

O Holy Night

- Placide Cappeau

Oh, holy night, the stars are brightly shining;

It is the night of the dear Savior's birth!

Long lay the world in sin and error pining,

Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.

A thrill of hope, the weary soul rejoices,

For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.

Fall on your knees, oh, hear the angel voices!

Oh, night divine, oh, night when Christ was born!

Oh, night divine, oh, night, oh, night divine!

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,

With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.

So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,

Here came the wise men from Orient land.

The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger,

In all our trials born to be our Friend!

He knows our need—to our weakness is no stranger.

Behold your King; before Him lowly bend!

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Truly He taught us to love one another;

His law is love and His Gospel is peace.

Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother,

And in His Name all oppression shall cease.

Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,

Let all within us praise His holy Name!

Christ is the Lord! Oh, praise His name forever!

His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!

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calendar of events

All activities inside the church building are cancelled until further notice!

We are open virtually.

worship schedule

Join us next week at 11:00 a.m. via Livestream: <media.sligochurch.org> or on YouTube as Senior Pastor, Charles A. Tapp, challenges us with a message that reminds us that as we look back over a very unconventional year that it will create for us a path for the future.

profile of giving - December 12

CHURCH BUDGET: This offering pays for the outreach and nurture ministries of the church and the church school, along with necessary expenses such as utilities and maintenance of the church building.

Last Year:		This Year:	
Dec. 14	\$ 16,224	Dec. 12	\$ 10,534
Dec. 14 YTD	\$ 500,950	Dec. 12 YTD	\$ 463,687

BUDGET FOR DECEMBER 12 YTD: \$ 560,278

CHURCH BUILDING IMPROVEMENT:
Dec. 12 YTD \$ 15,241

BOONSBORO CAPITAL FUND:
Aug. 2019 - Dec. 12 \$ 29,715

TITHE: All of these funds are sent to the Potomac Conference to help expand the Kingdom of God throughout our region and the world.

Last Year:		This Year:	
Dec. 14	\$ 47,965	Dec. 12	\$ 42,492
Dec. 14 YTD	\$ 2,281,477	Dec. 12 YTD	\$ 2,265,959

Today's designated offering goes to Local Church Budget. Loose offering goes to Church Budget.

worship.nurture.outreach

welcome



Welcome to Sligo today. This week during our staff meeting, which takes place each Tuesday morning, one of the members of our team shared with us the number of days that we had been shut out, and in some cases shut down, as a result of this global pandemic. When we heard that it had been over 275 days, it was hard for many of us to grasp.

And then to hear this week that the death toll has now reached over three hundred thousand precious souls in the United States alone, was truly a dark moment for us all. Whenever we are faced with something of this magnitude, it is hard for many of us to see the light at the end of the tunnel. And if we are going to be brutally honest, it is during severe times of struggle in our lives, when it appears as though we are engulfed by darkness on every side, that it is extremely difficult to see even a glimmer of hope on the horizon. But as we shall see in today's message, "Light at the End of the Tunnel," it is in the very words of Jesus, in the Gospel of John, that we are given a light of hope, even in the darkest of times.
- Charles A. Tapp

what we believe

We believe the Bible is the inspired word of God and our only rule of faith and practice. As Scripture teaches, we believe God became man in the person of Jesus Christ, saving us from sin by grace through faith. We believe the seventh-day Sabbath was established by God at Creation and honored by Jesus in His earthly ministry as a gift of rest and rejuvenation for all. We celebrate the church as the diverse "new community" forged through the death and resurrection of Jesus, in which all are called, all are gifted, and all are valued. We anticipate Jesus' personal and visible return to earth to raise the righteous dead, make the earth new, and dwell with His faithful children throughout eternity. We live out our love for Jesus by growing in His likeness and by serving our fellowmen.

how you connect

- Take your next step at "Connection Central" in the Atrium
- Do life together: Join a Journey Group
- Fill out a pew menu card and place it in the offering plate
- Visit sligochurch.org/connect2ministry

who can help

PHONE: 301.270.6777 EMERGENCY: 301.980.1009
FAX: 301.270.3518 www.sligochurch.org
Domestic Violence Hotline: 240.777.4000
National Suicide Hotline: 1.800.273.8255

SENIOR PASTOR
Charles A. Tapp, ext. 126 ctapp@sligochurch.org

PASTOR FOR ADMINISTRATION & ADULT MINISTRIES
Don McFarlane, ext. 116 dmcfarlane@sligochurch.org

PASTOR FOR DISCIPLESHIP & CONGREGATIONAL CARE
Pranitha Fielder, ext. 127 pfielder@sligochurch.org

