

Sunday
December 30, 2018
10:30 a.m.

First Sunday of Christmas

John Cleveland

Becoming disciples,
serving God's world.



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Vicksburg MI 49097
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Pastor Greg Culver
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Calm and Bright :

200 Years of Silent Night

"Is Born"



*Indicates for the congregation to please stand as able.
The congregation's lines are in bold.

We Gather

Prelude: The First Noel ~ *Christmas Band*

Welcome

Ministry Opportunities

I invite you to take another deep breath. Imagine once again that what is above you is a star-lit night...and in this moment, all is calm, all is bright.

Threshold Song

Silent Night, Holy Night (2 times)

It is the day we can be born

Silent Night

Yet all around the world is torn

Holy Night

But we bring calm and we bring light

Silent Night

Our stars together make things bright

Holy Night

Dear people all around the world,

**Let us unite and we will show How Light has changed us,
How Light has helped us grow.**

The last verse of "Silent Night" ended with "Christ the Savior is born." And now the story continues. Even though we feel as if the season of Christmas is over and the tree is quick to come down, the real story begins again in the renewal of our souls as God nudges us toward new life and possibilities in the new year. What is being born within *us*? How have we been changed by the Light we have celebrated in the last few weeks? What new visions, hopes, and dreams have we gained, and what will we do with them?

So let your Light shine in the night

Silent Night

And let your life burn warm and bright

Holy Night

This Light we give the world is balm

Silent Night

And in this truth we find our calm.

Holy Night

Opening Prayer

God of this new day, we open ourselves to hear Your call to new life. As we anticipate the new year and all its possibilities, help us to always remember that nothing is ever finished, God is not done with us. Indeed, God is ever making our lives, our families, our communities, and our world a brighter place.

Fill us with Your peace and light, make the world so calm and bright.

***Opening Hymn: #251** Go, Tell It on the Mountain

***Pass the Peace**

As the children come forward, you are invited to greet those around you with a sign of God's possibilities for new beginnings, saying: "Happy Birthday, Jesus!"

We Proclaim

Children's Time ~ *Hank Stamm*

Hymn: #230 O Little Town of Bethlehem (verse 1)

Children 3 yrs. to 3rd grade are invited to go to POP! with Laurie Nic

Scripture: Revelation 21:1-16

Witness to the Light in Music: Joy to the World ~ *Christmas Band*

Witness to the Light in Word: "God Can" ~ *John Cleveland*

We Respond

Ritual for Beginning the New Year—Wesley Covenant Prayer

We say goodbye to 2018 and hello to 2019. As one year ended and another began, the people called Methodists would renew their covenant with God. An important part of our tradition is the Covenant Prayer. John Wesley adapted this prayer from the Puritan tradition that was so important to his parents, Samuel and Suzannah. It informed his theology and preaching. Mr. Wesley expected the people called Methodists to ponder this prayer at the beginning of each new year as a way of remembering and renewing the baptismal covenant. It is being reintroduced here as a harbinger of expectation for preaching and teaching in the new year to come.

I am no longer my own, but Yours. Put me to what You will, place me with whom You will. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be put to work for You or set aside for You, Praised for You or criticized for You. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and fully surrender all things to Your glory and service. And now, O wonderful and holy God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, You are mine, and I am Yours. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, Let it also be made in heaven. Amen.

***Song:** (bulletin insert) Christ, Be Our Light (verses 1, 2, 5)

Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has power to save us. Make us your living voice.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong.

Let us be servants to one another, making Your kingdom come.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

During this Advent and Christmas worship series, each week we prayed with our actions, sending care packages and gifts throughout our community. We are so grateful for all who gave their time, effort and financial support to make these projects possible. Today we will light prayer candles one last time as this particular worship series, "Calm and Bright" comes to a close. But this time, light a candle and let it be a prayer for the light you desire in your own life in this coming year. As we have been doing, we also use this time to collect our monetary offering, and you can leave that on the table or altar. You are invited to go to the stations.

Prayer Stations: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing ~ *Christmas Band*

Closing Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

We Go

***Benediction**

I invite you to face the center aisle as the light moves out into the world and say our Christmas blessing with me:

Go with God into this day

May the Spirit guide your way

Offer life to all you greet

Like Christ, see God in all you meet.

***Song: #665 Go Now in Peace (sing 2 times)**

***Postlude:** O Come All Ye Faithful ~ *Christmas Band*

"Calm & Bright: 200 years of Silent Night" — Credits:

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Prayer for Family and Friends

Updates and New Requests This Week

Andrea and Matt Luegge and family are mourning the loss of Andrea's Great Aunt June.

Previous Requests

Brad and Barb Addis and family are mourning the loss of Brad's aunt, Syrene Addis.

Brenda (Kris Miller's friend) needs prayer as her husband was diagnosed with lung cancer, and her son was killed recently in a hit and run accident.

Jack and Cynda Buckallew

Carol Eaton

Molly and Hannah Geerlings (wife and teenage daughter of Derek, Lynne Melvin's co-worker) and other family and friends are mourning the loss of Derek.

Walker Polsinelli is in Kuwait.

Jim and Joan Smola and family are mourning the loss of Jim's mother, Dorothy.

Grant Swinehart (Laverne's son) will have surgery in January.

Family and friends are mourning the loss of Betty Thomas (Brad and Barb Addis's neighbor).

Safe travel to and from destinations for all travelers

Pray for military personnel overseas and their families.

