

## WELCOME

We extend a cordial welcome to each person worshipping with us online. We realize that during this time of separation, it is critical for us to be connected. So please feel free to chat with other worshipers at the start of the service during the prelude and after the service during the postlude. We hope the service will leave you feeling renewed, fulfilled, and challenged. God bless you all!

The flowers for today's service  
are given by Janet Wagner  
in memory of her mother, Miriam L.W. King.



### Mission Statement

Asbury Memorial 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.

### Our Tithes and Offerings

Weekly Budget Need – \$13,830.00

Given Last Sunday – \$19,649.58

Year-to-Date Budget Need – \$539,370.00

Year-to-date Received – \$487,730.09

Billy Hester, Senior Minister  
Claire Marich, Associate Minister  
Candace Jenkins, Connectional Ministries  
Ruthie Deffley, Family Ministries  
Chris Kincade, Youth Director

Ray Ellis, Minister of Music  
Randy Canady, Administrator  
Claudette DeLong, Office Manager  
Kay Deffley, Organist/Pianist  
Beth Tyson, Assistant with Youth

### Asbury Memorial Church

1008 East Henry St., Savannah, GA 31401; Phone (912)233-4351

Web Site: [www.asburymemorial.org](http://www.asburymemorial.org); E-Mail: [church@asburymemorial.org](mailto:church@asburymemorial.org)

Asbury Memorial Church

October 4, 2020

11:15 a.m.

## God On Broadway



## The Phantom of the Opera

### Today's Sermon:

*All I Ask is Wear a Mask,  
But Not the Kind that Destroys One's Mind*

18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

## ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICE

The songs from the musical, *The Phantom of the Opera*, were written by Andrew Lloyd Webber (music) and Charles Hart (lyrics).

PRELUDE *Angel of Music* Kay Deffley, piano

WELCOME Rev. Billy Hester

THE AUCTION Phantom, Christine  
*The Music of the Night* & Asbury Choir  
*The Phantom of the Opera*

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Hester

One: From where we are sheltering in place,  
from where we create sacred spaces,  
from where folks are socially distancing themselves,

**All: we are gathered as God's people,  
called to the Table where brokenness  
nourishes us with simple grace.**

One: From virtual communities from all over the world,  
with families gathered in living spaces,

**All: we are gathered as God's faithful community,  
serving, living, caring wherever we are.**

One: From neighborhoods made up of those  
of every class, every race, every branch of faith,

**All: we are gathered as witnesses to God's hope and peace  
which have not disappeared in every place,  
in every person in this uncertain time.**

HYMN *You are My Hiding Place*  
led by Kathy Waters & Linda Combs

You are my hiding place.  
You always fill my heart with songs of deliverance,  
whenever I am afraid, I will trust in you, I will trust in you.  
Let the weak say, I am strong in the strength of the Lord.  
I will trust in you, I will trust in you.  
Let the weak say, I am strong in the strength of the Lord.  
I will trust in you.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Claire Marich

Silence & Reflection

Intercessory Prayer

One: Lord, in your mercy

**All: Hear our prayer.**

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 for ever.**

**Amen.**

SONG *Masquerade* Asbury Choir  
& Dancers

ANNOUNCEMENTS O.G.

SCRIPTURE Matthew 23:1-9, 23 Danny Lewis

One: For the Word of God in scripture and story, & Frank Ramsey

for the Word of God among us,

for the Word of God within us,

**All: we give**

SERMON **All I Ask is Wear a Mask;** Rev. Hester  
**But Not the Kind that Destroys One's Mind**

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

One: May the Composer of Hope be with you!

**All: And also with you!**

One: Beloved, God has created us to live faithfully in these times.

**All: We lift our hearts to the One who shapes us into communities  
of grace and peace.**

One: Let us sing to God, who takes away our fears.

**All: Let us dance with joy to the Table of peace and hope,  
even if it is the table in our kitchen or living room.**

One: We tremble in these moments of uncertainty, of days that seem endless, wondering if there is any word for us. So, remind us that you spoke into the trembling emptiness of chaos, and your goodness and wonder began all those days and nights when hope raced across the sky, when grace bubbled up from springs, when peace wandered the meadows. All these gifts were, and still are, crafted for those made in your image, even when we grumble in wildernesses or live in the exile of fear and worry, or seek to have our way, not yours. In every moment when your people were alone, afraid, felt abandoned, you sent prophets - women and men, to remind us of your promises and point us to all the ways you continue to love. Even in these months of isolation, even in these days that seem the same, even in these moments we are alone, you are with us, in the life, the promises made known in the Child you sent to point us to the way home to you. So, with those who trembled at the foot of your holy mountain, and with those who press on to follow you, we join our voices in praise to you:

**All: Your Word opens our eyes to all creation.  
Your Word is the sweet taste of joy for empty hearts.  
Your Word helps us to endure through every moment that seems unbearable.  
Blessed is your Word who comes in your name.  
Hosanna in the highest!**

