

Asbury United Methodist Church

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Worship Leader: Carl Bishop Jr.

Chancel: Barbara Bishop

*Please rise in body or spirit

“Fill My Plans with Purpose”

Week 2

Music for Gathering “You Are My All in All” Hanna Noh

Welcome and Asbury Mission Statement

We are Asbury! Abundantly thankful to God; Saved by Christ’s resurrection; Blessed by God; United by Christ’s love for each of us; Reaching out to our church family and our community; Yearning to tell the Good News to all by being Christ’s voice, hands, and feet in the world.

Announcements

A Call to Plenty

Leader: We continue our worship series on the economy of Jesus. Six stone jars in which water was turned to wine at the beginning of his ministry was a sign and symbol of the transformation of the community into abundant life. But this takes understanding our purpose—not as those who simply take care of “our own,” but those who especially are called to alleviate suffering in this world, bringing the kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven. Today we hear Jesus lay out his purposeful plans clearly—the fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy of freedom for the oppressed.

“Abundance” (sing refrain only)

**God s abundance is for all,
no one is left outside,
kin-dom come, all people one
in trust and love abide.**

L: In this world of striving,

P: we feel the yearn to earn.

L: The world measures our worth in those earnings.

P: But Jesus had different ideas.

L: Where they sought answers to life’s uncertainties,

P: he showed us how to live into God’s calling with conviction and integrity.

L: When we feel our own resources are lacking,

P: we can view our lives and practices again from the economy of Jesus.

Let us pray:

God of Purpose and Prophetic Hope,
we come to you today, having made space on our calendars
to seek your wisdom and clarity for our lives.
In the midst of our discernment, remind us of your plans for us:
plans for goodness and not harm, plans overflowing with hope for the future.
Show us the actions we can take to ensure this hopeful future for all people. Amen.

Opening Hymn UMH 405 – “Seek Ye First”

The Peace

Leader: Just as our worth as humans is not dependent on the bottom line of our bank accounts, our relationships are not dependent upon the earning of favors and the limitations of *quid pro quo.*” The peace of Christ has no limits, and we get more just by giving it. So may jar-fulls of peace be with you today.

***People:* And also with you.**

Leader: You are invited to pass the *plethora of peace*” among you, remembering to pass it to those joining us remotely.

Choir Anthem “How Great Thou Art”

Gospel Lesson

Luke 4: 14-21

Reader: Word is getting out since the wedding incident that this man Jesus is something else.” Now he goes to his hometown synagogue and is asked to read from the holy scriptures. This is a scroll that he likely read from as he grew from child to adult. He knows it well. He unrolls the scroll and reveals to us a succinct outline of his purpose and the Spirit-anointed plans. In the economy of Jesus, there is Good News for those who need it most. Hear this Word from the 4th chapter of Luke:

Then Jesus, in the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding region. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.” And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him.

Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

This is a Word of God reminding us that we can never out-spend
the purpose which fills us with passion and clarity.

Thanks be to God.

Songs of Illumination UMH#454 Open My Eyes, That I May See vs1
Open my eyes that I may see / glimpses of truth thou hast for me.
Place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Sermon "Fill My Life with Purpose" Rev. Yohan Go

Prayers of the People

UMH 389 "Freely, Freely" vs 1

Leader: In the economy of Jesus, we are purposeful with our investments. Rather than maximizing returns, we focus on maximizing goodness in the world. We share from our abundance with those in need, seeking out the people and places in this community in need of support that we can gratefully provide.

Sing Together:

**Freely, freely you have received,
freely, freely give.**

**Go in my name, and because you believe,
others will know that I live.**

Leader: Each week of this series we will be focusing on naming gifts of abundance we have received in the week, instances where we have seen the abundance of Christ at work in the world, and we will ask for the wisdom and strength to change so that abundance is more available to all. During the pause between these petitions, you are invited to reflect on your observations and give thanks to God.

In this pause, O God, we ponder the many gifts you have given us.
Our gratitude seems never enough for the plenty you provide.
We call to mind the gifts of creation, of relationships, of sustenance.

[pause]

In this pause, Christ Jesus, we ponder the ways your love is still at work in the world.
Our awe and wonder at the goodness of others is profound.
We call to mind acts of kindness, generosity, and selflessness.

[pause]

In this pause, Holy Spirit, we come asking you for strength.
The temptation to live by the economics of not-enough is so strong in us.
We ask for revelation in our thinking and doing,
so that we might live with purpose in our plans.

[pause]

Loving God, Christ Jesus, Holy Spirit,
we are yours.

We bring to you now the concerns of our day, of our communities,
knowing that already you are present, already you are working to bring about comfort
and healing.

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer Rev. Yohan Go

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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Freely, freely you have received,
freely, freely give.
Go in my name, and because you believe,
others will know that I live.**

Offering and Offering Prayer "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" - Frank Rose

Closing Hymn UMH 593 - Here I Am, Lord vs.1,3

Benediction

The jars are full in the Kin-dom of God.
The plans are full of the purpose we need
and the purpose we are called to embody in the world.

We are transformed in the economy of Jesus,
bearing the witness of dividends of grace.
We have heard the call to invest our interest
in the transformation of our communities.

And so we go, doing likewise in the world,
with the help of God,

the guidance of Jesus,
and the power of the Holy Spirit.
Now and forever. Amen.

Postlude “Blessed Assurance” Hanna Noh

Announcements

1. The worship leader for Sunday, February 2nd is Alice Pace
2. As you know, many people have been affected by wildfires in LA. Please keep them in your prayers. If you'd like to support them, UMCOR offers a way to help. Please see the insert for more details about UMCOR.
3. **New Member Orientation Class:** The class will be held on February 9th and 16th from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., immediately following the worship service. If you are interested, please fill out the registration form and submit it to the pastor or the church office.
4. **Save the date for Asbury's next event at Top Golf in Cranston.** Enjoy a breakfast buffet and 2-hrs of simulated golf activities. This fun-filled gathering is great for anyone who loves group activity and laughs. You don't have to know how to play golf. All levels welcome from those who like mini golf to those dying to brush off their clubs for 18 holes. If interested, you **MUST** sign up by Feb 16th by contacting Andrea (401-207-8017) or signing up at church. We have a Prospective date March 1st 10a-1p.
5. **Asbury Church Council Meeting:** The meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 28th at 7 p.m. via Zoom.
6. **Warren Cole's Funeral information:** Calling hours Friday, January 31st 4-7 pm at Barrett & Cotter Funeral Home, 1328 Warwick Avenue 02888. Church Service will be held at Asbury UMC on Saturday, February 1st at 11am followed immediately by a reception. Interment will be private.

Birthdays

26th Marge Brindle

Flowers

The flowers on the altar this week are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Charles and Beatrice Corey, their grandparents, by Carolyn Whitney and Marion Lightsey.

The flowers on the altar this week are given to the glory of God and to honor Virginia Goins Segar and Judy Simbron on their Birthdays, by Diane, Steve, & Greg with love.