

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!

**We thank those of you who gave Poinsettias
in honor or in memory of Loved Ones for the worship service.
Please see the list of names on the insert of today's bulletin.**



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 - \$5,440.27

Year-to-Date Budget Need - \$549,639.86

Year-to-date Received - \$563,647.52

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

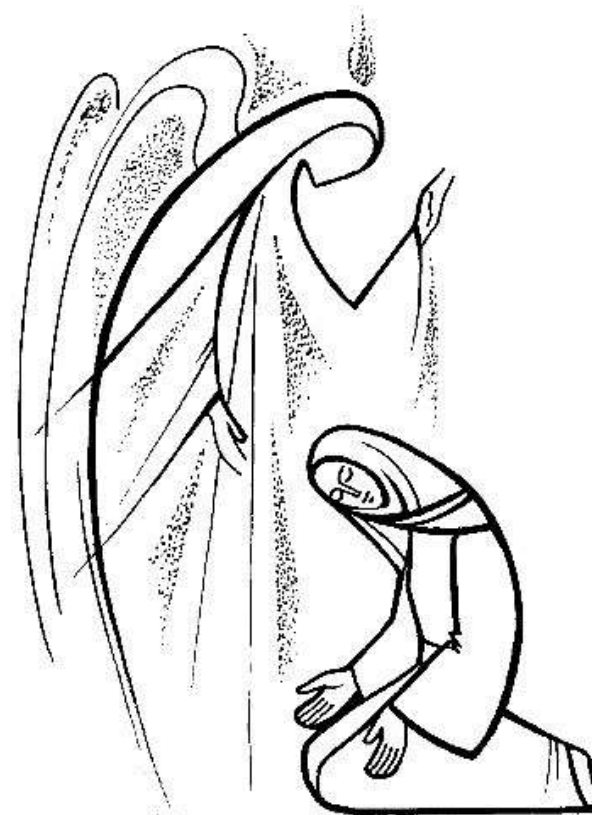
1008 East Henry St., Savannah, GA 31401

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

Web Site: www.asburymemorial.org

E-Mail: church@asburymemorial.org

**Asbury Memorial
United Methodist Church
December 17, 2017
11:15 A.M.**



*Joy Wrapped in
Strange Packages*

3rd Sunday of Advent

WORSHIP SERVICE

PRELUDE Asbury Musicians

ANNOUNCEMENTS Kathy Hodges

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 Adapted from Isaiah 35

One: When God's Anointed One comes,

**All: the desert will rejoice,
and flowers will bloom in the wasteland.**

One: When God's Anointed One comes,

**All: tired hands will receive new strength,
and fearful ones will find fresh courage.**

One: When God's Anointed One comes,

All: the lame will leap and dance, the blind will see.

One: When God's Anointed One comes,

All: the grieving and sorrowing will be forever free.

*HYMN *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* No. 213

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Eric, Melissa, Maddie, & Will Gratias

BAPTISM Merritt Woodhull Dixon VI No. 44

son of Lauren Moore Dixon & Merritt Woodhull Dixon V

HYMN *Merritt, Merritt, God Claims You* see insert

SCRIPTURE Luke 1:26-38 Susan Bolinger

One: For the Word of God in scripture and story,

for the Word of God among us,

for the Word of God within us,

All: We give thanks.

*HYMN *Mary Gladly Told Her Cousin* see insert
**

SERMON **Joy Wrapped in Strange Packages** Rev. Hester

TITHES & OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY *Name Him Jesus* 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 Rev. Jan Durham

One: To Mary, unsure and unprepared, came the call to serve her God.

**All: Keep us open, O God, to your call, wherever, and whenever
it may come to us.**

One: To Mary, came the call to leave the tried and tested ways
behind and to venture out.

**All: Keep us alert, O God, to the need to tread unfamiliar
pathways, knowing you will go with us.**

One: Help us, O God, as we struggle to find and do your will.

**All: In our offering, we accept the reality that without
gifts shared, talents used, and time made available,
Christ's work cannot be done. And we accept the reality
that through our giving, joy will be realized. Amen.**

*HYMN *Forth in Thy Name, O Lord* No. 438

*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)

Mary Gladly Told Her Cousin

("Once in Royal David's City")

Mary gladly told her cousin,
"Praise the Lord! My spirit sings!"
Young and humble, she'd been chosen!
God was surely changing things!
God of love, her words ring true
as we sing her prayer to you:

"Now my soul is gladly singing
at the greatness of the Lord.
I rejoice, for God is bringing
His salvation to the world.
All who live will say I'm blest
even in my lowliness.

"God is mighty, just and holy,
and he's done great things for me.
Those who fear him know the mercy
that God gives us endlessly.
Mighty ones are brought down low;
Lowly ones find blessings flow.

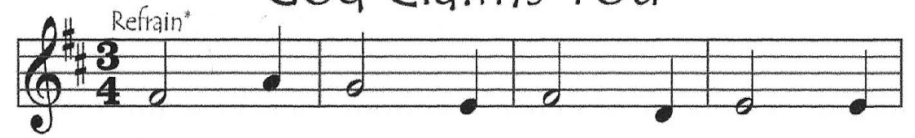
"God has filled the poor and hungry,
and he's sent the rich away.
God is active here in history,
in a real and wondrous way.
God has promised, and I'm blessed,
for I know God's faithfulness."



A Baptism Hymn for Merritt Woodhull Dixon VI

Sunday, December 17, 2017
Asbury Memorial United Methodist Church
Savannah, Georgia

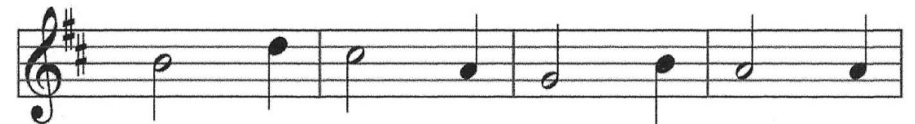
God Claims You



Mer - ritt, Mer - ritt, God claims you. God



helps you, pro- tects you, and loves you, too.



