

Christmas Eve

LESSONS, CAROLS, &
CANDLELIGHT SERVICES



ASBURY FIRST
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

4 PM

Welcome to Asbury First



FIRST TIME HERE?

We are so glad you are here! We invite you to sign the red tablet at the end of the pew at some point during the service. Our hope is to get to know you better and help you find your place within our community. After the service, our ministers will be available at all exits and in the Gathering Center, ready to greet you and answer any questions you may have.



CHILDREN

We believe children are a sacred gift, and they are welcome in our worship. We recognize children can grow restless during worship—nursery and childcare is available for all services before 9pm should you choose. Please see an usher for more details.



NEED PRAYER?

Prayer Request cards are in the pew racks. We invite you to share with us how we can be praying for you by completing a Prayer Request card and adding it to the plate during the offertory. All prayer requests are prayed over by our ministers and Intercessory Prayer Group.



RECONCILING STATEMENT

We seek to be a fully inclusive church, believing that all people are God's children, created in God's image, loved and blessed equally by God. We are a reconciling congregation, which means we extend hospitality and encourage full participation of all, regardless of age, race, national origin, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, marital status or family structure, education or economic background, and physical or 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 this Christmas to Asbury First! Each gift supports the everyday ministries and operations of this church. This season, we are so grateful to each person for each dollar given to support our vision to Do More Good.

Cash/Check—We welcome you to place a gift of cash/check in the offering plate as it is passed.

Text to Give—You may give a gift with a debit/credit card by texting the dollar amount to 585-378-4126.

Online—Online giving is available on our website at www.asburyfirst.org

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE

DECEMBER 24, 2018 - 4 PM

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

PRELUDE "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"—arr. Gordon Young
"He is Born, The Divine Christ Child"—arr. Douglas Wagner
"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"—arr. John Leavitt
"What Child is This?"—arr. Dorothy Wells
Toccata on "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"—Donald Hustad
"In Dulci Jubilo"—arr. Noel Rawsthorne
"Adeste Fidelis"—arr. Noel Rawsthorne

GREETING

INTROIT "What Child Is This?"—traditional English Carol

*CALL TO WORSHIP *All are invited to read aloud the **bold-faced** type;
a liturgist will read the unbolded type.*

Do not be afraid; for see –
I am bringing you good news of great joy.
**To us is born this day in the city of David
a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.**
This will be a sign for you:
you will find a child wrapped in cloth
and lying in a manger.
**Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth, peace!**

*PROCESSIONAL
HYMN

#234 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

Refrain: O come, let us adore him. O come, let us adore him.
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal,
lo, he shuns not the Virgin's womb;
Son of the Father, begotten, not created; *Refrain.*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest; *Refrain.*

Yea, Lord we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; *Refrain.*

LIGHTING OF THE
ADVENT CANDLES

We have prepared the way of the Lord,
lighting candles of hope, peace, love, and joy.
As their light shines on this holy night,
we gather to celebrate the newborn Christ come to dwell among us.
The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.

(Lighting of the Advent candles)

The light of Christ is surely coming.
Glory to God in the highest! And on earth, peace.

*GLORIA

#238 "Gloria" (Refrain from "Angels We Have Heard on High")

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

SCENE 1 *Isaiah Foretells the Coming of the Messiah*
ISAIAH 11:1-3

CAROL #207 "Prepare the Way of the Lord" (*Sung twice*)

**Prepare the way of the Lord, prepare the way of the Lord,
and all people will see the salvation of our God.**

SCENE 2 *The Angel Gabriel Appears to Mary*
LUKE 1:30-48

SCENE 3 *Joseph and Mary Travel to Bethlehem*
LUKE 2:1-5

CAROL #230 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;
above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!**

SCENE 4 *Baby Jesus is Born*
LUKE 2:6-7

CAROL #217 "Away in a Manger"

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

SCENE 5 *Shepherds in the Fields*
LUKE 2:8

CAROL #245 "The First Noel"

The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

SCENE 6 *The Angel of the Lord Speaks to the Shepherds*
LUKE 2:9-11

CAROL #238 "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain: Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing.
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King *Refrain*

SCENE 7 *The Shepherds Go to See Jesus*
LUKE 2:15

CAROL #228 "He is Born"

Refrain: He is born, the holy Child,
play the oboe and bagpipes merrily!
He is born, the holy Child,
sing we all of the Savior mild!

Thru long ages of the past, prophets have foretold his coming;
thru long ages of the past, now the time has come at last! *Refrain.*

Jesus, Lord of all the world, coming as a child among us,
Jesus, Lord of all the world, grant to us thy heavenly peace. *Refrain.*

SCENE 8 *The Wisemen Arrive in Jerusalem*
MATTHEW 2:1-12

CAROL #254 "We Three Kings"

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

Refrain: O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading,
still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies. *Refrain.*

SCENE 9 *Good News*
LUKE 2:9-12

*CAROL #240 “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

Cast only:

Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with th’angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Refrain: Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

Congregation stands and joins:

**Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th’incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. *Refrain.***

**Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. *Refrain.***

CHILDREN'S TIME

CAROL #224 “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: News, news! Jesus Christ is born today!
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today, Christ is born today!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: News, news! Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven’s door, and ye are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this!**

INVITATION TO
GIFT GIVING

OFFERTORY “December Lullaby”—Mary Donnelly and George Strid

ENTRANCE OF THE
CHRIST CANDLE

PASSING THE
LIGHT OF CHRIST
AMONG US

*As the acolytes “pass” the Light of Christ,
you are invited to activate the light on your candle.*

CAROL #239 “Silent Night”

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child,
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love’s pure light;
radiant beams from thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

SENDING FORTH

*RECESSIONAL
HYMN

#246 “Joy to the World”

