion, please come forward using the center aisle as the ushers assist you. We will partake by intinction, by dipping the bread into the common cup. All of the bread is gluten free.

As you come forward for Communion, you are invited to take a strip of cloth from the Hope Chest. The cloth reminds us of the season of Advent and the coming of the Light of the world. You are invited to wear or keep the cloth with you during the Advent season. On the 4th Sunday of Advent, we will bring our strips forward to be placed as cloth for the cradle. After receiving the cloth and Holy Communion, please feel free to pray at the altar. If you are unable to come forward, please inform an usher. We will be glad to bring the strips of cloth and the Communion elements to you.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING see insert

God of pregnant expectations, God of child-like hope, we have eaten and drunk from your table. May this experience fill us with hope in a world of despair. May we be beacons of hope as we wait for the day when the world will be changed. Grant that this taste of your banquet would give us the hunger for peace in our community and around the world. Amen.

*HYMN *Have Thine Own Way, Lord* No. 382

*BENEDICTION Rev. Hester

*CHORAL RESPONSE *Here I Am, Lord* Congregation

The congregation is invited to "sign" and to "sing" the following:
*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.*

*POSTLUDE Asbury Musicians

*Please stand as you are able.

**Children are invited to attend Children's Church (1st - 6th grades)

***Gifts left at the altar during Communion go to the Emergency Fund.

Holy Communion Liturgy
The Banquet of Hopeful Expectation

The Invitation

One: God's Banquet is coming. The time we await when all will gather from North, East, West, and South.

All: A banquet when all will sit together in peace, "and the wolf will lie down with the lamb."

One: Here at this table, we get a foretaste of God's banquet. This is God's table, not the church's, and so all who seek to follow the Way of love and peace are welcome to eat and drink from it.

**All: Come and taste the grace eternal,
come and see that God is good.**

The Great Thanksgiving

One: God is with us.

All: We are not alone.

One: Christ is present here.

All: The Spirit moves within us.

One: Let us give thanks to God

All: in memory and in hope.

One: Blessings be to you, Creator God,

who in the beginning brought light and life to the world
and who continues to bring love and light everlasting.

**All: Your song of wisdom echoes through the ages,
your ancient promise still brings us hope.**

One: Over the ages you have called people to embrace your hope and share your love. But even when they have closed their ears to the song, you did not stop singing. You sent prophets and messengers to your people, reminding them of the promised time of peace and justice that would surround the world.

All: They came in the midst of our despair and filled us with hope.

One: And then you came to a young woman named Mary, and laid out the promise in a new way.

**All: Promising her a son, who would be called Jesus,
Promising her that in her son the world would be changed.**

One: And now as we prepare for that child to be born, we echo the ancient cry:

All: O come, O come Emmanuel.

The Story Remembered

One: Yet even now, as we prepare to celebrate his birth, we remember the life that this baby will live.

**All: We remember how he broke the bonds of human tradition
To show all what the Banquet of Hope would be as he ate
openly with the despised and the outcast of his world.**

One: And we remember one special meal, foretaste of the banquet that is to come, that he ate with his closest friends.

**All: Gathering them together in an upper room to share the story
of liberation, he prepared them for liberation.**

One: And during the meal, he took bread, blessed and broke it, then passed it to them saying:

**All: Take and eat. This bread is the body of Life, broken by the
world. Eat it in remembrance and in hope.**

One: After that, he took the cup, blessed it, and passed it to them saying:

**All: This cup is the sign of the New Covenant. Whenever you
drink it remember me, for I shall not eat or drink again until
the time of the heavenly banquet.**

One: Remembering the birth of the child in the stable, we remember also his life, his death, and his resurrection.

**All: We remember how he poured his love out on all he met.
We look forward to his return and the coming reign of
peace, love, and justice.**

One: And in our remembering, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again!

The Spirit Transforms

One: Let us pray...

God, you poured your Spirit on Mary and she sang words of boldness and hope. Pour out your Spirit upon us gathered here. As we eat and drink, may we know your presence.

As we eat and drink, may we be opened to the possibilities of your hope and power.

May we be strengthened in our time of waiting for peace and justice so that we will have the courage to make the Christmas promise a reality.

And the people of God, said,

All: Amen.