1. We this day do all a - gree a
- *** 2. We your fam - ily love you so, we
3. We are here to say this day that
4. And, if you should tire or cry, then



child of God you'll al - ways be.
vow to help your faith to grow.
we will help you on your way.
we will sing this lul - la - by.



*Poinsettias
Have Been Placed on the
Asbury Memorial Altar*



Given By

In Memory of

DiAnne and Roger Amerson	Rudy and Howard Wrenn Hubert Amerson Susie Amerson Bunger
Laura Armitage	Greg Nolan, Frank Samford, Virginia Samford, Laura Pitts, Bonnie Sue Fields
Jona, Jeri, Layla, Dawn, Claire, Willie & Wayne	Denzel French
Deborah G. Bowen	Family and Friends
Linda Burton	Elizabeth and Jack Butler Bessie and John Costello Pauline and Jack Costello
Joan Hester Byrd	Wendell, Manton, Robert (Butch) and Sue and Bob Hester
Joan Hester Byrd & family	Gladys, Anson, Rubye and George Graham and Phil Hunter
Randy Canady and Ray Ellis	Rose and Bob Canady Roy Ellis
Fay Carroll	Ralph K. Anderson
Carol Chambers	Tom and Harriett Chambers Ellen Chambers and Bob Randolph
The Ciccodicola Family	Parents and grandparents; Camilla and Liborio Ciccodicola
Eva Ciccodicola	Helene Cody, Daniel Fasano and Brian Hillman
Aaron Dalton	Glen Dalton
Phil and Suzanne Devlin	Our fathers, Robert L. Brown and John R. Devlin
Janet Dixon	Loved ones
Helen Downing	Ned Downing Yank and "T" Dean, Yank Dean IV, Schaeffer Dean, Milton Dean
Mike Flatt	Duce and Alice Flatt Joe and Ag Reis
Anne Hagan	Gerry Hagan
Cindy and Curtis Hanks	Grandparents: Emma and Virgil Jackson Martha and Bill Cramer
Cliff Harley and Tommy Schafer	Cliff's sister- Christy H. Cook
Jim and Jennifer Hausch	Janice Gantt and Mary Lee Gantt
Emerson Hendrix	Henry Hendrix



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Asbury Memorial Altar*



Given By

In Memory of

Bette Hunter	Phillip H. Hunter, Sr.
Candace, Chris, Abigail and Robbie Jenkins	Sara, Bob and Rob Carlyle Homer Jenkins
Susan Karlson and Alan Kindler	Claire Karlson and Betty Herbst
Carol Klein	Anthony Lee and Jay Sanders
Ernie Lee	Ruth Ellen Lee Margaret Burris, Emma Lee
Laura and George Lindsay	Parents, George and Lillian Hunter Lindsay
Jennifer Lindsay	Elizabeth Barrett
Greg Martin	Mother, Barbara Martin
Virginia Moryadas	My two deceased loved husbands
Gloria Moses	Mother, Eva Williamson Rogers Sisters, June Luster and Bobbye Moelich
John Naylor and David Grice	Passed family and friends
Pam Parker Kress	Nichola Parker Coe
Barbara Passino	Thomas F. Passino
Holli and Carolyn Perry	Marcia Miller, beloved mom and grandmom
Kurtis Purtee	William Reud Barbara Conner
Charlie Ribbens and Dian LaRoe	Ed and Betty Ribbens Arthur and Virene Duke
Sam and Barbara Ruggere	Bud Fox and Billy Pippin
Mike and Debra Skinner	Rosanna & Neal Newman, Debra's sister and broth in law Harry and Mabelene Skinner, Mike's parents Daniel and Diane Gunn, Debra's parents
Kimberly Smith	Etta T. Smith
Roberta M. Smith and Judith Kessler	Sophia and Bill McNeill Dr. and Mrs. Fred O. Kessler, Jr.
Jay and Brenda Spencer	Our Parents
Jane Thimme	The McIlveens
Beverly Thompson	Ann Reagin
Kenn Waters and Chuck Long	Lorin Waters



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Given By

In Honor of

Carol Anderson	The remarkable Asbury staff
Randy Canady and Ray Ellis	Delores Ellis Our Asbury family
The Ciccodicola Family	Eva Ciccodicola, Judy Amerson, Landon Westbrook on their December 26 th birthdays
Disciple Group	Helen Downing
Janet Dixon	In honor and gratitude for the gift of baby Merritt Woodhull Dixon VI and his baptism today. In honor and gratitude for the gift of baby Helen Leary Scarborough
Helen Downing	Hester Family, Virginia Holliday, Ray Ellis, Randy Canady, Kay Deffley, Claudette DeLong
Karl and Judy Graham	Virginia Holliday
Kathy and Preston Hodges	Our 19 th Anniversary
Bette Hunter	Steve and Kim Johnson
Candace and Chris Jenkins	Our children, Abigail and Robbie
Ernie Lee	Holland Morgan
Jennifer Lindsay	Ruthie, Ashley, Karen, Margarita and the entire Children's ministry and Nursery team. Thank you!
Greg Martin	Father, Ronny J. Martin
John Naylor and David Grice	Asbury UMC family and friends
Pam Parker Kress	Walter Kress
Pat and Mary Prokop	Music Ministry at AMUMC
Mike and Debra Skinner	Our daughter, Beth
Roberta M. Smith	Judith Kessler
Stephen and Alex Swanger	Mary Alice Garvin
Kenn Waters and Chuck Long	Shirley Long