

Dream of Freedom

- Langston Hughes

There's a dream in the land
With its back against the wall.
By muddled names and strange
Sometimes the dream is called.

There are those who claim
This dream for theirs alone —
A sin for which, we know
They must atone.

Unless shared in common
Like sunlight and like air,
The dream will die for lack
Of substance anywhere.

The dream knows no frontier or
tongue,
The dream, no class or race.
The dream cannot be kept secure
In any one locked place.

This dream today embattled,
With its back against the wall —
To save the dream for one,
It must be saved for all —
Our dream of freedom!

“Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we’ve been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.”

- Former President Barack Obama

worship schedule

Join us next week at 11:00 a.m. via Livestream: <media.sligochurch.org> or on YouTube as Sligo's Senior Pastor, Alex Barrientos, shares a message titled, “An Entangled Spirit.”

profile of giving - January 8

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. 31 YTD \$ 561,910 (\$12,849 Budget Booster included)	Dec. 31 YTD \$546,245 (\$5,806 Budget Booster included)

BUDGET FOR DECEMBER 31 YTD: \$570,000

CHURCH BUILDING IMPROVEMENT:

May - Dec. 31	\$ 44,430
Dec. 31 YTD	\$ 49,541

ORGAN REPAIR:

May - Dec. 31 YTD	\$ 34,276
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BOONSBORO CAPITAL FUND:

Aug. 2019 - Dec. 31 YTD	\$ 46,367
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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. 31 YTD \$2,632,161	Dec. 31 YTD \$2,458,268

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

worship.nurture.outreach

welcome



Welcome to Sligo. Thank you for worshipping with us this morning. We pray the Lord blesses you abundantly. We truly miss having you in person. Know that you and your families are in my prayers. As we approach Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s

Holiday, we remember the echoes of his urgent plea for non-violent demonstrations against social injustice in a hostile and tumultuous time in our country's history. The question of human dignity and freedom have not limited themselves to a particular point in time. Both are perceived as pillars of human existence and yet, remain the source of much disharmony in society in regards to whom they are to be granted. It is with the tune of the prophets of Scripture that guide us to see how freedom is declared. Without a doubt, the prophets hint at a freedom that is sustainable, satisfying, worth pursuing – even with the challenges we face. Lord, help us find freedom in you, for others!
- Alex Barrientos

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
 Alex Barrientos, ext. 126 abarrientos@sligochurch.org

PASTOR FOR ADMINISTRATION & ADULT MINISTRIES
 TBD

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

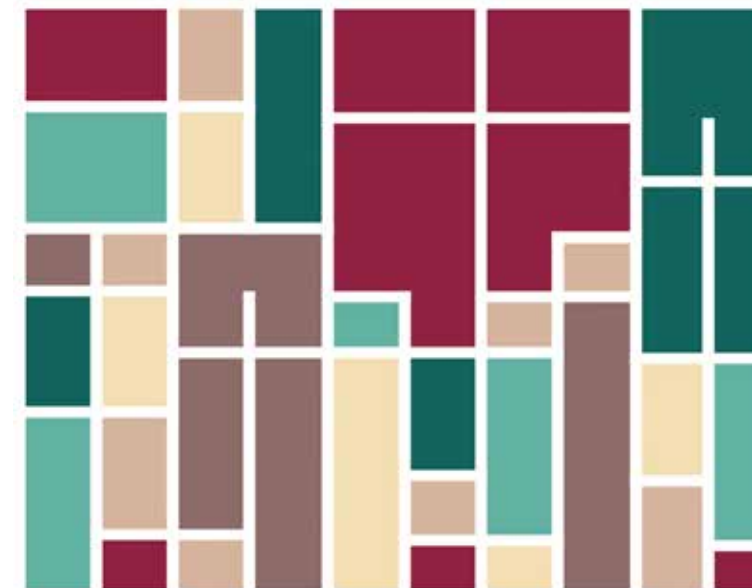
PASTOR FOR WORSHIP
 Cheryl Wilson-Bridges, ext. 123 cbridges@sligochurch.org

ADVENTIST COMMUNITY SERVICES **HEAD ELDER**
 Ken Flemmer 301.585.6556 James Gulley

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

7700 Carroll Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912

THE CHURCH at worship



CHRIST FIRST

JANUARY 15, 2022
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.

we gather in his name

Song of Gathering
Redeemed / No. 338

Welcome & Church Life Jonathan Gantt

Baptism Alex Barrientos
Haika Yonah

we honor and praise him

Hymn of Praise
Praise Him! Praise Him! / No. 249

Prayer Jemimah Mayanja

we reflect

Children’s Message Hazel Marroquin

Scripture Reading Nathan Stone
Ephesians 2: 1-7 (NRSV)

