AUGUST 2, 2020 • 11 AM

ALL ARE WELCOME AT ASBURY FIRST. PLEASE JOIN US IN CELEBRATING OUR 200TH ANNIVERSARY!
Welcome to Asbury First

FIRST TIME HERE  We are so glad you are joining us! If you’re out there watching, check in through the website or take a picture and post it on social media using #asburyfirstathome. Our hope is to get to know you better and help you find your place within our community. Additionally, drop us an email at info@asburyfirst.org and we will answer any questions you may have.

NEED PRAYER?  We invite you to share with us how we can be praying for you by emailing prayers@asburyfirst.org. All prayer requests are prayed over by our Ministers and Intercessory Prayer Group.

CHILDREN  We believe children are a sacred gift. We will have a segment during our live stream for Children’s Time. We will also be holding a special Zoom meeting (https://zoom.us/j/8347173468) with Paula and Holly on Wednesdays at 11:30 am to keep connected. If there is a way our children’s ministry can be more welcoming to you and your child, please contact Paula Dugan at pdugan@asburyfirst.org.

RECONCILING STATEMENT  We are a reconciling congregation and seek to be a fully inclusive church, believing that all people are God’s children. We encourage full participation in our community for all, regardless of age, race, origin, gender, gender identity/expression, sexual orientation, marital status, family structure, education/economic background, and physical/mental ability. We recognize that we hold a variety of opinions. We do not seek to erase our differences, but to journey together in faith toward greater understanding and mutual respect. We believe that reconciliation to God and to one another is central to our mission and ministry.

GIVE TO ASBURY FIRST  There are three ways to make a gift to Asbury First. Each gift supports the everyday ministries and operations of this church, allowing us to live into our vision to Do More Good. Cash/Check—We welcome you to send a gift of cash/check in the mail. Text to Give—You may give a gift with a debit/credit card by texting the dollar amount to 206-222-1050. Online—Online giving is available on our website at www.asburyfirst.org/give.

WATCH AND LISTEN  Tune into the live video stream of the 11 am service at www.asburyfirst.org/worship/live. To listen to the service tune into WRFZ 106.3 FM Rochester Free Radio, or call our toll-free number at 833-829-1050. A video archive of past services is also available at www.asburyfirst.org/worship/video-archive. You can also view all sermons on our YouTube channel.
THE COMMUNITY GATHERS
As the community gathers, may the music of the prelude draw your hearts and minds to God.

Prelude

Fantasy on “In Babilone” — arr. Richard Williamson
Variations on “Come, Christians, Join to Sing” — arr. Lois Hill

Welcome

Call to Worship

All are invited to read the bold-faced type; the lay reader will read the unbolded type.

Come, all who are weary.
Christ strengthens us with love and grace.
Mighty God, pour out your power and strength on us.
Grant us the nourishment we need to receive your word.
In this strength, we can do all things.
We are here, ready to receive God’s blessings.
#116 “The God of Abraham Praise” (vv. 1–2, 4)

Words: From The Yigdal of Daniel ben Judah, ca. 1400; Tune: Leoni, Hebrew melody
**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Come to us, Holy One, even in our times of resistance.  
**Even as we wrestle with doubt and despair, work within us and through us.**  
Even in our darkest hours, enlighten and guide us.  
**Even when we hide from your presence, call us by name and bless us.**

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**SILENT CONFESSION**

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**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Hear the good news: God’s strength is enough, and Christ’s forgiveness is sure. By grace, we are blessed, loved, and made whole.  
**In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.**

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**GLORIA**

**HYMNAL #102, TUNE: “NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD”**

All glory be to God, all praise and thanks be given;  
Whose Son and Spirit reign as one in highest Heaven;  
Our one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore;  
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

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**TO HEAR THE WORD**

**SCRIPTURE**

**GENESIS 32:22-31**

The same night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob’s hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, “Let me go, for the day is breaking.” But Jacob said, “I will not let you go, unless you bless me.” So he said to him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Jacob.” Then the man said, “You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed.” Then Jacob asked him, “Please tell me your name.” But he said, “Why is it that you ask my name?” And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, “For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved.” The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.
**Worship 11 am**

**Anthem**

"Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown" — William Bradley Roberts; words by Charles Wesley, 1742

Come, O thou Traveler unknown, who still I hold, but cannot see; my company before is gone, and I am left alone with thee. With thee all night I mean to stay, and wrestle till the break of day;

I need not tell thee who I am, my misery and sin declare; thyself has called me by my name, look on my hands and read it there. But who, I ask thee, who art thou? Tell me thy name, and tell me now.

Yield to me now, for I am weak, but confident in self-despair; speak to my heart, in blessing speak, be conquered by my instant prayer. Speak, or thou never hence shalt move, and tell me if thy name is Love.

‘Tis Love! ‘tis Love! Thou didstst for me, I hear thy whisper in my heart. The morning breaks, the shadows flee, pure, Universal Love thou art. Thy mercies never shall remove; thy nature and thy name is Love.

**Children’s Time**

Children of all ages are invited to join us in this special moment.

**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.**
**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.**
#341 "I Sought the Lord"

1. I sought the Lord, and afterward I knew he moved my soul to seek him, seeking me. It was not I that sank not on the storm-vexed sea. 'Twas not so much that but my answer, Lord, to thee! For thou wert long been found, O Savior true; no, I was found of thee. I on thee took hold, as thou, dear Lord, on me. forehand with my soul; alwaysthou lovèdst me.

