



*Sebastian
United Methodist Church*



Rev. John Gill
Christ's Gifts of Love, Peace, Joy and Hope

Music Minister, Megan Mash, MSM

December 20, 2020 ~ 10:00 a.m. Live Stream on Facebook
www.facebook.com/sebastianumc

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Welcome to Worship

Welcome

Pastor John Gill

Opening Voluntary

Still, Still, Still

Handbells

Call to Worship

Light Looked Down

*Light looked down
and saw darkness.*

"I will go there," said Light.

*Peace looked down
and saw war.*

"I will go there," said Peace.

*Love looked down
and saw hatred.*

"I will go there," said Love.

*So he,
the Lord of Light,
the Prince of Peace,
the King of Love,
came down
and crept in
beside us.*

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Mary Lou Rothfuss & Melissa Rothfuss

Christ, your love provides hope in the midst of hate.

Help us spread your love.

Christ, your peace provides hope in the midst of turmoil.

Help us spread your peace.

Christ, your joy provides hope in the midst of sorrow.

Help us spread your joy.

*In the midst of pain,
I choose love.*

*In the midst of pain,
I choose love.*

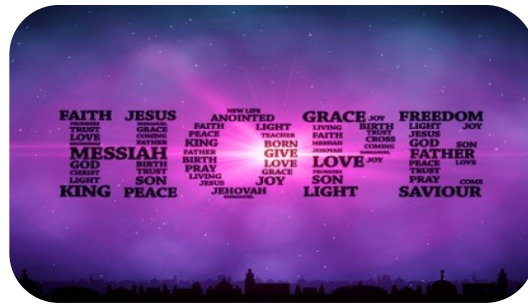
*In the midst of pain,
Sorrow falling down like rain*

I await the sun again

I choose love.

I choose love.

O God, as we light four candles, remind us of your promises during the Advent season. Remind us of the great love you bestow on us each day. May it be reflected in how to treat our neighbors. Remind us of the peace only Christ can give. May it radiate through us to affect change in our world. Remind us of your joy. May it resound in our life to help those who are suffering. Remind us of your hope. May we trust the power of hope to guide us through the darkest nights. We rejoice this day in your steadfast word and promises of companionship through and beyond this journey of life. Amen.



Scripture Reading

Romans 8:18-25

Sue Shepper

Anthem

“Long-Expected Dawn”

Virtual Choir

by Karen Marrolli

*When our hearts are troubled
And in need of light,
And the darkness deepens
'midst the thick'ning night,
We await your coming
As our souls press on
Toward a long expected dawn*

*When our hearts are broken
And in need of balm,
You send your promise,
Your hope and calm.
We await your presence
As we travel on
Toward a long expected dawn.*

*O Light of Hope! Break forth!
Appear and shatter all the darkness here!
O let your advent herald
Clear an end to sorrow and to fear!*

*You come from heaven
To make straight the way,
Birthing hope from sorrow,
Changing night to day.
Lord, walk among us
As we journey on
Toward a long expected dawn.*

***Hymn 211**

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

VENI EMMANUEL

Poem

In December Darkness

Bill Osborne

By Ann Weems

Reflection

Hymn 196

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:26-38

Katie Gowin

Anthem

My Soul Cries Out

Virtual Choir

*My soul cries out with a joyful shout
That the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things
That you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
And my weakness you did not spurn,
So from the east to west shall my name be
blest,
Could the world be about to turn?*

*My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
And the world is about to turn.*

*Though I am small, my God, my all,
You work great things in me,
And your mercy will last from the depths of
the past
To the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame,
And to those who would for you yearn,*

*You will show your might, put the strong to
flight,
For the world is about to turn.*

*From the halls of power to the fortress tower,
Not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears
Every tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more,
For the food they can never earn;
There are tables spread, every mouth be fed,
For the world is about to turn.*

*Though the nations rage from age to age,
We remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard
Is the promise which holds us bound,
Till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
Who is turning the world around.*



Scripture Reading

1 John 4:7-12

Donna Bevington

Anthem

Love Came Down at Christmas
By Howard Helvey

Virtual Choir

*Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, love divine;
Love was born at Christmas:
Star and angels gave the sign.*

*Love shall be our token;
Love be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and neighbor,
Love for plea and gift and sign.*

*Worship we the Godhead,
Love incarnate, love diving;
Worship we our Jesus,
But wherewith for sacred sign?*

Hymn PP

Love Has Come

Poem

Gifts From God

Barb Farrington

By Ann Weems

Reflection

Hymn PP

Come, Now O Prince of Peace



Scripture Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

Bill Messersmith

Anthem

Noel Peace Canon

Virtual Choir

By Ruth Elain Schram

*Dona nobis pacem, pacem.
Bring us peace this Christmas time.*

*The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds
in fields as they lay;*

*In fields where they
Lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night
That was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel.
Born is the King of Israel.*

Hymn 218	It Came Upon a Midnight Clear	CAROL
Poem	This Year By Ann Weems	Diann Flanigan
Reflection		
Hymn PP	“Come, Join in Mary’s Prophet-song” By Adam Tice	KINGSFOLD
Prayer	Child of Bethlehem By Ruth Bowen	

We come before you, Christmas child, in silent amazement.

