

Your Advent Devotional for this week begins on page 9.



## Let Us Worship God!

November 28, 2021 — 10:30 AM

First Sunday of Advent

A Hybrid Worship Experience In-Person and Online

Today's worship team—Music Director: Jayne McDonough.

Worship Leader: Beverly Mate. Message: Rev. Dr. Kevin Yoho.

Worship Production: Norris Clark.

**WELCOME! YOU ARE IN THE RIGHT PLACE! ADVENT BEGINS!**

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**[WWW.COLDSPRINGWORSHIP.COM/](http://WWW.COLDSPRINGWORSHIP.COM/)**

*Tip: Remember to log in to YouTube and click the Subscribe button!*

Due to the case counts of the Covid-19 in our county, mask-wearing is required even for fully vaccinated worshippers until seated while maintaining alternate row seating and safe distancing between family groups. We provide hand sanitizer and masks. *Worship by Telephone:* 929-205-6099. ID 882 3154 2428. Passcode 1714.



### WORSHIP PREVIEW

This week is the first week of Advent as the lectionary and liturgical cycle reboots. Advent is the time for getting ready. Anticipating what is to come—watching and waiting for the promised Messiah— Jesus. Why a reboot? Many might surmise that since Jesus has already come, that's old news. But the Good News is not just about a one-time, distantly past event. Jesus' birth is an event from the past, but each year we retell and relive the Greatest Story Ever Told because that one event changed everything!

You will want to worship with us on the First Sunday of Advent when we hear the prophet proclaim, "The Lord is our Righteousness" (Jeremiah 33:16). Advent 202 is the time to realize that God is still doing marvelous things and continues to enter and transform our lives. When Jesus "moved into our neighborhood" (John 1:14), he moved in for good! Jesus is not historically bound to the past, but is in a dynamic relationship to be enjoyed right now, and into the future, too!

During the four weeks of Advent that culminates on Christmas Eve, we watch and wait for Jesus' spiritual reboot of our lives, transforming our world, our communities, and lives. How will we experience hope? By watching and waiting, actively engaging, and being open to the Spirit of Christ today, this Advent season.

In our Gospel reading from Luke 21:25-36, we get a hint of the radical nature of Christ's entering our world. We watch in hope—(What are you watching for during these unprecedented times?)... and wait in hope— (What are you waiting for? Whom are you waiting on?). If you were waiting for a sign, this is it!

## MUSIC AND VIDEO PREVIEW

We begin Advent singing *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*, a solemn and delicate carol originally written in Latin with a title of 'Veni, Veni, Emmanuel' about 1710. The English translation of the Advent carol came about in 1851 when the priest and scholar John Mason Neale's version was featured in the pages of *The Hymnal Noted* – a key text in the history of hymns collected by hymnal documenter Thomas Helmore. Let's join in watching and waiting for the promised Messiah, Emmanuel (meaning God is here). Our worship experience concludes with *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*. With its opening invitation "Come," this hymn sounds the note of hope and anticipation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin *adventus* "coming"). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.

**GREETING OF IN-PERSON WORSHIPPERS:** PASTOR KEVIN (10:24)

**COUNTDOWN TO WORSHIP** (10:24)

**PRELUDE:** JAYNE McDONOUGH (10:27)

**WELCOME:** PASTOR KEVIN (10:32)

**CALL TO WORSHIP (UNISON):** BARBARA CAIN (10:34)

One: Welcome to our Advent adventure to nurture our spirit and inspire our faith!

*Many: During these days of anticipation and hope, we step out together to experience the abundant life and hope.*

One: Everyone is included on our journey to Bethlehem, where justice is born, love is displayed, and lives are transformed.

*Many: Jesus is the Gift of salvation promised long ago, the One who comes to us today. Let us worship God! AMEN.*

**GOD WELCOMES ALL (SING LIGHTLY):** (1-10:34)

God welcomes all, strangers and friends;  
God's love is strong, and it never ends.

### LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE:

Today we light the first Advent candle, the candle of hope. We look forward to the coming of Jesus, who is our hope now and forever. The prophets of Israel spoke of the coming of Christ, of how a savior would be born, a king in the line of David. God's promise is that a Messiah would one day rule the world wisely and bless every nation.



**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (UNISON):**

Loving God, keep our hearts and minds open to the Good News as we learn, grow, and serve. Amen.

**OLD TESTAMENT READING: JEREMIAH 33:14-16**

“The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah. In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David’s line; he will do what is just and right in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which it will be called: The Lord Our Righteous Savior.”