2. Thou didst reach forth thy hand and mine enfold; I walked and soul to seek him, seeking me. It was not I that sank not on the storm-vexed sea. 'Twas not so much that but my answer, Lord, to thee! For thou wert long been found, O Savior true; no, I was found of thee. I on thee took hold, as thou, dear Lord, on me. forehand with my soul; alwaysthou lovèdst me.

Words: Anon, ca. 1890; Tune: Peace, George W. Chadwick, 1890

SERMON

The Struggles

PASTORAL PRAYER
Our Creative God endows us with the gifts of time, talent, and treasure. Within this bulletin you will find invitations to enrich your faith journey and enhance your commitment. We invite you to prayerfully consider these opportunities. If you’re out there watching, check in through the website or take a picture and post it on social media using #asburyfirstathome. You may give a gift with a debit/credit card or by e-check by texting the dollar amount to 206-222-1050. Online giving is available on our website at www.asburyfirst.org/give.

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah” — John Purifoy; words by William Williams, 1742

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land. I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy powerful hand. Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more. I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy powerful hand.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow; let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through. Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield. Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside; bear me through the swelling current, land me safe on Canaan’s side. Songs of praises, songs of praises, I will ever give to thee. Bear me through the swelling current, land me safe on Canaan’s side.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Receive the gifts of our hands, O God, that they may be signs of your love and grace for a divided world. Fill the world with your mercy, Holy One, and make us faithful ambassadors of your reign. Amen.
#672 “God Be With You Till We Meet Again” (vv. 1-2)

1. God be with you till we meet again; by his counsels guide, uphold you, with his sheep securely fold you;
   fold you; God be with you till we meet again.

2. God be with you till we meet again; neath his wings securely hide you, dailly manna still provide you;
   vide you; God be with you till we meet again.

Refrain
Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet (till we meet, till we meet a-gain)
meet at Jesus’ feet; (till we meet) till we meet, (till we meet,
till we meet, till we meet a-gain) God be with you till we meet a-gain.

Words: Jeremiah Rankin, 1880; tune: God Be With You, William Tomer, 1880
**Worship 11 am**

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

“Go Forth in Faith” — Franklin Ritter

**Participants In the Service**

- Preacher: Rev. Dr. Stephen Cady
- Liturgist: Rev. Jackie Nelson
- Director of Children’s Ministry: Paula Dugan
- Organist: Duane Prill
- Soloists: Bess Phillips, Susan Huppé, Dan McInerney, Jordan Bachmann
- Director of Music Ministry: Dr. Carl Johengen
- Audio Operator: Rick Church
- Video Operator: Kenny Bailey
- Technical Consultant: Justin Ocello


*Some of the liturgical elements have been adapted from the 2020 Abingdon Worship Annual.*

*Illustration Credits: Designed by Sarah Brubaker and Freepik, and Sarah Brubaker and Vecteezy.*
BICENTENNIAL TRIVIA

In June 1896, the cornerstone of the new First Church chapel was laid. What was the box made of that contained Methodist publications, newspapers, maps, and Mrs. Lattimore’s “Letter to Posterity”?

From last week: In 1831 the church building at the corner of West Main and Fitzhugh Streets was completed. What was its national claim to fame at that time? A: At 80 x 104 feet, it was believed to be the largest United Methodist Church at that time.

VIRTUAL MEETINGS

Check out our online Zoom meetings! There are plenty of different groups and meetings to join during the stay-at-home restrictions. From Zoom with Miss Paula and Holly to Guided Meditations, or Bicentennial Bible Challenge meetings and Sunday morning lessons, there is plenty of variety. For a full list of events, and clickable links, visit www.asburyfirst.org/events.

HOW TO JOIN A ZOOM MEETING

Follow the link: zoom.us/j/8347173468 for the main meetings, and us02web.zoom.us/j/338565981 for “Changing Weighs,” and us02web.zoom.us/j/86857108916?pwd=aHF4TEppZERJSXZo2mFxUHgrQ1hjd209 for the Sunday morning Zoom with Paula and Holly.

When you open the link, you should get some pop-ups asking questions like:

1. Do you want to open and run the program Zoom?
2. Do you want to connect with your computer audio?
3. Do you want to connect with your computer video?

Click yes to any and all of these prompts. Once you have clicked through these prompts, you should be able to see yourself on your computer screen, and you should be able to see the rest of the group that is also logged on.

If any group would like to utilize our discipleship Zoom account to take their meetings online, please contact Rev. Mike Mullin at mmullin@asburyfirst.org.
If you’re watching at home, make sure to take a picture and post it with the tag #asburyfirstathome. Here are a few more posts and submitted pictures from last week.

Beth Woolever

Dick Butler and his “lemon”

John and Susie Shafer

We are connected more than we think! Here are some numbers from last week that show our global reach.

VIEWERS WATCHING

DEVICES WATCHING: 627

WHICH EQUALS APPROXIMATELY: 1,300 PEOPLE WATCHING TOGETHER

JULY 26 MARKS THE 20TH WEEK IN A ROW OF LIVE-STREAM ONLY WORSHIP FROM MARCH 15 TO JULY 26, THERE HAVE BEEN A TOTAL OF 17,338 UNIQUE DEVICES WATCHING LIVE ON SUNDAYS THAT MAKES AN AVERAGE OF 1907 VIEWERS PER WEEK

VIEWERS CONNECTING

205 LIVE STREAM CHECK-INS

40 TEXT CHECK-INS

2 SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

GIVE ONLINE AT WWW.ASBURYFIRST.ORG/GIVE, TEXT TO GIVE AT 206-222-1050, OR MAIL IN YOUR CHECKS TO 1050 EAST AVENUE, ROCHESTER, NY 14607