May we welcome you among us.

Child of Bethlehem,

Hear our prayers.

As Mary welcomed you and rejoiced in God’s holiness and mercy,
we pray for the church as Christmas approaches.

Child of Bethlehem,

Hear our prayers.

As shepherds welcomed you, disturbing their work and lives,
we pray for your disturbing presence in our world.

Child of Bethlehem,

Hear our prayers.

*As Joseph welcomed you, giving you a home and a name,
we pray for all who seek shelter in our community today.*

Child of Bethlehem,

Hear our prayers.

As angels welcomed you, singing of glory and peace,
we pray for all who seek healing and hope.

Child of Bethlehem,

Hear our prayers.

As Simeon welcomed you, recognizing in you his journey’s fulfilment,
we pray for those who have died and for all who love them and miss them.

Child of Bethlehem,

Hear our prayers.

As wise men welcome you, risking a journey and following a star,
we pray that we may take risks in following you.

Child of Bethlehem,

Hear our prayers.

The love of God is in us:

The spirit of joy is with us,

Emmanuel,

Jesus,

now and always. **Amen**



Scripture Reading

Luke 2:8-14

Mary Lou Rothfuss

Anthem

Carol of Joy

Virtual Choir

By Dan Forrest

*Green leaves all fallen, withered and dry;
Brief sunset fading, dim winter sky;
Lengthening shadows, dark closing in;
Then through the stillness, carols begin.*

*O fearful world, to you is the song!
Peace with your God, and pardon for wrong.
Tidings for sinners, burdened and bound,
Carol of joy a Savior is found!*

*O fallen world, to you is the song!
Death holds you fast, and night tarries long.
Jesus is born, your curse to destroy;
Sweet to your ears, a carol of joy!*

*Earth wrapped in sorrow, lift up your, eyes!
Thrill to the chorus filling the skies.
Look up, sadhearted!
Witness God's love;
Join in the carol swelling above!*

*Pale moon ascending,
Solemn and slow;
Cold barren hillside shrouded in snow.
Deep empty valley,
Veiled by the night:
Hear angel music, hopeful and bright.*

*O friendless world, to you is the song!
All heaven's joy to you may belong!
You who are lonely, laden, forlorn:
Now unto you,
Carol of joy,
A Savior is born!*

Poem

Rejoice This Christmas Day

Janelle Stimmel

By Deborah Ann Belka

Reflection

Hymn 246

"Joy to the World"

ANTIOCH

*Benediction

Closing Voluntary

"Joy to the World"

Megan Mash, MSM

By Mark Hayes

This Week

12/20/20	9 am	No In person worship
	10 am	Christmas Cantata Worship Livestream SUMC Facebook
	11:15 am	No in person worship
	3 pm	LOL Youth FH
12/21/20	10 am-2pm	Soul Café FH Meals to go only
	10 am	Barb Farrington Bible Study will be ZOOM only
	2 pm	Lois Planeta small group FH
	4 pm-6 pm	Sanctuary Open House, Come and Go
12/22/20	10 am	Pastor's Bible Study FH & ZOOM Advent Study
12/23/20	1pm—3pm	Church office Open
	1 pm	Ed J Computer group NO meetings until January
12/24/20	9am-11am	Church office Closed
	4 pm	Virtual Christmas Eve SUMC Facebook
	7 pm	Outdoor Christmas Eve
12/27/20	9 am	No In person worship
	10 am	Lessons and Carols Worship Livestream SUMC Facebook
	11:15 am	No in person worship
	3 pm	LOL Youth FH

**Face Coverings Required at SUMC
Social Distancing**

**Thrift Shop is open Monday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday
10 am—2 pm**

There will be no in-person worship on these dates

December 20—Cantata

December 27—Lessons & Carols

Facebook only

www.facebook.com/sebastianumc

Send your prayer concerns and request to

Pastor John Gill

johngillumc@bellsouth.net

Sunday Worship Prayer Concerns

Richard & Sherri Hunter

Lois Planeta

Doris Herrick

Clay Ott

Kraft Family at the passing of Theresa's husband Jim

Dave Caster

Alan Rothfuss

Ann Lefever

Pray for the Homebound & those in Assisted Living

Minnie Hungerford, Janice & Ed Ertel, June Crain, Carmen Wilson, Inez Fielding

Pray for Our Men and Women In the Military

MSgt. David Schumacher (USAF), Airman Blake Greishaw (USAF)

Ongoing Prayer Concerns

Lisa Davis

Ted Armstutz

Yvonne Oleksy

Ed Oleksy

Kevin Snyder

Marlene Kalsch

Jane Hino

Pat Banta

Sam Roper

Ana Castro

Kathi Schwomeyer

Jim Schwomeyer

Dick Rickert

Sheri Peterson

Ray Royall

Mary Jo Barton

Lloyd Thomas

Sean Cousins

Chuck Benjamin

Sima