One: In these times when we wonder if anyone really cares about us, he is the One who is your love poured out for us, each of us. In these days when bitter voices would seek to seduce us with anger, he is the gentle voice which calls us to trust in your heart broken for us. In the moments when people seem not to care for the most vulnerable, for those most at risk from this virus, he is the living demonstration that death has no ultimate power but that your resurrecting love is the final word spoken about us. As we would seek to model his gentleness and grace in these overwhelming times, as we try to let his light be revealed in us, we would speak of that mystery we call faith:

**All: Setting aside all he valued,  
Christ became our treasure,**

**so we might know how precious we are to God.  
Setting aside his own life,  
Christ rescued us from all foolishness  
so we might know the One who loves us.  
Setting aside our doubts and fears,  
we yearn for the promised return  
of the grace, love, and hope of Christ.**

One: Now, around table and altars in sacred spaces which echo with silence, around nicked and initialized wooden tables and glass topped tables in homes, we pray, Redeemer of all creation, that you would pour out your Spirit on each and every place, and on each and every person. Whether it is bread that is broken, or crackers that are split apart, may these gifts remind us that it is moments when we least expect, for those people we usually do not notice, that we are called to share your grace, to listen to the lonely, to welcome the heartbroken, and to embrace the vulnerable. Whether it is a cup of tea, a glass of wine or juice, or even a glass of water, may this be your grace poured into us so that we might become people who will not give up on justice, people who will not let go of hope, people who will not hoard life, people who will trust in you always. And when this pandemic comes to an end and we can gather once again with our sisters and brothers around the Table, we will know what your promised Feast in that place, that time, that life beyond this, where all hurtful words are silenced, where all is pain left behind, where hope and grace are our closest friends, and we will join our hearts and voices with our sisters and brothers who forever sing of your glory, God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

**All: Thank you, God, for this opportunity to break bread with believers all around a world. We only wish you were somehow here again to love us, to teach us, to show us.**

One: "But I am here, my child.  
Take and eat, this is my body which is for you; do this remembering me.  
This is the cup of the new covenant; Take and drink, remembering that I am always with you."

## RECEIVING OF ELEMENTS

You are invited to partake of the elements and be in prayer while the song, *Wishing You Were Somehow Here Again*, is sung.

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Rev. Hester

**God of abundance and mercy,  
We give joyful thanks for your eternal love  
and healing presence in our celebration of bread and wine.  
Bless this body of Christ  
that we may attend faithfully to our call to be your servants  
with each other and throughout the world.  
Amen.**

## TITHES & OFFERINGS

### OFFERTORY

*All I Ask of You*

Randy Canady, tenor; Ashley Roper, soprano

## TITHES & OFFERINGS

### DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. All  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Marich

Thank you for all the gifts that are mailed to the church, that are made online through our website, and those given by automatic payment.

## BENEDICTION

Rev. Hester

One: Even in this time of pandemic, we are a blessed people.

**All: We will go to be a blessing in the world.**

One: Even when there are so many angry people around us,  
we are the face of Jesus.

**All: We will go to be love and compassion to all.**

One: Even when we are isolated, quarantined, living in lockdowns,  
we are the family of God.

**All: We will go to serve our sisters and brothers  
wherever we may find them.**

## CHORAL RESPONSE

*Here I Am, Lord*

Congregation

The congregation is invited to "sing" and to "sing" the following:  
*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

*He Never Failed Me Yet*

Kate Jacobson  
& Asbury Choir

JOIN US ONLINE FOR



You can either click on the link provided in the chat  
Or  
if you have used ZOOM, you can simply enter the  
Meeting ID # 3214986081.

# Have a great week!

**Opportunities & Meetings This Week at Asbury**

**MONDAY, September 5th**

1:30 – Seekers of Wisdom Group

**TUESDAY, September 6th**

- 2:00, Staff Meeting

**WEDNESDAY, September 7th**

- 3:00, Interfaith Clergy Talk Show
- 6:00, Wednesday Night Devotion
- 6:30, Youth Group
- 6:30, Choir's Zoom Gathering
- 7:00, Discussion Group – *Life is In the Transitions*

**THURSDAY, October 8th**

- 11:00, Fitness Together: Zoom Workout
- 7:00, Zoom Men's Bible Study

**FRIDAY, October 9th**

**SATURDAY, October 10th**

**SUNDAY, October 11th**

- 10:00, 10 O'clock Hour – *Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts*  
(This is a pre-registered event.)
- 11:15, Online Worship Service – *GOB: A Chorus Line*
- Zoom Coffee Hour (after the worship service)

The links for most of the opportunities listed above are on Asbury's website at [asburymemorial.org](http://asburymemorial.org). Also, you can listen to a recorded message (an Encouraging Word) by members of Asbury 24 hours a day by calling (912)358-0842. We hope that you take advantage of these opportunities to connect and be renewed. Please note that some meetings may not be listed on the weekly calendar.

# Next Sunday....

