



FOUNTAIN VIEW RETIREMENT VILLAGE OF GRANT



50 S Maple Street • Grant, MI 49327 • (231) 834-8202

Management Team

- Kim Miller Administrator
- Inger Andree Life Enrichment Director
- Karen Nichols Food Service Director
- Bill Cook Maintenance
- Sara Wakerley Housekeeping
- Katie Miller Resident Care Manager

Christmas Meditation 2018

My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. Psalm 73:26

In art, there is a technique called *chiaroscuro*. This depicts the focal point of a painting or drawing in intense light, contrasted against surrounding tones of the deepest black. The power of the work comes from the tension of the intense darkness alongside the brightest light.

As I ponder Christmas and what it means, I am drawn into the moments immediately after Christ's birth; I am drawn into this "stop" in time. For a brief moment there is sheer quiet and pure blessing. As Mary and Joseph hold their baby in their arms, everything outside of the moment pauses; everything else can wait. This is the moment of birth... before life and its realities have a chance to filter in.

This is a moment of living *chiaroscuro*... blackness surrounds a moment of pure light.

As a perfectionist, it is especially hard for me to live within the tension of "both/and, good/bad" of life. Such amazing beauty and abundance, yet there is always the pain of

December 2018

brokenness. Somehow I know that without the contrast of darkness, the beautiful abundance could not be appreciated. The side-by-side reality of darkness and light gives life its depth just as it does art. According to Psalm 42:7, "deep calls to deep," and Ecclesiastes 3:11, "we have eternity written on our hearts." Whether we like it or not, we long for deep abundance as it was created to be, and we experience it on the sharp edge of the "both/and" mystery.

In this quiet moment of Christ's birth, the brightest light breaks into the deepest darkness of our realities. Christ personifies the "both/and" ... God and flesh... and His dwelling place is no longer in a temple, or a city, or a people... it is among us, all of us.

Wonderful Counselor, Almighty God, Everlasting Father, prince of Peace... dwells with us and within us. Our lives remain within the "both/and" of light and darkness **but we are not alone**. God will never leave us or forsake us; He is our shield and defender, our refuge, our foothold. He hears and answers our cries; He is a God who sees... even when our hearts and our strength do fail.

But our deepest "both/and" security is eternal, our Judge is also our Redeemer. Christ knows the price has been paid for our way into His eternal arms because He paid it... beginning by being born... holy light into our broken darkness.

This is a moment of awe.

"My strength and my flesh may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever"... to eternity.

This is Christmas, be blessed.

-Chaplain Sheri

Church Services 3:00pm

Sunday

Our services are provided by:
First Baptist Church of
Newaygo
Northland Church of Christ
Emanuel Bible Fellowship
Church
Grant Christian Reformed
Church
Bill's Lake Baptist Church
North Casnovia Baptist Church

Guest Meal Donation

It has recently been asked how much we charge for guest meals. This has been a practice at Fountain View of Grant. We are changing this practice and simply asking for a meal donation at the end of each month. If you choose to make a meal donation based on the amount of times you had a guest meal, please do so separately from your rent payments. Again, this is optional. Much appreciation in advance.

Billing Change

We will be using email to send out invoices at the first of the year. We ask that all financially responsible parties please make sure that Kim has your current email address.

