

# LET HEAVEN AND NATURE SING



# **Sebastian United Methodist Church**

*Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors*

December 22, 2019

## **Welcome to Worship**

**Welcome**

Pastor John Gill

**Scripture Reading**

John 1 and Genesis 1

**Anthem**

"Creator of the Stars of Night"

Creator of the stars of night,  
your people's everlasting light,  
O Christ, redeemer of us all,  
we pray you hear us when we call.

At your great name, O Jesus, now  
all knees must bend, all hearts must bow:  
all things on earth with one accord,  
like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.

When this old world drew on toward night,  
you came; but not in splendor bright,  
not as a monarch, but the child  
of Mary, blameless mother mild.

To God the Father, God the Son,  
and God the Spirit, Three in One,  
praise, honor, might, and glory be  
from age to age eternally.

**Lighting of the Advent Candle**

Susan, Chris and Daniel Green

*Emmanuel!*

**God is with us.**

*As our anticipation grows, help us keep watch.*

**God is with us.**

*Help us keep our lamps trimmed and burning.*

**God is with us.**

*Open our eyes to the newness around us.*

**God is with us.**

*Open our hearts to receive your love.*

**God is with us.**

*Come, O unexpected Jesus,  
as at Bethlehem you came:  
God incarnate, yet an infant,  
shunning earthly might and fame.  
Come, Emmanuel, and through us  
birth the new world you proclaim!*

As we light four candles on the Advent wreath this morning, our anticipation of the birth of the Christ child continues to grow. We have been preparing for the King of Kings and Lord of Lords to replace the darkness with eternal light, to turn our mourning into dancing. Emmanuel! God with is truly with us.

Christ who came as a baby, enter our lives again. Show us your might and power through your gentle love. Transform each of us into your new creation so that this world may shine with your peace and joy. Amen.

**\*Hymn # 203**

**"Hail to the Lord's Anointed"**

ELLACOMBE

**\*Psalter**

Psalm 8

*O Lord, our Lord,*

**How majestic is your name in all the earth!**

*Your glory is chanted above the heavens by the mouth of babes and infants:*

**You have set up a defense against your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger.**

*When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,*

**The moon and the stars which you have established;**

*What are human beings that you are mindful of them,*

**And mortals that you care for them?**

*Yet you have made them little less than God,*

**And crowned them with glory and honor.**

*You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;*

**you have put all things under their feet,**

*all sheep and oxen,*

**and also the beasts of the field,**

*the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,*

**whatever passes along the paths of the seas.**

*O Lord, our Lord,*

**How majestic is your name in all the earth!**

**Anthem**

**"On This Day Earth Shall Ring"**

Choir and Handbells

by Neil Harmon

On this day earth shall ring  
with the song children sing  
to the Lord, Christ our King,  
born to earth to save us;  
him the Father gave us.  
Gloria! Gloria!  
Gloria, Gloria in excelsis Deo!

God's bright star, o'er his head,  
Wise Men three to him led;  
kneel they low by his bed,  
lay their gifts before him,  
praise him and adore him.  
Gloria! Gloria!  
Gloria, Gloria in excelsis Deo!

His the doom, ours the mirth;  
when he came down to earth  
Bethlehem saw his birth;  
shepherds kneel before him,  
praise him and adore him.  
Gloria! Gloria!  
Gloria, Gloria in excelsis Deo!

On this day angels sing;  
with their song earth shall ring,  
praising Christ, heaven's King,  
born on earth to save us;  
peace and love he gave us.  
Gloria! Gloria!  
Gloria, Gloria in excelsis Deo!

*Just when life seems cozy  
and comfortably predictable:  
**Angels appear unexpectedly,  
and point us in directions  
we would not have chosen.***

*Just when we have reached the point  
of comforting assurance in our respectability:  
**Angels appear unexpectedly,  
and pose uncomfortable questions  
we would not have chosen to face.***

*And when we have followed the pointings of angels  
and answered their disquieting questions  
and we feel that things can't get any worse:  
**Angels appear unexpectedly,  
and remind us that 'All shall be well,  
and all shall be well,  
and all manner of things shall be well.'**  
*For the God of love works to good in all who fear Him.*  
**The God of love works to good  
in all who dare to listen for angels.***

**Luke 2:8-15**

*You speak to your people through angels.  
**Keep our ears and hearts open  
to the whispers of angel voices.***  
*Angels come among us  
and many have entertained them unawares.  
**Keep us watchful and waiting  
for the spirit beings in our midst;  
teach us to recognize them  
in all their disguises.***  
*Angels come among us,  
their presence comforting or disquieting.  
**Make us sensitive to their presence,  
feeling them guiding us into the future;  
leading us to heaven,  
where we will see and hear clearly  
what we have glimpsed in shadow.***