**MESSAGE FOR KIDS: SIGN MAKING** PASTOR KEVIN

(10:34)

**PRAYER FOR FAMILIES**

**GOSPEL READING: LUKE 21:29-31**

He told them this parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near.



## MESSAGE: IF YOU WE'RE WAITING FOR A SIGN THIS IS IT

PASTOR KEVIN

### PRAYER AND SILENT REFLECTION:

## MUSIC VIDEO LYRICS - O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL - HYMNAL #9

### Verse 1

O come O come Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear  
Rejoice rejoice Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee O Israel

### Verse 2

O come Thou Dayspring come and  
cheer  
Our spirits by Thine advent here  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night  
And death's dark shadows put to  
flight  
Rejoice rejoice Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee O Israel

### Verse 3

O come Desire of nations bind  
All peoples in one heart and mind  
Bid envy strife and quarrels cease  
Fill the whole world with heaven's  
peace  
Rejoice rejoice Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee O Israel  
Rejoice rejoice Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee O Israel  
Shall come to thee O Israel  
Shall come to thee O Israel

### CALL TO RECONCILIATION

(10:55)

God loves you and nothing separates you from God's love.  
In a spirit of gratitude and joy, let us pray together:

### PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS

(10:55)

**Good morning God, our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. Thank you for your grace and mercy. Forgive us when we hurt or neglect others, missing opportunities to live like Jesus. When we waver, help us feel your presence. When we doubt, comfort us by your strength. When we stop listening to your Spirit, realign us. When we forget, remind us. When we cry out, send your tenderness in another. Please help us to hear the cries of others and turn us toward them. When we go out, let us shine with your glory and light. Help us to love, hope, and forgive, welcoming all through Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

## SILENT REFLECTION

### HEAR THE WORDS OF ASSURANCE

In the name of Jesus Christ, the risen and rising Lord, God loves and forgives us to live like Christ and a life of faith, justice, and peace.

Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! AMEN.

### THE GLORIA (SING LIGHTLY)

(3) (10:57)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

### GIFTS OF GRATITUDE: GENERAL FUND AND DEACONS FUND

(11:04)

Thank you for your financial support! Mail your gift, or click “via tithe.ly” at [www.coldspringchurch.com/giving](http://www.coldspringchurch.com/giving).

When in-person, use the donation boxes at both exit doors.



### PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

### THE DOXOLOGY (SING LIGHTLY)

(5) (11:05)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below; praise God above the heavenly host, praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## COMMUNITY NEWS:



Your complementary **Advent Devotional** is available now! Look for it with the online PDF Advent Worship Guide, or pick up your copy in

the Narthex. This Advent can be the beginning of a great spiritual journey!



**Happy Birthday** to Lois DeSoo (11/25), Betty Miller (11/29), Lenore McGann (12/3), and Barbara Keister (12/6).



The flowers that beautified our chancel last week were given to the glory of God from the Rev. Larry Moyer in honor of his and Carlene's November birthdays. Thank you. (If you'd like to place flowers for your special occasion please see Beverly Mate or call 609-847-1530.)



**Wreaths Across America** is Saturday, December 18, 12 PM. The Order Form is available in the Narthex. Thank you!

**Experience Christmas with Cold Spring Church!**  
**6:00 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**  
**Red Brick Church or online**  
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**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service!**  
Come and celebrate the birth of Jesus in a very special and inspiring candlelight worship experience, 6:00 PM in-person or online.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:**

(11:06)

God cares about us and loves us as we share our concerns with God and one another. We pray for others worldwide and nearby who need shelter, food, employment, healing, and wholeness in mind, body, and spirit. God, grant us peace as we embrace life's challenges in Christ's hope. We are praying for those suffering from Covid-19 and other illnesses, and those who serve in healthcare, emergency response, law enforcement, education, business, government, and the military.

Let us pray: Bob Hall with heart issues. Remember Tammy's family in the passing of her aunt. Pray for Jean Morgan & family in the passing of Bob. For Chuck McPherson, recovering from COVID-19. Max & Ana Moran on the passing of her mother, father, and grandmother from Covid-19. Barbara Baker healing from her back surgery. Nancy's nephew, Ezras, his sisters & mother now have Covid-19. Thank you for remembering our veterans! Pray for Charles Keister, that he would feel better and regain strength. For the friends and family of Lydia Richey on her passing; McDonough and King Families, passing of Jesse. Continued healing for Fred, Lenore, and for all of us to be well and stay safe. We pray for John Stalford's relief from back pain. Max and Ana Moran in the loss of her Father and Grandmother to covid, Max in the loss of his Uncle; Nathalie Rodriguez, Hashimoto's disease.