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Music for Meditation
Never Walk Alone / B. Fielding, H. Hobbs & J. Johnson

Sermon Alex Barrientos
Freedom’s Urge

Invitation to Give Jonathan Gantt

we go to serve

Benediction Alex Barrientos

Postlude
Fugue in G Major, BWV 577 / J. S. Bach

Leading our music today are:
Adam Graham, organist
Raissa-Jei Labrador, chorister

GLOW Praise Team
Paul Byssainthe, Jr, pianist

Caged Bird

- Maya Angelou

A free bird leaps
on the back of the wind
and floats downstream
till the current ends
and dips his wing
in the orange sun rays
and dares to claim the sky.

But a bird that stalks
down his narrow cage
can seldom see through
his bars of rage
his wings are clipped and
his feet are tied
so he opens his throat to sing.

The caged bird sings
with a fearful trill
of things unknown
but longed for still
and his tune is heard
on the distant hill
for the caged bird
sings of freedom.

The free bird thinks of another breeze
and the trade winds soft through the sighing
trees
and the fat worms waiting on a dawn bright lawn
and he names the sky his own.

But a caged bird stands on the grave of dreams
his shadow shouts on a nightmare scream
his wings are clipped and his feet are tied
so he opens his throat to sing.

The caged bird sings
with a fearful trill
of things unknown
but longed for still
and his tune is heard
on the distant hill
for the caged bird
sings of freedom.

The Promised Son:

“But in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being” (Hebrews 1:2, 3, NIV).

Right after Adam and Eve sinned, God promised them a “seed,” a Son who would deliver them from the enemy, recover the inheritance that had been lost, and fulfill the purpose for which they had been created (Gen. 3:15). This Son would both represent and redeem them by taking their place and, ultimately, by destroying the serpent.

“When Adam and Eve first heard the promise, they looked for its speedy fulfillment. They joyfully welcomed their first-born son, hoping that he might be the Deliverer. But the fulfillment of the promise tarried.”—Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 31. The promise was later confirmed to Abraham. God swore to him that he would have a “seed,” a Son through whom all the nations of the earth would be blessed (Gen. 22:16–18, Gal. 3:16). And God did the same with David. He promised David that his descendant would be installed by God as His own Son and would be established as a righteous ruler over all the kings of the earth (2 Sam. 7:12–14, Ps. 89:27–29). What neither Adam and Eve, Abraham, nor David probably ever imagined, however, was that their Redeemer Son would be God Himself.



sabbath devotional:

“Oppressed people cannot remain oppressed forever. The urge of freedom will eventually come.”

- Martin Luther King Jr.



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: Hephzi Ohal, Chandel Brown, Glynroy Stracham Sr.
For Healing & Comfort: Margarita Cohello, Jesús Llacsá, Jennifer Tyndaal

We are saddened to announce the passing of Hephzi Ohal on January 12, 2022, long time member of Sligo, Takoma Park, and Burnt Mills SDA churches. She had long since retired from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and we remember her for her smile, generosity and faithful discipleship. Hephzi was preceded in death by her son, Rasik, leaving behind her husband, Madhukar; daughters, Rekha and Shobha; grandchildren, Ara and Nisha. Funeral services to be determined.

Pathfinder Sabbath has been rescheduled for a later date.

Memorial Service: A celebration of the life of Israel “Tate” Castro will take place at 3:00 p.m. on Sabbath, April 9, 2022 in the Sanctuary.

Join us for virtual Prayer Gathering – Contact Myrna Bas at <myrnarbas@gmail.com> 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.

Caring for One Another is an integral part of what it means to be a church family. We want to ensure that our elderly members have their basic needs met during this time of social distancing. Please share with Pranitha Fielder <pfielder@sligochurch.org>, our congregational care pastor, the name of any elderly member who in your opinion needs the support of the church during these challenging times.

Supporting Ministry - Please continue to support the ministries of Sligo Church during the absence of in-sanctuary worship. You can give your tithe and offerings online via the Sligo Church website <sligochurch.org>, by mail to 7700 Carroll Avenue, Takoma Park, MD, 20912, or in person at the church office. If the office is closed, please use the mailbox on the left wall at the entrance.

Sligo Book Club: Please join us on Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. for our Zoom book club discussion. This month we will be discussing “Sea People: The Puzzle of Polynesia” by Christina Thompson. Please contact Kay Rosburg at <rosburgkay@gmail.com> to receive the Zoom invite. We look forward to seeing you!

“To be free is not merely to cast off one’s chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others.”