<b>Reading</b>	Jesus Is Born	
<b>Anthem</b>	“Angels’ Carol” by John Rutter	Choir
Have you heard the sound of the angel voices Ringing out so sweetly, ringing out so clear? Have you seen the star shining out so brightly As a sign from God that Christ the Lord is here? Have you heard the news that they bring from heaven To the humble shepherds who have waited long? Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo! Hear the angels sing their joyful song.  He is come in peace in the winter’s stillness, Like a gentle snowfall in the gentle night; He is come in joy like the sun at morning Filling all the world with radiance and with light.	He is come in love as the child of Mary; In a simple stable we have seen his birth: Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo! Hear the angels singing ‘Peace on earth.’  He will bring new light to a world in darkness, Like a bright star shining in the skies above; He will bring new hope to the waiting nations When he comes in purity and love. Let the earth rejoice at the Savior’s coming; Let the heavens answer with the joyful morn: Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo! Hear the angels singing ‘Christ is born.’	
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	Isaiah 9:2-6	
<b>Anthem</b>	“Sing We Now of Christmas” arr. Kevin McChesney	Handbells
<b>*Hymn # 219</b>	“What Child Is This”	GREENSLEVES
<b>Reading</b>	The Cross in the Manger by Ann Weems	
<b>Anthem</b>	“In the Silence” by Craig Courtney	Choir, Bliss Carter, oboe
Have you ever, in the silence, wondered at His birth, of how the Son of God was born, a Child upon the earth? Have you ever thought of Him at rest upon the hay, smiling at the faces of the creatures that He made?  Have you ever, in the silence, wondered at the sight of shepherds watching in the fields upon a starlit night? Have you ever thought it strange	they left their sheep and ran to a stall in Bethlehem to kneel before a Lamb?  Have you ever, in the silence, wondered at the thought of how it came to pass the Wise Men chose the gifts they brought? Frankincense for holy ones, and gold for kings, but myrrh? Why a gift for tombs they brought on this, the Savior’s birth.  Have you ever, in the silence?	

## Prayer

### Child of Bethlehem

*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 welcome 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 name,  
we pray for all who seek shelter in our community today.*

*Child of Bethlehem,*

**Hear our prayers.**

*As angels welcome 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 welcomed 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.*

## The Offering

Presentation of God's Tithe, our Offerings, and Prayer Requests  
*(place prayer request cards in the offering plate)*

### Offertory Hymn # 218

"It Came Upon The Midnight Clear"

CAROL

### \*Doxology # 95

## Sharing Prayer Concerns, Congregational Prayer, Lords Prayer

## Anthem

“Ring Out, Ye Bells!”

Choir and Handbells

by Marques L.A. Garrett, Samuel Carlton and Dan Forrest

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Ring out, ye bells!

All Nature swells

With gladness at the wondrous story.

Sing children, sing!

Oh, sing!

Tonight a King hath come

from heaven's high throne to bless us.

The outstretched hand over all

the land is raised in pity to redeem us.

Ring out, the world was lorn,

but Christ is born

to change our sadness into glory.

Come at His call;

Be joyful all;

Away with mourning and with sadness!

The heavenly choir with holy fire  
their voices raise in songs of gladness.

Ring out,

no, be not still,

but with a will

strike all your harps and set them ringing;

Ring out, on hill and heath

let every breath

throw all its power into singing!

Ring out, ye bells!

## Benediction

**\*Hymn # 246**

“Joy to the World”

ANTIOCH

**Closing Voluntary**

“Joy to the World”

arr. Mark Hayes

## Worship Participants

Lead Pastor      Rev. John Gill

Music Minister      Megan Mash, MSM

Media Support      Daniel Green

Rob Messersmith

Ushers

Greeters

Acolytes

Carol & Gary Mortimer

Vicky Hay, Eileen Harding

Floyd & Leigh Standley

Kenny Hulse

Juliette Rich Royall

## Welcome to Sebastian United Methodist Church

We hope that you will feel the warmth of this loving congregation while  
you are here worshiping with us

***Join us for coffee and light refreshments after worship in the Fellowship Hall***

Donations of baked items always welcome, just let the Sunday Morning kitchen team know  
which Sunday you would like to bring your goodies.



