

WELCOME!

We extend a cordial welcome to each person who comes to worship today. We are especially pleased to welcome visitors to Asbury. Our ushers and greeters will assist you in any way possible. If you are in need of childcare, our ushers would be glad to direct you to our nursery which is on the first floor in the Education Building.

If you are visiting with us or wish to be placed on our mailing list, please fill out a "Welcome Visitor" card and place it in the offering plate. If you would like to receive news via e-mail, please include your e-mail address.

If you have questions, members of our Welcome Team would be glad to assist you. Following the service, please join us in the Social Hall for refreshments and fellowship. We hope you have a meaningful worship experience and will leave Asbury renewed, fulfilled, and challenged!

The flowers for today's service were given by Sherry Moore in memory of Denise Hurt.



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.

Rev. Billy Hester, Minister

Claudette DeLong, Office Manager

Phil Grimes, General Maintenance Tech.

Ray Ellis, Minister of Music

Debbie Wright, Youth Minister

Kelli Horton, Organist/Pianist

Asbury Memorial United Methodist Church

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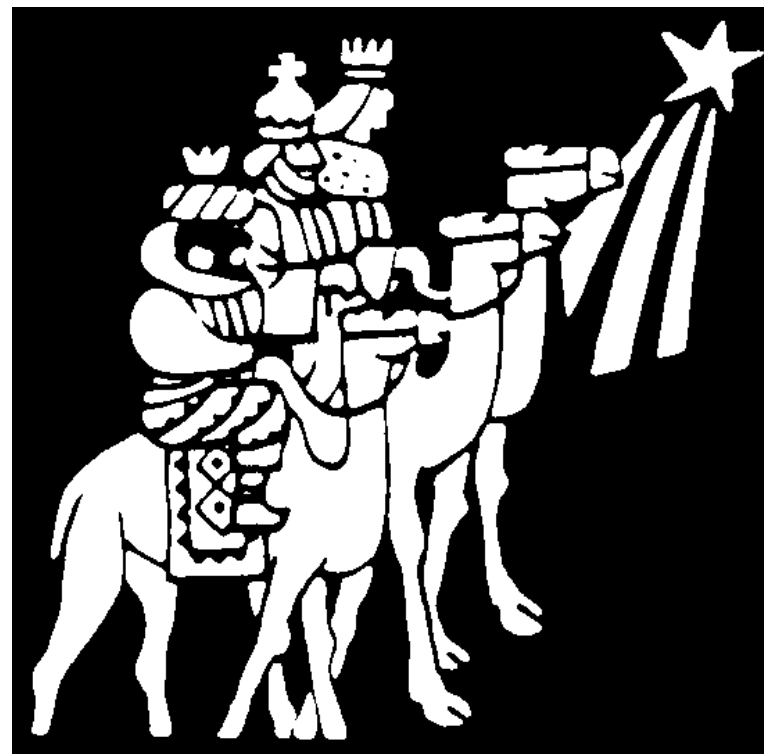
Web Site: www.asburymemorial.org

E-Mail: asburymumc@yahoo.com

Asbury Memorial UMC

January 3, 2010

11:15 A.M.



Epiphany Sunday

THE WAY OF THE WISE

WORSHIP SERVICE

Epiphany Sunday
January 3, 2010

Welcome to Asbury Memorial. In order for people to have the best worship experience possible, please turn off cell phones, watches, and anything else that beeps, chimes, or rings. Thank you!

CHIMES Preparing hearts and minds for worship 11:15 a.m.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE Choir & Congregation
Dona nobis pacem, pacem. Dona nobis pacem
Grant us peace. Grant us peace. Grant us peace on earth, grant us peace.
Dona nobis pacem, pacem. Dona nobis pacem

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: A star shining brightly in the east;

All: discovered by those who have eyes to see the unusual and the challenging.

One: A journey into unknown territory;

All: taken by those who have courage and curiosity.

One: The Holy One recognized in spite of humble origins;

All: Let us worship God.

*HYMN *Angels from the Realms of Glory* No. 220

SCRIPTURE Psalm 121 Gwyn Yarbrough

HYMN *Abide With Me* see insert

SILENT PRAYER & PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Billy Hester

LORD'S PRAYER All

**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 for ever.**

CHORAL RESPONSE Choir & Congregation

**Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still if thou abide with me. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chris Fahey

SCRIPTURE Matthew 2:1-12 Gwyn Yarbrough

*HYMN *We Three Kings* No. 254

Soloists: Greg Martin, Pat Prokop, Danny Beam

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SERMON **The Way of the Wise** Rev. Hester

HOLY COMMUNION see insert

OFFERTORY *Christ Is Born* 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.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION Janet Wagner

Guiding God,

As we bring gifts worthy of the Christ,

help us to go forth committed to a journey of faith.

Bless us on the road we have chosen to seek your star.

Light up our minds with your truth that lets us ignore the

bad-news-Herods,

and keep us going toward that certain glow in the sky of our lives.

Then, we too shall be known by you as wise men and wise women.

We pray in Christ's name. Amen.

*HYMN *The First Noel* No. 245

*BENEDICTION Rev. Hester

*TAKING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

The congregation is invited to "sign" and to "sing":

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

* Those who are able, please stand.

** Children are invited to Children's Church (K-3rd & 4th-6th grades)

Holy Communion

Abide With Me

Words by Henry Francis Lyle; Music by William Henry Monk

Choir:

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide;
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me.

Choir & Congregation:

**Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see—
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.**

Choir:

I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless

Congregation:

Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.

Choir:

Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?

Congregation:

I triumph still if thou abide with me.

All:

I triumph still if thou abide with me.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give thanks and praise.

One: We give you thanks and praise, O God,
because you are forever working to draw us close to you.

In order to better connect with us,

You created a unique moment in time.

You used the stars of your creation and imagination
to mark the tiny village of Bethlehem

as the birthplace of a new relationship with us.

In the itchy straws of our humble reality,

You come to us in human form as a small, defenseless child.

And so, with all your people on earth and in heaven,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn;

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

One: Blessed is Jesus Christ, whom you have sent to us, O God.

The Magi followed his star to pay him homage.

The apostles heard his call and followed him.

The crowds ate his bread and received his healing.

Wise people everywhere live by his teachings.

On the night in which he gave himself up, he took bread,
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples,
and said, "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup,

gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Drink from this, all of you;

This is my blood of the new covenant,

poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus,

we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and

living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,

as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died;

Christ has risen;

Christ will come again.