

## 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 Janice Gantt  
by her family.**



### 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 - \$19,012.00

Year-to-Date Budget Need - \$560,857.00

Year-to-date Received - \$582,659.52

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**

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**Web Site: [www.asburymemorial.org](http://www.asburymemorial.org)**

**E-Mail: [church@asburymemorial.org](mailto:church@asburymemorial.org)**



THE MEMORIES THAT TOUCH US,  
THE MOMENTS THAT WARM US,  
THE GOD WHO LOVES US...

# Christmas

SHINES ITS

*miracle*

IN OUR

*hearts.*

*When they saw him, they worshipped him.*

MATTHEW 28:17

## WORSHIP SERVICE

December 24, 2017  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE Asbury Musicians

ANNOUNCEMENTS Sandy McCloud

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: The reign of God is near.

**All: Show us our shepherd, our shining light,  
the One who will restore all that is broken.**

One: Hear the voice of an angel announcing good news.

**All: We come to worship today with great expectation.**

One: A great secret is about to be told: God is with us!

**All: Glory to God in the highest!**

\*HYMN *Angels We Have Heard on High* No. 238

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Doug, Amy, Sarah, and Sam Povie

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:1-12 Martha Parsons

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.**

SONG *Sweet Little Jesus Boy*  
soloist, Kristen Kelso; dancer, Madeline Kelso

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Rev. Jeanette Purvis

Silence & Reflection

Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Choral Amen

Asbury Choir

## CLOTH FOR THE CRADLE

One: In a spirit of prayer, we are invited to come forward with our strips of cloth we've had throughout Advent to place in the cradle, symbolizing our intention to make a place for the Christ child in our lives. Let us pray:

**All: Here is a place for you, Lord Jesus.**

**Our hands will make it ready.**

**May our hearts be ready to love and welcome you, too.**

**Be born again, not in a manger, but in us.**

**Make us your Bethlehem, where God is personal**

**and all things and all people are made new. Amen.**

\*HYMN *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* No. 229

*Love Came Down at Christmas* No. 242

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SERMON **Do Not Be Afraid** Rev. Hester

### TITHES & OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY *Come to the Stable* 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.

\*HYMN *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing* No. 240

\*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 (1<sup>st</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grades)