## Inquirers' Class

### **Today's "Ministry Focus"** **Three-Week "Inquirers' Class" in January**

Our Church has developed a three-week "Inquirer's Class" for all those curious and wanting to learn more about the Christian faith, the United Methodist Church, and this congregation. This three-session class will be made available every month on the first, second, and third Sundays of every month, and repeated each month. They will take place during our University of Life hour (11:30 p.m. for 45 minutes) and will take place in the Small Group Classroom (south side of the education building). This class is designed especially for those who are not yet members of our church to help answer questions folks might have as they make a decision about joining SUMC, however, members may also find it helpful. The sessions are as follows:

Session #1 (Jan. 5): What It Means to Be a Christian

Session #2 (Jan. 12): What It Means to Be a United Methodist

Session #3 (Jan. 19): What It Means to be a Member of Sebastian UMC

Those not yet members may choose to join on "New Member Sunday," the fourth Sunday of each month (Jan. 26).

If you are interested in learning more about your faith, exploring baptism and/or professing your faith and becoming a member of SUMC, either as a full or affiliate (seasonal) member, join us for these session and/or contact Pastor John at 321-794-0010 or [johngillumc@bellsouth.net](mailto:johngillumc@bellsouth.net).



### **Have You Never Been Baptized?**

**NOTE:** On January 12, in our worship, we will invite everyone to renew their baptismal covenant/vows. That service would also be a perfect time for those who have never been baptized to do so! If you feel the nudging of the Holy Spirit to present yourself for the Sacrament of Baptism, please contact Pastor John! (321-794-0010 or [johngillumc@bellsouth.net](mailto:johngillumc@bellsouth.net))

### **New Pastor's Bible Study – "The Book of Acts"**



Beginning Tuesday, January 7 (10 a.m.), Pastor John will begin leading a study of the Book of Acts, the story of how the Holy Spirit birthed the Church. Bring your Bible and a friend! (We will meet in the Large Classroom on the north side of the Education Building.)

### **Christmas Day Dinner**

**Marsh Landing Restaurant 4:30 p.m.**

Last year members and friends of Sebastian United Methodist Church met for dinner at Marsh Landing. Continuing this festive gathering, the Christmas Day Dinner Group will meet at Marsh Landing and have dinner together. If you would like to attend please call: **Lisa Davis 317-850-4966**







**University of Life**  
**Sunday Education Classes 11:30 -12:15 pm**  
Adult study—Large Class Room  
Children - Children's Class Room



### **A Service of Lessons & Carols**

Sunday Worship 10 a.m.  
December 29, 2019



### **Confirmation Class starts January 5**

**Please pray for our youth**

Confirmation in The United Methodist Church is a time of intentional preparation, it gives teens and tweens the opportunity to reflect on the most basic tenants of our faith and gives them a safe environment to ask questions and grapple with the divine truths and mysteries proclaimed by the church of Jesus Christ. Confirmation helps youth to investigate to depths of the faith and helps them begin to understand what it means to become a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ.



### **Handbell Concert**

**"He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"**

Friday, January 31, 2020, 7:00 p.m.  
At Sebastian United Methodist Church

### **Upcoming Events – December**

- December 22, 10 a.m. Worship, Christmas Cantata
- December 24 Christmas Eve Services
  - 4:00 p.m. with Communion & Music
  - 7:00 p.m. Traditional Candlelight service with Communion, Music & Candle Lighting
- December 25 Merry Christmas Office Closed
- December 29, 10 a.m. A Lessons and Carols Service

## **Remember Them In Prayer**

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

**Ephesians 6:18 ~**

### **Sunday Worship Prayer Requests (three weeks)**

Bob Young, Barbara Price, Eddie Lindsey & Family at his passing, Don Davis, Jeffery Sturgeon, Silky, Sara Rich and family at the passing of her sister, Rosalie Martinez, Alice Huber, Jessica, Blake Greishaw, Families of those killed or wounded from the shooting in Pensacola, Cindy Christstani, Catherine Gray

### **Ongoing Prayers**

Jane Hino, George Schultz, Mary Lou Rothfuss, Al & Jon Ray Conniff, Vic Grabis, Sheri Peterson, Alan Shepper, Ray Royall, Betty Stull, Eugene Whitmore, Jeanette Schumacher, Jacque Crick, Mary Jo Barton, Jim Gallagher, Debi Rodriguez, Lloyd Thomas, Sean Cousins, Pauline Adams, William Hutterman, Harold Banta

### **Pray for the Homebound and those in Assisted Living**

Minnie Hungerford, Nellie Brookens, June Crain, Janice & Ed Ertel, Doris McNutt, Carmen Wilson

### **Pray for Our Men and Women In the Military**

Amn. Justin Tuck, (USN), Major Eric Killoran (Army), Lt. Jeremy Venske (USN), MSgt. David Schumacher (USAF), SPC Nicholas Davis (Army), Pvt Thomas Ferraro (Army), Airman Blake Greishaw (USAF)