PASTOR FOR YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS jgantt@sligochurch.org
Jonathan Gantt, ext. 119

PASTOR FOR CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES
Hazel Marroquin, ext. 136 hmarroquin@sligochurch.org

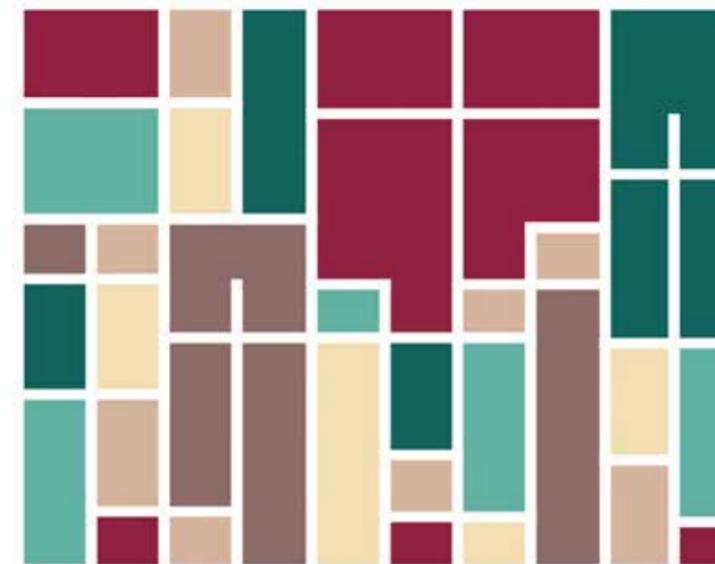
PASTOR FOR WORSHIP
Cheryl Wilson-Bridges, ext. 123 cbridges@sligochurch.org

ADVENTIST COMMUNITY SERVICES
Ken Flemmer 301.585.6556 **HEAD ELDER**
Erwin Mack 301.434.1622

HEAD DEACON
Manuel Rosette 301.370.1255 **HEAD DEACONESS**
Carol Hooker

7700 Carroll Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912

THE CHURCH at worship



CHRIST FIRST

DECEMBER 19, 2020
8:45 & 11:00 A.M.



The Washington Adventist University Church

OUR MISSION

We seek to grow passionate disciples of Jesus through worship of God, nurture of one another, and outreach to the world.

THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP

we gather in his name

Advent 4

Song of Gathering

Christmas Medley / Saddleback Worship

Sligo Live

Don McFarlane

The Meaning of Christmas

Welcome & Church Life

Gerry Lopez

we honor and praise him

Hymn of Praise

Joy to the World / No. 125

Prayer

Vernon Bacud

Advent Candlelighting

Vernon & Grace Bacud

Anthem

Gloria / Antonio Vivaldi

we reflect

Children's Message

Gerry Lopez

Scripture Reading

Vernon & Grace Bacud

John 8:1-12 (NKJV)

Music for Meditation

Here Comes Heaven / S. Furtick, C. Brown, A.

Robertson

Pre-Sermon Video

Hope in the Darkness

Sermon

Charles A. Tapp

Light At the End of the Tunnel

Hymn of Reflection

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing/Jesus, the Light of the

World

Invitation to Give

Charles A. Tapp

we go to serve

Benediction

Charles A. Tapp

Postlude

Postlude on "Hark, The Herald Angels Sing" / David

Willcocks

Leading our music today are:

Paul Byssainthe, Jr., organist

Aaron Wilson, chorister

Sligo Band: Paul Byssainthe, Jr., pianist; Leroy Perumal, guitarist; Jon Mark, bass guitarist; William Brew, drummer

Sligo Singers: Naomi Rodrigues, Sara Devaraj, Arely Reyes

New England Youth Ensemble of Washington Adventist University

Anwar Ottley, director

Columbia Collegiate Chorale of Washington Adventist University

"We are told to let our light shine, and if it does, we won't need to tell anybody it does. Lighthouses don't fire cannons to call attention to their shining"- they just shine."
- D. L. Moody

"In darkness there is no choice. It is light that enables us to see the difference between things; and it is Christ that gives us light."
- A. W. Hare

"The Gospel Of Jesus Christ Is All About People. It's About Leaving The Ninety And Nine And Going Into The Wilderness After Those Who Are Lost. It's About Bearing One Another's Burdens, With The Ultimate Burden Anyone Can Bear Being Walking Through This Life Without Light."
- Sheri L. Dew

Excerpt from "On the Morning of Christ's Nativity" - John Milton

See how from far upon the eastern road

The star-led wizards haste with odours sweet:

O run, prevent them with thy humble ode,

And lay it lowly at his blessed feet;

Have thou the honour first thy Lord to greet,

And join thy voice unto the angel quire,

From out his secret altar touch'd with hallow'd fire.

