

## Meditation Focus

John 3:16

*This is how much God loved the world:*

*He gave his Son, his one and only Son.*

*And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed;*

*By believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life.*

*The Message*

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

\*HYMN "O Little Town of Bethlehem" P. 230

## LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

*Pastor: The humble shepherds in the fields near Bethlehem received a visitor, an angel, who terrified them at first.*

*Worship Leader: The angel invited them to go to the city of David to see a new baby lying in a manger. And so they did.*

**Congregation: And we are invited too, to find Jesus where we also may find love and hope, joy and peace in the Christ child.**

**ALL: We too can be humble servants of God.**

\*HYMN "Angels We Have Heard on High" P. 238

## STORY WITH THE KIDS

*"Christmas Around the Deep Blue World"*

\*HYMN "Away in a Manager" P. 217

## "On the Journey ... to Bethlehem"

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:8-20

SPECIAL MUSIC "Mary's Baby Boy" Tracy Lubs

MESSAGE "Welcome to the Stable" Pastor John Kasper

\*HYMN "What Child Is This" P. 219

## INVITATION TO THE OFFERING (Luke 2, Matt 2)

*What greater gift could we receive than the gift of God's own child, a child who is our light and our salvation. We, who have received so much, are called to join the shepherds in sharing our joy; we are challenged to join the magi, in offering our gifts to the Christ Child. Come! Let us give out of our abundance.*

**Our Christmas Eve Offerings will be designated to "Missionaries Delbert and Sandy Groves" and "Food Truck Ministry" unless otherwise indicated.**

**Offering Song "O Come, All Ye Faithful" verse 6 and chorus P. 234**

## Christmas Prayer:

*Pastor: Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the.....*

*shepherds, and the wisdom of the wise men.*

**Congregation: Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world.**

*Pastor: Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.*

**Congregation: Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Jesus brings and teach us to be merry with clean hearts.**

*Pastor: May Christmas morning make us happy to by Your children*

**Congregation: And may Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus sake.**

**All: Amen**

CANDLE LIGHTING "Silent Night" P. 239

## \*BLESSING

## \*POSTLUDE

\*HYMN "Joy to the World" P. 246

**The Flowers on the Altar today are given in honor of Our Savior's Birth from John, Barb, Macy, Zackary and Madi.**

**Minister:** Pastor John Kasper **Organist:** LuAnn Humphrey  
**Pianist:** Abigail Mullis & Deniza Derdovski  
**Office Manager:** Judy Bailey **Dir. of Youth:** Rachel MacGregor  
**Director of Child Care:** Melonie Kingsbury  
(Day Care Phone: 386-4815)  
**Choir Director & Children's Choir Director:** Tracy Lubs  
**Liturgist 11:00 p.m.:** Kylie Lubs  
**Office Hours: 9:30-Noon & 1-4:00 p.m. (386-2591)**

## New Year's Resolution.

*As we approach the new year we often make plans for what we'd like to accomplish in the new year. What a better time to resolve to commit to the Clare United Methodist Church as the place you will serve God in and through.*

*January 14, 2018, Pastor John will begin a 7 week study called "Explore Clare UMC" which gives an overview of what makes Clare UMC unique, what it means to be United Methodist, and what it means to become a member of Clare UMC. We will meet between worship services during the Sunday School hour either in the Trinity Café coffee lounge or in the front of the sanctuary/worship space. Resolve now to "Explore Clare UMC"*

Please Continue To Keep In Your Prayers :

*We lift up the leadership of our nation and the men and women serving the Armed Forces, as well as the leaders and people of other nations.*

*Justin Burrows in U.S. Marine Corp. (Ron & Jean's grandson) (Psalm 91:11)*

*Joey Willman in U.S. Marine Corp.*

*Wilma Phillips-Shurlow and family on the loss of her husband, Merle Phillips, whom we all loved so much and were blessed to have him in our church family, Family & Friends of Marion Baker (Merri Ann Baker-Radcliffe's mother), Marlene Hales, Ruth VanStraien (sister of Larry Wyman Sr.)*

*Mike Musser preparing for surgery soon.*

*Brianna (McGregor) Harris recovering from Hip Surgery*

*Elaine Green recovering at her son Tim's in California*

*Bob Seiter recovering from surgery at home.*

*Gil Dean recovering from a broken ankle (Karen Mater's dad)*

*Kathy Miller, Carolyn Musser, Sandra Pitchford, Connie Palette, Barb Mahon, Barb Everts, Ed Newman, Mark Musser, Dave Isaac, Sharon Doxtader, David Wyman: all recovering at home*

*Jay Williams recovering from a stroke at Autumnwood, McBain rehab.*

*Donna Oor recovering from bone marrow transplant (Roy Monzo's cousin)*

*Aaron Burrows for continued healing (Ron & Jean's grandson)*

Those with Parkinson's, Diabetes, Alzheimer's & Lupus and other horrible diseases  
*Those who have been diagnosed with Cancer: Jim Morgan, Tom Beatty, Wayne Henney (Colene Moore's brother in-law) Patty (Humphrey) Hazen, Mike Humphrey, Katie Jenkins, Jeff Bergstrom (Sandie Brewer's brother), Bill Carr*

*(Sandra Pitchford's brother) April Hicks, June Chaffee, Sue Grant (Bob & Ruth Jone's daughter)*

**Medilodge Nursing Home, Clare**

**In their own home:** Dale Branden Connie McNerney  
Jean Blow, Virgie Wilson Rilla Seibt Janet Hicks

Shelly Ackerman  
JoAnne Maxwell

Sandra Campbell Donna Heckman Joyce VanNote  
Gail Sowle Ruth Schunk Shirley Burns Ruth Owens

**Coleman Senior Center**

**Prestige Place Assisted Living:**

June Chaffee

Myrna Smith Mary Guss

**Horizons:**

**Home Care at Marley Park Arizona:** Tom Franklin

Ardene Wild

PLEASE REMEMBER OUR SHUT-IN'S NEED TO HEAR FROM

Marcia Allen Benner

US, THEY LOOK FORWARD TO GETTING MAIL AND SEEING

**Northwoods:** Don Fuller

OUR NAMES.

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# Clare United Methodist Church

Open hearts..... Open Minds..... Open Doors

## DECEMBER 24, 2017

### 7:00 p.m.



## WELCOME! GUESTS – We have a gift for you!

Please visit the information table

**NURSERY CARE** is available just next to the Lobby

(by the East Exit Doors) for infants through

5 years during 11:00 a.m. service

And Sunday School hour.

**Write your Prayer Request on a prayer card**

They will be picked up by ushers during the first hymn.

### MISSION:

**Know God, Grow in Faith, and Share God's Love**

### VISION:

**We are Jesus Centered, bringing Love, Hope, and Encouragement to People in our Community and Beyond.**

### MISS A MESSAGE?

Want to "hear" it again? Would like to share it with a friend? Manuscripts of Sunday messages are now available on our website, [www.clareumc.org](http://www.clareumc.org). Messages will be posted by Wednesday following the Sunday it was given and will be available 4 months following.

SCAN FOR  
ONLINE GIVING



*We hope you will join us for Coffee Hour immediately following our Worship Service today, for fun, food & fellowship.*