

## Asbury United Methodist Church

Our vision is to passionately serve in the world because God so loved the world.  
First Sunday of Christmas – December 31, 2017 – Liturgical Color: White/Gold

### Sermon Series: “The Light of Bethlehem Shines On!”

November 26, 2017 – January 7, 2018

### GOD’S PEOPLE ASSEMBLE

Prelude “Fum, Fum, Fum” – Catalan Carol/Arr. M. Hayes  
Greetings, Announcements, and Attendance Registration  
Lighting of the Christ Candle Dot Crosby & Marcia Wiedmeyer  
\* Hymn “I Love to Tell the Story” vs 1,2,3 #156  
\* Unison Prayer (HUGH CAMERON, SCOTLAND, 20<sup>TH</sup> CENT.)  
**Almighty God, in a world of change you placed eternity in our hearts and gave us power to discern good from evil. Grant us sincerity, that we may persistently seek the things that endure, refusing those which perish, and that amid things vanishing and deceptive, we may see the truth steadily, flow the light faithfully, and grow even richer in that love which is the life of all people; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen**  
\*Response “Light of the World” vs 1 #2204

### A TIME OF SHARING AND PRAYING

Passing the Peace of Christ  
Sharing of Joys and Concerns  
Prayer Hymn “Hope of the World” vs 1 #178  
Silent Prayer - Pastoral Prayer - Lord’s Prayer

### READING AND PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

First Scripture Romans 15:7-13

#### Children’s Time

“This Little Light of Mine”

*Children are asked to return to their seats after Children's Time*

Special Music “A Lute Carol” – M. Caldwell Don Mitchem & Ingrid Schneider

Second Scripture Luke 2:17-20

**Response: Thanks be to God!**

Sermon “In the Darkness of Uncertainty, There is the Light of Wonder”

### RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

#### The Gathering and Presenting of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory “Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine” – German Carol/Arr. M. Hayes

\*Response “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” #95 alt rhythm

#### \*Prayer of Dedication

**Almighty God, giver of every good and perfect gift, teach us to render to you all that we have and all that we are, that we may praise you, not with our lips only, but with our whole lives, turning the duties, the sorrows, and the joys of all our days into a living sacrifice to you; through our savior Jesus Christ, Amen.**  
(THE BOOK OF WORSHIP 1965, ALT.)

\*Hymn “O Come, All Ye Faithful” #234

\*Spoken Benediction

Postlude “March of the Three Kings” – French Carol