*(Please call the office to update.)*



**Monday—** Bible Study 10 am “Bad Girls of the Bible” SGR Will not meet 16, 23, & 30th of Dec.

Lois Planeta Small Group 10 am LCR

**Snow Birds Small Group** will have it's first meeting Tuesday January 14 in the small group room

**Pastor's Bible Study** Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. in the large classroom

**Wednesday Adult Bible Study** 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

**Small Groups and Bible Studies, check with your facilitator if unsure of holiday changes**



In memory of *Ira Mays* from Pat Mays  
In memory of *Roy & Beulah Kinney* from Pat Mays  
In memory of *Clem Scardino* and our *Parents* from Loretta Scardino  
In memory of *C.H. Judah* and *Greg Judah* from Bruce & Dot Judah  
In memory of *Charlie Hino* from Jane Hino  
In memory of *Janet Ortner* from Ed Ortner  
In memory of *Annie & Marwin Meindors* from Lee & Marlene Kalsch  
In memory of *Helen & Frank Kalsch* from Lee & Marlene Kalsch  
In memory of *Glenn Diltz* from Jackque Crick  
In memory of *Gerald & Bea Horner* from Bud & Ginger Horner  
In memory of *Bill & Hazel Baker* from Bud & Ginger Horner  
In memory of *Lynn Bergman* from John & Terri Gill  
To the *Glory of God* from Bill & Kathy Messersmith

*We want to thank all of those who purchased poinsettias to decorate the Church this year.  
We ask that you leave your poinsettias in place until after the Candlelight Evening service on  
December 24, 2019. Merry Christmas!*



*Thank you for supporting Jonathon McCurley & his ministry that seeks to build an environmentally healthy, just, and peaceful community in which all persons can live to their fullest potential.  
Merry Christmas!*

In memory of *Charlie Hino* from Jane Hino  
In memory of *Steele Families* from Maureen & William Steele  
In memory of *David Harding* from Eileen Harding  
In memory of *Mary Kaminsky* from Eileen Harding  
In memory of *Hazel Reeves* from George & Carol Decker  
In memory of *Elizabeth Decker* from George & Carol Decker  
In memory of *Janet Ortner* from Ed Ortner  
In memory of *John and Esther Gill* from John & Terri Gill  
In memory of *Ed & Lena Johnson* from Ed & Sharon Johnson  
In memory of *Ole Borchsenius* from Donna Borchsenius  
In memory of *my Mother & Father, Mildred & George Bryan* from Donna Borchsenius  
In memory of *Rolland & Bernice Percelle* from Rex & Carol Percelle  
In memory of *Sparky & Ferris Winegarden* from Rex & Carol Percelle  
In memory of *Art Lampe* from Bob & Betty Stull  
In memory of *Al Braun* from Bob & Betty Stull  
In honor of *Friends of Sebastian Church* from John & Jodi Antosia  
In honor of *Gail Griffin* from Pat Mays  
In honor of *Ben Aston* from Al Conniff

## Opportunities This Week

12/22 Sunday	10:00 a.m. Christmas Cantata 11:30 a.m. U of L Sunday classes 3:00 p.m. LOL Youth (YR)
12/23 Monday	Bible Study & Small Groups check with your facilitator
12/24 Tuesday	12:00 p.m. Men's Out to Lunch Bunch, Roadside Restaurant 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service 7:00 p.m. Candlelight Christmas Eve Service 6:30 p.m. AA Closed Session (FH) 7:30 p.m. Alanon (LCR)
12/25 Wednesday	Merry Christmas Church office closed
12/26 Thursday	7:30 p.m. Alanon
12/29 Sunday	10:00 a.m. Worship – Service of Lessons and Carols 11:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship (FH) 3:00 p.m. LOL Youth (YR)
1/1/2020 Wednesday	Happy New Year Church office Closed

CO—Church Office FH—Fellowship Hall SG—Small Group Room

LCR—Large Class Room S—Sanctuary CCR-Children's Class Room—YR LOL Youth Room—

Fellowship Hall is east of the Sanctuary at the end of the education wing

Classrooms are located on the north and south sides of the education wing



## Lenten Devotional Call for Writers

During the season of Lent, (yes Lent! it is just 2 months away!) Pastor John is going to be doing a sermon series that explores who Jesus is according to the different Gospel writers which will culminate with a sermon on "Who Is Jesus According to You?" on Easter Sunday.

So who is Jesus according to you? We want to know! We are going to create a devotional for Lent written by members of the congregation. If you are interested please write no more than 2 paragraphs on who Jesus is to you.

This should include personal experiences. Please also include a short Bible passage and a prayer. These should be modeled after The Upper Room devotionals. If you are interested and have any questions please see Pastor John or Megan.

You can email your writings to:

Megan at [meganmash@gmail.com](mailto:meganmash@gmail.com) or Sharon at [johnsonumc@bellsouth.net](mailto:johnsonumc@bellsouth.net).