Today's acolytes are
Ella Luegge and October Moberley

December 23 attendance:
Worship 125 Sunday School 37

For Cheer and Hello

Liz Anderson
David Bretz
Barb Griner
Pat McClelland

Beverly Nimmo
Robert & Carmen Parsons
Marv & Kitty Starbuck
Mina Willett

In Service to Our Country

Matthew Kohler
Ryan Miller
Walker Polsinelli

Tyler Smith
Geoff White



The General Rule of Discipleship

To witness to Jesus Christ in the world, and to follow his teachings through acts of compassion, justice, worship and devotion under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Coming deadlines

- ScripCents orders are due in the church office by 2:00 Wednesday, Jan. 2.

Kalamazoo Gospel Mission needs bread

We are collecting bread for The Kalamazoo Gospel Mission. If you would like to contribute, please bring loaves of sliced white bread to the church, and they will be delivered to KGM.

AED and CPR training class

The church has purchased an AED (defibrillator device), and we need people who are trained to use it. We will have a training for the AED and CPR on Thursday, Jan. 10, at 6:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center. The cost (for a book and instructor fees) is \$30 per person. Please call the church office at 269-649-2343 to sign up.

Mission Moment—Plus 10 Families

Dec. 30: Joe and Betty Gruber
Jan. 6:

Storing of the Greens

We will be putting our Christmas decorations back into storage on Thursday, Jan. 10. Please join us if you can help.

This Week's Celebrations

<u>Birthdays</u>	1/3 Barbara Adams
12/30 Nathaniel Penning	1/5 Ken Akins
1/1 John Cleveland	Vera Walker

This Week's Calendar

Today

9:00 a.m. Sunday School for everyone
10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

Monday, December 31—New Years Eve OFFICES CLOSED

6:30 p.m. Family volleyball in the FLC

Tuesday, January 1—New Years Day OFFICES CLOSED

Wednesday, January 2

6:00 p.m. Handbell Choir practice in the Sanctuary
6:30 p.m. Pickleball in the FLC
7:00 p.m. Choir practice in the Sanctuary

Thursday, January 3

7:00 p.m. Apprentice class, Room 125 (Fish Room)

Friday, January 4 - Pastor's Day Off

no activities are scheduled

Saturday, January 5

9:00 a.m. Pickleball in the FLC

Next Week

Monday, January 7

1:00 p.m. Caring Ministries in the Library
6:00 p.m. Finance Committee in the Library
7:00 p.m. Worship Committee in the Library
8:00 p.m. SPRC in the Library

Thursday, January 10

5:30 p.m. Preschool Board in the Library
6:00 p.m. AED/CPR training in the FLC
6:30 p.m. Scouts Distr. Round Table, Taylor Room



Children ages 3 yrs. to third grade leave the worship service right after the kids' message and are returned to service after the offering.

Please be sure your child has a name tag with age or grade and your cell phone number.

CHILI COOK OFF

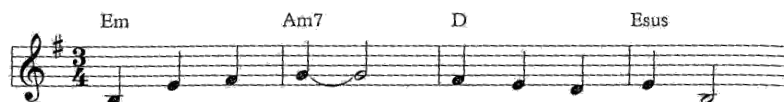


Sunday, January 13

11:30 a.m. | Family Life Center

Fundraiser for Summer Mission Trip

Christ, Be Our Light



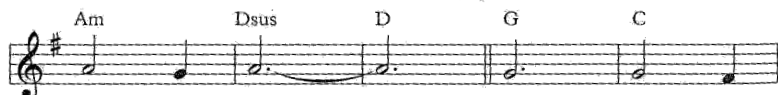
1. Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness.
 2. Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled.
 3. Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry.
 4. Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less.
 5. Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple,



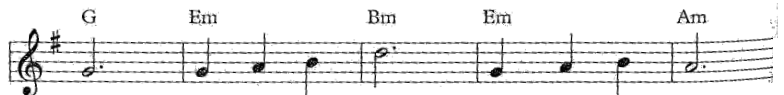
Long - ing for truth, we turn to you. Make us your
 Long - ing for hope, man - y des - pair. Your word a -
 Long - ing for wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your
 Long - ing for warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your
 man - y the hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be



own, your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the
 lone has power to save us. Make us your
 bread, bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til
 build - ing, shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of
 ser - vants to one an - oth - er, mak - ing your

Refrain

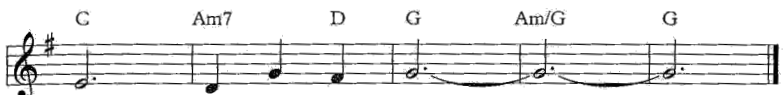
world to see. _____
 liv - ing voice. _____
 all are fed. _____ Christ, be our
 liv - ing stone. _____
 king - dom come. _____



light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark -



ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day. _____

24-Hour prayer vigil

We would like to have prayer for our church, our church family, and others for 24 hours a day, if possible. If you would like to sign up for an hour (as many as you would like), please write your name in available spaces on the chart near the welcome center.

Book 2 of the Apprentice Bible Study

Starting Thursday, we will delve into James Bryan Smith's second book, The Good and Beautiful Life.

Won't you join us Thursday evenings at 7:00 for this spirit lifting series. The cost is approx. \$20. Please contact John Cleveland at 269-649-1405 or Jcleveland327@gmail.com, or the church office at 269-649-2343.

Play Gym begins again January 17

Play Gym, a fun, inexpensive "play with me" group for 1- to 5-year-olds and their favorite adult, meets on Thursdays from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. The "Wacky & Love" session will be Jan. 17- Feb 14 with a snow day make-up date of Feb. 21. Sign ups begin Jan. 2 for current class members and Jan 9 for new folks. To sign up, call the church at 269-649-2343.

We need someone to set up for Play Gym

We need someone willing to set up the gym for Play Gym (paid position) for 1/2 hour on Wednesday evenings or Thursday mornings. Contact Laurie Nic at 269-598-2264.