

Asbury Memorial United Methodist Church

October 31, 2021

23rd Sunday After Pentecost



www.asburymethodist.org

Reconciling Statement

of Asbury Memorial United Methodist Church
Asheville, NC

This committed congregation of The United Methodist Church welcomes people of every race, nationality, age, sex, socio-economic status, ability, marital status or family structure, sexual orientation, gender identity, previous or no faith experience, and those of differing viewpoints. And, we are working to move The United Methodist Church as a whole to do the same.

Order of Worship

Ringling of the Bell

Prelude & Lighting of the Candles

“Sicilienne” Op. 78- G. Faure
Tom and Marti Dushak, Classical Guitar/Flute

Ringling of The Church Bell

Choral Introit

“Spirit of the Living God”

Welcome & Announcements

Call To Worship

On our pilgrimage of faith, in a changing and uncertain world –

we do not walk alone: the Lord is with us.

We remember all those who taught us faith –

the cloud of witnesses whose example burns bright in our memory.

God of grace, by whose love the world exists –

show us your face once again and reveal to us your glory.

❖Opening Hymn #156

“I Love to Tell the Story”

Reception of New Member

Alexa La Pierre

Pastor: Community and members of Asbury Memorial,
Alexa has stated a desire to join our community of faith and become a member within the body.
She will be transferring her membership here and so will you join me in receiving, supporting, and welcoming her.

Alexa, as a member of this congregation,
Will you faithfully participate in its ministries
by your prayers, your presence,
your gifts, your service, and your witness?

Alexa: I will.

Pastor: Members of the household of God,
I commend Alexa to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase their faith,
confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

The congregation responds:

**We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love.
As members together with you in the body of Christ
and in this congregation of the United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant
faithfully to participate
in the ministries of the Church
by our prayers, our presence,
our gifts, our service, and our witness,
that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.**

Pastor: The God of all grace,
who has called us to eternal glory in Christ,
establish you and strengthen you
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
that you may live in grace and peace. Amen.

Anthem

“Swing Low, Sweet Chariot”

Recognition of Saints

Frank Burke
Jo Eller
Ray Hardee
Carol Hood
Jeff McVay
Susie Norris

❖Hymn of Reflection #723

“Shall We Gather at the River”

Prayers of The People & The 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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offering

“What Wondrous Love is This”
Flute/ Classical Guitar

❖Doxology

♪Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Sharing The Peace of Christ & Bread Tin Offering

*Please place special offering in bread tin at the front of the sanctuary.
October offerings support UNICEF.
See announcements for more details.*

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13 (NLT)

3 For everything there is a season,
a time for every activity under heaven.
2 A time to be born and a time to die.
A time to plant and a time to harvest.
3 A time to kill and a time to heal.
A time to tear down and a time to build up.
4 A time to cry and a time to laugh.
A time to grieve and a time to dance.
5 A time to scatter stones and a time to gather stones.
A time to embrace and a time to turn away.
6 A time to search and a time to quit searching.
A time to keep and a time to throw away.
7 A time to tear and a time to mend.
A time to be quiet and a time to speak.
8 A time to love and a time to hate.
A time for war and a time for peace.

9 What do people really get for all their hard work? **10** I have seen the burden God has placed on us all. **11** Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God’s work from beginning to end. **12** So I concluded there is nothing better than to be happy and enjoy ourselves as long as we can. **13** And people should eat and drink and enjoy the fruits of their labor, for these are gifts from God.

Sermon

Witness

Closing Meditation

Following the sermon, we will end our service with an opportunity for you to come and light a candle in memory of a witness that has impacted your life. You are encouraged to take your time, pray, reflect, and be fully present as you light the candle. Music will be played throughout this time. You are dismissed and free to exit at your own pace.

❖ *The congregation stands, as able.*

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