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

POSTLUDE Flourish on “Joy to the World”—Michael Dell

PARTICIPANTS
IN THE SERVICE

Pastors: Rev. Dr. Stephen Cady, Rev. Kathy Thiel, Rev. Mike Mullin,
Rev. Jacqueline Nelson
Organist: David Strong
Director of Children’s Ministry: Paula Dugan
Director of Children’s Music: Holly Temming
Director of Youth Music: Carol Lamica
Violinists: Sophia Temming, Quentin Newcomb, Alex Guffey
Pianist: Ben Nutter
Candle Lighters: Erin and Hans Thurston, Benjamin, Elizabeth, and Aiden Carlson
Narrators: Cameron Araya, Griffin Allen, Gillian Allen, Ben Carlson, Joscelyn
Crawford, Ethan Hildreth, Penelope Palmer, Charlotte Stinehour
Isaiah: Charlie Cady
Gabriel: Lilly Pimm
Mary: Audrey Nelson
Joseph: Ryan Shaffer
Registrar: Lilly Seiffert
Roman Soldiers: Cody Chandler, William Nescio
Herod: Noah Dennison
Scribe: Bennet Marsiglio
Innkeeper: Eloise Stinehour
Angel of the Lord: Anne Nutter
Star: Aiden Cantu, Gloria Douglass, Riley Parent, Addison Thompson
Wisemen: Alex Dys, Jack Giordano, Nathan Shaffer
Lead Shepherd: Max Becks
Shepherds: Sebastian Bailey, Ethan Becks, Zachary Dennison, Violet Douglass,
Amiri Lantum, Madiba Lantum, Ben Leader, Caleb Mullin, Jacob Parkes, Kevin
Thompson
Lead Angel: Elizabeth Carlson
Angels: Summer Araya, Hannah Cady, Madison Cantu, Nora Carroll-Nellenbeck,
Alison Cooper, Lea Hakiel, Anna Henderson, Julia Henderson, Ainsley Jacus,
Caroline Leader, Ellie Malik, Poppy Marsiglio, Jennelise Mellon, Maelee
McQuillan, Rosie Nescio, James Nutter, Madden Parent, River Quinn, Antonio
Reyes, Xander Towsley
Acolytes: Finn Mahan, Sophie Seiffert
Crucifer: Spencer Anderson
Audio Operator: Carolyn Curran
Video Operator: Trevor Nelson

Love. Live. Serve. Repeat.

Jesus said, "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." (John 10:10b)

Just as the Christian faith is about bringing life to the world, Asbury First is about bringing life to this community. We believe the only way to the fullness of life promised by Jesus Christ is through love—love of God and love of neighbor. Through love, we find life. In a love-filled life, we are led to serve others. Through service to others, we find love fully expressed. Our mission at Asbury First is to love God and neighbor, to live fully, to serve all, and then to do it all again.

**Please join us as we live out our mission—we may not be a perfect place,
but we are more perfect together than we are apart!**

NEW YEAR! NEW YOU!

Looking for a spiritual reboot? 2019 is an opportunity for a fresh start. What does this new year hold for you? Starting Sunday, January 13, at 9:45 am, come experience a four week (excluding 1/27) journey of fellowship and self-discovery as we grow with God and each other. Interested? Contact Emily Cady at emilycady@gmail.com.

BECOME A MEMBER

This January, we will host two opportunities for anyone interested in becoming a member of Asbury First. The Sunday class will be at 9:45-10:45 am (1/20, 1/27, 2/3) and the Wednesday class will be at 6:30-8 pm (1/23, 1/30). All new members will join on February 10. Interested? Contact Melody Guadagnino at mguadagnino@asburyfirst.org.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our Outreach programs offer food, clothing, medical care, and household goods to anyone in need every day of the week. And our programs are always in need of volunteers! For more information about volunteering, contact the Rev. Jackie Nelson at jnelson@asburyfirst.org.

AMERKS GAME

Nothing says winter like ice hockey! Come and join us for an Asbury First night at the Amerks on Friday evening, February 8, at 7 pm at the Blue Cross Arena. To reserve your ticket, please contact Melody Guadagnino at mguadagnino@asburyfirst.org.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

In addition to our weekly children's programming, we offer two different Vacation Bible School (VBS) opportunities throughout the year. In 2019, our winter VBS runs February 19-21 and our summer VBS runs August 5-8 and is open to all children aged 4 years old through 5th grade. For more information or to enroll contact Paula Dugan at pdugan@asburyfirst.org.



BETTER TOGETHER

Jesus was born into poverty. So are 51.9% of children in Rochester.
We are trying to do something about it and we need your help.



40,000

MEALS
SERVED



6,000

FAMILIES
CLOTHED



600

PEOPLE RECEIVING
MEDICAL CARE



1,000

PACKED/DELIVERED
GROCERY BAGS



590

AMAZING
VOLUNTEERS



30,900

SERVICE
HOURS

We accomplished a lot this year—all for one purpose:
to love God and love our neighbor as ourselves.

Statistics help to tell a story, but not the full one. Behind every statistic is a real person, with real needs in real time. For 198 years, Asbury First has been responding in love to those needs. As the demand for clothing, food, and basic medical attention has grown, however, our current facilities are no longer adequate.

Next year we hope to begin converting one of our three campus buildings into a newly renovated and accessible Outreach Center. This will allow us to centralize services, share resources, and put the needs of our guests first. It also marks a shift of our focus to a more holistic approach to caring for the needs of our guests.

Our goal is to break ground in the fall of 2019 so that we can dedicate the new Outreach Center on our 200th Anniversary in 2020. We need your help to meet that goal. To learn more about the project or to see how you can help, visit our website at asburyfirst.org/bettertogether.