

Christmas Eve

LESSONS, CAROLS, &
CANDLELIGHT SERVICES



ASBURY FIRST
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

7 & 11 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 - 7 & 11 PM

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

PRELUDE Fantasia on "In Dulci Jubilo"—J.S. Bach
"In Dulci Jubilo"—Marcel Dupre'
"How Brightly Shines the Morning Star"—Paul Manz
"It Came Upon A Midnight Clear"—Richard Purvis
"What Shall We Give to the Son of Mary?"—Jackie O'Neill
"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"—Wayne Kerr
"Toccata on "Antioch"—Craig Phillips
"Gesu Bambino" - Pietro Yon
"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"—arr. DeWalt (7 PM)
"Fum, Fum, Fum"—arr. Patricia A. Sanders (11 PM)
"O Holy Night"—Adolphe Adam

*PROCESSIONAL #234 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"
CAROL

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.*

WELCOME We ask that you sign and pass the red "ritual of friendship" pad from the center aisle down the pew.

LIGHTING OF
THE ADVENT
CANDLES

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

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.

ANTHEM “December Lullaby”—Mary Donnelly and George Strid
7 PM

ANTHEM “O Come, Little Children”—arr. Kenneth Lowenberg
11 PM

TO HEAR THE CHRISTMAS STORY

THE
ANNUNCIATION
LUKE 1:26-35

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, ‘Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.’ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.’ Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I am a virgin?’ The angel said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.’

ANTHEM “Balulalow” (from Ceremony of Carols)—Benjamin Britten

THE MAGNIFICAT
LUKE 1:46-55

And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

ANTHEM "As Dew in Aprille (As Dew in April)" and "This Little Babe" (from Ceremony of Carols)—Benjamin Britten

THE BIRTH
LUKE 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

*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.*

**They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. *Refrain.***

THE SHEPHERD
LUKE 2:8-20

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!' When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

CAROL #240 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

**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!"*

**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.***

CHRISTMAS
MESSAGE The Inn Crowd

MEDITATION "Gabriel's Oboe" (from *The Mission*)—Ennio Morricone, arr. Mark McGurty

CHRISTMAS
PRAYER

OFFERTORY "All My Heart This Night Rejoices", German chorale—arr. Trevor Manor

PRESENTATION OF
CHRIST CANDLE

SHARING OF
CHRIST'S LIGHT

"Christmas Night", French carol—arr. John Rutter

We share with one another the light from the Christ candle. To receive the light, tilt your unlit candle towards a lit candle. Then turn and share the light of Christ with those around you.

CAROL #239 "Silent Night, Holy 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!**

CHRISTMAS
GREETING

TO DISPERSE IN MISSION

*RECESSIONAL
CAROL

#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.**

(continued on next page)

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 "Chorale/Joy to the World"—Healy Willan/Michael Bedford

PARTICIPANTS
IN THE SERVICE

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Stephen Cady
Liturgists: The Rev. Kathy Thiel, The Rev. Mike Mullin, The Rev. Jacqueline Nelson;
The Rev. Dr. Timothy Johnson (7 pm)
Organist: Duane Prill
Oboist: Terry Fonda Smith
Harpist: Grace Wong
Cellist: Brian Donat
Director, Sanctuary Choir: Dr. Carl Johengen
Director, Youth Choir and Youth Bell Choir: Carol Lamica (7 pm)
Director, Asbury Ringers: Elizabeth Church (11 pm)
Soloist: Elizabeth Phillips, soprano
Acolytes: Ellie Cady, Georgia Ross, Ella Ross, Katie Rice, Owen Cole, Jack Dugan (7
pm); Maddie White, Keegan White, Ben Conrow, Alyona Krymskaia, Alex Hunt,
Andrew Hunt (11 pm)
Crucifers: Spencer Anderson (7 pm); Evan Alaimo (11 pm)
Candle Lighters: Peter, Tess, Sam, and Zeke Doerner (7 pm), The Chan Family (11
pm)
Audio Operators: Jonathan Alaimo (7 pm), Connor Nelson (11 pm)
Video Operators: Victoria Slattery (7 pm), Jake Schwartz (11 pm)

Values

Our values represent a description of our guiding principles. These statements are standards of behavior, which are inherent in all we do.

OPEN TO ALL

We believe we are all equal in God's eyes and all are one in Christ. We extend hospitality and encourage full participation for all regardless of any perceived defining characteristic.

WORSHIP

We believe we are at our best when we connect to God together through preaching, prayer, and song. We strive for excellence in all we do, especially in our worship experience.

COMMUNITY

We believe we are better together; fellowship and care are keys to love and life.

OUTREACH

We believe everyone deserves hope and fullness of life. We endeavor to practice mercy and work for justice in our local and extended community.

DISCIPLESHIP

We believe we—adults, youth, and children alike—are called to grow in our faith both as a community and individuals through education, regular worship, meaningful fellowship, a commitment to service, and celebrating rites of passage together.

GENEROSITY

We believe what we have is a gift from God. We share our gifts with an open heart to help meet needs at Asbury First, the Rochester community, and throughout the world.

STEWARDSHIP

We believe we must care for the human, physical, and financial resources with which we have been entrusted.

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.