**Asbury United Methodist Church**

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Worship Leader: Lee Arnold Chancel: Lee Arnold

\* Please rise in body or in spirit

# “Dwelling”

# Sunday after Christmas

**Prelude** "Angels We Have Heard on High" Hanna Noh

**Greetings and Announcements**

**We Open the Door**

*(Threshold Moment)*

*“Hope Waits for Us at Advent”*

*Leader:* Developed in the 14th century, the word “dwell” became known as a “lingering” or “abiding.” It had connections to “in-habit”–another word developed at that time. After an Advent/Christmas season of focusing on housing the holy, how will we linger and abide in this habit of hospitality? What habits did you invite into your heart in this season that you desire to take with you into the new year? How might we sustain the dwelling places that feed, house, clothe those who need it most?

**Together:**

**Love comes to us at Christmas.**

**Love comes to heal our souls.**

**Love brings an invitation**

**that our hearts might be made whole.**

**As we gather at the stable**

**in the darkness, glad and grateful**

**for the sacred in our midst,**

**for wonder and delight,**

**Christ is born in us this night.**

*Reader(s):*

Today we light the Christ Candle once again that illumines the Door of Welcome.

May this light shine in our hearts, in our lives, and in our church.

May Christ’s Light awaken us to possibilities and lead us to greater hospitality.

There *IS* room in this Inn, a House for the Holy.

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**The Peace**

The Hope of Christ be with you!

**And also with you!**

As we rise in body or spirit for our opening hymn, I invite you to pass the peace of Christ with those around you (and the people worshiping at home)!

**Opening Hymn/Song**

"Go Tell It on the Mountain" (UMH 251)

**First Reading**

*Colossians 3: 12-17 (NRSV)*

*As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to [Abba God] through him.*

***Choir Anthem*** "Blessed Assurance"

**Second Reading**

*Luke 2: 41-52 (CEB)*

*Each year his parents went to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival. When he was 12 years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to their custom. After the festival was over, they were returning home, but the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem… After three days they found him in the temple. He was sitting among the teachers, listening to them and putting questions to them. Everyone who heard him was amazed by his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were shocked.*

*His mother said, “Child, why have you treated us like this? Listen! Your father and I have been worried. We’ve been looking for you!” Jesus replied, “Why were you looking for me? Didn’t you know that it was necessary for me to be in my Father’s house?” But they didn’t understand what he said to them. Jesus went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. His mother cherished every word in her heart. Jesus matured in wisdom and years, and in favor with God and with people.*

**Sermon** “Dwelling” Rev. Yohan Go

**Prayers of the People**

*“Make of My Heart a Stable”*

***Sung Together***

**Make of my heart a stable,**

**a house for the holy,**

**a warm and sturdy place**

**for [hope] to live and grow.**

In this moment we open the doors of our hearts to honesty before God

about what we’ve done and left undone that created less hope in a hurting world.

Let us breathe out this regret…

 and breathe in the life-giving, for-giving Spirit of God…

and out again with the Peace of Christ…

***Sung Together***

**Make of my life a stable,**

**a house for the holy,**

**a warm and sturdy place**

**for [hope] to live and grow.**

In this moment we open the doors of our lives to the call of the Spirit,

inviting us to become more than we can ask or imagine.

Let us breathe out our fear…

 and breathe in the courage of the Spirit of God…

and out again, with the Peace of Christ…

***Sung Together***

**Make of our church a stable,**

**a house for the holy,**

**a warm and sturdy place**

**for [hope] to live and grow.**

In this moment we open the doors of this church, filling it with

the compassion of Christ for all those who are struggling.

***Sharing Joy and Concerns***

**Pastoral Prayer / Lord’s Prayer**

**Offering / Interlude** "Special music"

**Offering Prayer Rev. Yohan Go**

**Closing Carol**

*Leader:* We end our Advent/Christmas worship series with one last Christmas carol, and this one is truly about Christmas Day. “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” is a medieval carol that would have been used for folk dancing rather than for Mass–a more boisterous praise of the newborn child than was permitted in worship at that time. It was written in Latin and German and the original Latin reveals the heart of this song *[see more about this history:*

“In sweet jubilation
Now sing and be joyful!
The joy of our hearts
Lies in a manger
And shine like the sun
In the lap of his mother
Alpha and Omega (beginning and end)!”

Let us remember that the joy of our hearts lies in the simplest of mangers. May our church be a “lap of the mother” for those who need it most.

***Closing Hymn*** *"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" (UMH 224)*

**Benediction**

May God’s Door of Welcome

swing open in your heart and in your life.

May Christ’s humble first dwelling

remind you of the plenty you already know.

And may the Spirit lead you into

more possibility and hospitality that you can imagine,

making room in The Inn for all.

May it be so for you.

May it be so for us.

May it be so for this church.

Amen.

**Postlude** “The First Noel” Hanna Noh

**Announcements**

1. The worship leader for next Sunday, January 5th is Jan Jones.

2. Warren and Lori would like to express their heartfelt feeling of love and joy when the entire congregation came out to our home to sing Christmas Carols on Sunday December 22nd!! Thank you so much for the everlasting memorie , Love Warren and Lori.

**Birthdays**

December

29th Joann Mancini

30th Jordan Jones

Jan 4th Maryann Williams

**Flowers** *The flowers on the altar this week are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Christine Arnold Alves, her sister, by Lee Arnold and Family.*