But peaceful was the night

Wherein the Prince of Light

His reign of peace upon the earth began:

The winds with wonder whist,

Smoothly the waters kist,

Whispering new joys to the mild Ocean,

Who now hath quite forgot to rave,

While birds of calm sit brooding on the charmed wave.

THE CHURCH AT STUDY

Time to Be Astonished:

Have you ever wondered why God chose to give us two harmonious Creation accounts in the first two chapters of Genesis? Genesis 1 recounts the Creation week and the growing wonder of the earth as it is given form and then life, culminating in the creation of man and woman on the sixth day. Genesis 2 looks at the same account but from a different perspective, with a special focus on the sixth day. Adam is at the center of the picture now, and everything is described as being there for him and the woman: the Garden, the rivers, and the animals.

Creation is too deep for one single account. First, we learn of the powerful, artistic Creator who has an eye for perfect beauty. Then we meet the God of relationships, who wants humanity to love and care for each other and the rest of creation.

Imagine yourself as Adam or Eve on that first Sabbath. It's your first day alive, your first day with your spouse, and your first day with God. What a day of education! You start to learn of the God who could create such beauty. You marvel as you see an elephant one moment and a frog the next, each unique. You smile as you see the antics of the giraffe or buffalo. You are silent in awe of the many colors and shapes, enraptured by the symphony of sounds; you revel in the range of delights in taste and smells and enjoy exploring the delights of different textures. Most of all, you start learning about relationships: responsibility, caring, love. You experience it with your Creator; you start to practice it with the rest of the created.

The first Sabbath could not have been a passive experience for Adam and Eve. It was a God-created opportunity for them to focus on their Creator and the created. It was a time for them to be astonished.



4th Advent Candle Lighting:

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ, coming again to reign in glory. Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice!

Keep awake, therefore, and be ready. The Lord is coming at an unexpected hour. The kingdom of heaven has come near. Go and tell what you have seen and heard: The virgin will conceive and bear a son, And they shall name him Emmanuel, God with us.

Fear not, for there is good news of great joy for all people: To us is born this day in Bethlehem a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.

Prepare the way of the Lord!

OUR LIFE TOGETHER



Simple Truths for Life: Sligo's Radio Ministry, can be heard each Sabbath morning from 8:30 - 9:00 a.m. on WGTS 91.9 FM. Listen with friends, then invite them to come to church in person at 11:00 a.m. Download past episodes or subscribe to future episodes for free from Simple Truths for Life by Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church from the iTunes Store. You can also go to simpletruthsforlife.org/podcast.

Prayer Requests:

Families of these deceased: James White, Harrison John, Evelyn R. Tidwell, Alan Johnson, Puspawathy Kanagarathinam
For Healing and Comfort: Keith Mack, DeLilah & Michael Gesellchen, Wayne Dockter, Cheryl Middleton, Arlene & Larry Hevelone, Annadell Robinson, Maddie Dourousseau

HeartLifters invites you to a BLUE CHRISTMAS – Saturday, December 19 at 4:00 p.m. Register at sligochurch.org to receive the ZOOM link. The holidays sometimes leave us feeling "blue" due to the loss of a loved one to death or divorce, loss of health, or other life's challenges. Join us for a special service that expresses our sadness for all the losses we've experienced this year, but also focuses on the Hope we have in Christ. Those who register by December 14, will receive a Blue Christmas memento. Be sure to include your address. If you need further assistance please email pfelder@sligochurch.org

Join us for virtual Prayer Gathering – Contact Pr. Cheryl Wilson-Bridges at cbridges@sligochurch.org for access to the Zoom link. Invite your family and friends for this additional prayer time to claim God's power and peace over the giants we are currently facing. Wednesdays from 7:00 - 7:30 p.m. & Sundays from 11:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Treasurer's Note: Many of you will be giving your year-end offerings this month. There are several ways in which you can give in addition to your giving at church. You may contribute through our on-line giving (Go to www.sligochurch.org and click on GIVE and choose one of the options). Or if you prefer, by mail, but it must be post-marked by December 31. You can also put your giving envelope in the church office Mail Slot during the week. Thank you for your faithfulness in giving your tithe and for supporting your local church by giving liberally and systematically to the Church Budget.

Caring for One Another is an integral part of what it means to be a church family. Please share with Congregational Care Pastor, Praniitha Fielder pfelder@sligochurch.org the names of any elderly members who need the support of the church during these challenging times.

Adventist Community Services of Greater Washington remains open to help families: PLEASE help replenish ACSGW's pantry. Drop off donations at 501 Sligo Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Thank you!