



WELCOME!

Asbury United Methodist Church

Open Doors with Loving Hearts

December 14, 2025



CENTERING SONG

“SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT”

[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=WJDK7W5JDLQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WJDK7W5JDLQ)

UMH 334





GATHERING SONG

“IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b5BPsswFtLc>



PRELUDE



WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS





REFLECTION



ADVENT READING

Reader 1: In the midst of our waiting and longing for God to make the world right again, we cling to the truth that God has saved, God is saving, and God will save. So today, we join our voices with the prophet Isaiah, who calls us to live in the joy of the truth of God's salvation.



Congregation: We choose to believe that the day is coming when “the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away” (Isaiah 35:10).



Reader 2: We light this candle of joy as a sign of the Truth that sets us free to live in joy as we wait and work for the day when all creation will flourish together.





CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We gather today in great hope,
longing to see the glory of the Lord, the
majesty of our God.



People: The Almighty has done great
things for us. Holy is God's name.

Leader: May our worship strengthen
our hands, make firm our trembling
knees, and unburden our fearful hearts.

People: The Almighty has done great things for us. Holy is God's name.

Leader: Knowing that God is near, let us be patient with the times and with one another.



People: The Almighty has done great things for us. Holy is God's name.

Leader: To all who ask about our hope,
let us tell the good news of what we
have seen and heard.



All: The Almighty has done great
things for us. Holy is God's name.



OPENING SONG

“GIVE THANKS”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8N96xxwudfg>





OPENING PRAYER

**Joyful and patient God, you
break into our Advent busyness
with your extravagant promise
of glory and joy. Fire up our
imaginations with holy trust in
your goodness. Inspire us with
a patience that sees beyond our**

**habitual longing for past glories
and understandings. Move us
beyond our too familiar criticisms
of one another and of ourselves.
Open our eyes and help us see
your compassion, already at work
in our world: healing, restoring,
strengthening, and telling the
good news that you are near.**

**Make us signs of your everlasting
joy for your people and for all the
world We pray in the name of
Jesus, whose nearness we
proclaim. Amen.**



“MARY DID YOU KNOW”

<https://youtu.be/MLMPHEbeieo?list=RDYHFoT4-tI8g>

By Jubilant Sykes

https://youtu.be/hKitPY_Gc4s?list=RDYHFoT4-tI8g *By Gaither Vocal Band



ASBURY UMC CHOIR

“GENTLE MARY LAID HER CHILD”

https://youtu.be/f2_MtFGHonM?list=RDf2_MtFGHonM





PRAISING GOD WITH OUR GIFTS

OPEN DOORS WITH LOVING HEARTS



“DOXOLOGY”

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

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Amen.





“CHILDREN’S MESSAGE”



PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.



SCRIPTURE

“JAMES 5: 7–10”



7 Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. 8 You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. 9 Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing

at the door! 10 Brothers and sisters,
as an example of patience in the
face of suffering, take the prophets
who spoke in the name of the Lord.



WHILE I'M
Waiting...



**“God is Watching
While You’re Waiting!”**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Advent God, we yearn to rejoice, as we tell of Jesus coming into our world. We long to see your promise of mercy, justice, and restoration, fulfilled for all people everywhere. In our yearning, we discover that our hands are weak, our knees are feeble, and our hearts are full of fear. Stuck in old stories and remembered

glories, we grow critical of one another and of ourselves. We even wonder whether Jesus is near. Then our desire to rejoice sputters in frustration and impatience. Restore us, yearned-for God. for your joy is not our accomplishment, but your gift. Set us on the Holy Way of Advent, forgiven, strengthened, and healed, rejoicing in your glory and majesty. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Advent People of God, as those ransomed by the Lord, walk the Holy Way, where no traveler goes astray. Come, rejoicing and singing, knowing that sorrow and sighing shall flee and that God's everlasting joy shall surround and hold you. Amen.



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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**

**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, and the power and
the glory forever. Amen.**



“O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL”

<https://youtu.be/swulk2ZnQHI?list=RDswulk2ZnQHI>



BENEDICTION



May God, who makes the desert blossom, fill you with the joy of God's glory and majesty. May Jesus, who brings good news to all people, fill you with the joy of patience, as you await the coming of the Lord. May the Holy Spirit, who keeps God's promises of mercy and justice, fill you with the joy of hope, as you walk the Holy Way of Advent. Amen.





564 Threefold Amen

Walter Henry Hall (1862-1935)

A-men, A-men, A - - - men.

CARRYING OUR LIGHT INTO THE WORLD!