#### **PRAYER**

#### **LORD'S PRAYER**

(11:07)

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom comes, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

(11:08)

#### **FRESH EXPRESSION OF COMMUNITY**

(11:09)

**Once we were strangers, Now we are neighbors.  
Once we were strangers, Now we are friends.**

#### **MUSIC- COME THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS - HYMNAL #2**

**Come Thou long expected Jesus  
Born to set Thy people free  
From our fears and sins release us  
Let us find our rest in Thee**

Israel's strength and consolation  
Hope of all the earth Thou art  
Dear desire of every nation  
Joy of every longing heart

Born Thy people to deliver  
Born a child and yet a King  
Born to reign in us forever  
Now Thy gracious Kingdom bring  
By Thine own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone  
By Thine all sufficient merit  
Raise us to Thy glorious throne

**BENEDICTION:** PASTOR KEVIN

(11:13)

**POSTLUDE:**

(11:14)

*Go in peace, and serve in joy! Thank you for being with us!  
We hope that you felt spiritually energized by joining us  
today. All of our worship services are available for viewing  
and sharing at any time [here](#). Please invite others to join you  
next week. We pray that you're staying safe wherever you  
are and wherever you go. May God bless you and those you  
love now and always.*

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1. *God Welcomes All*: CCLI # 549555
2. *O Come, O Come, Emanuel*: John Neale, Henry Coffin; Thomas Helmore, John Weaver arr. CCLI #31982
3. *Gloria* - public domain
4. *Doxology*: CCLI #42555
5. *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*: Charles Wesley; Rowland Prichard: CCLI #31999



NIGHT WATCH  
2021 ADVENT DEVOTIONS | WEEK 1  
BY TERI McDOWELL OTT

# Beauty



## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28<sup>TH</sup> | GENESIS 1:1-5

I encourage you to begin this devotion series at night, outside if you can. That's where I am now — writing this on our back porch, my notebook lit with a small battery-powered lamp. I can't stay out too long. The crisp Illinois prairie wind will soon numb my fingers holding pen to paper. But I welcome the fresh scent of the night air and the nocturnal stirring of critters I never see during the day. The darkening sky invites me to behold the stars that ask, "What has kept you from the gifts of the night?"

I used to venture out at night more often. After the kids' bedtime, I'd walk through the grass, breathe deep and lean against a sturdy maple tree to look up and take in God's creation. I'm not sure what lured me from this spiritual practice (Netflix binges? The distractions of work?) But Advent is the perfect opportunity to return to the night.

The metaphor of darkness runs throughout the Bible — typically associated with evil and sin. But darkness does not mean the absence of God. When the sun disappears below the horizon, God doesn't vanish with it. The night is part of God's good creation.

Darkness is the chosen medium of artist James Turrell. Heather Lanier's essay "In Praise of Darkness" (Poets & Writers, 2018) describes one of Turrell's museum exhibits: "You enter by stepping into a narrow corridor — the only source of light is behind you — which quickly turns 180 degrees to the right. As you get farther along, the walls must be painted black because now the darkness is nearly complete. If you go alone, this is when you might seek out the handrail, flu season or not ... and let it guide you through another 180-degree turn. The darkness at this point becomes thick, almost palpable." Lanier continues to describe that the viewer of the exhibit eventually finds a chair and sits, waiting as long as 15 minutes for their irises to open sufficiently enough to perceive Turrell's work.

The belief that art and beauty await you in Turrell's work helps you walk into darkness, then wait. And in the darkness, beauty emerges. As Lanier describes it: "A faint, gray amorphous source of light. It's so faint at first you might not be able to place its shape. Circle? Oval? Blob? It's like a reflection of a reflection of light, like a moon of a moon."

The dark of night holds promise. Advent points us to this same promise: God is not absent when all appears dark. God waits with us as our eyes adjust to the beauty and meaning that can be found in the dark. The key is to believe that something is there — that something is here — for us, something good and beautiful. Something that is worth our patience.

As Advent begins, our nights stretch long. There is more darkness now than any other time of year. Let's walk together into the night to see what God reveals.

*Holy God, help us to patiently walk with you and wait with you in the night so we can marvel at the beauty of your creation lit by moon and stars. Amen.*

## MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup> | GENESIS 15:1-6

It's as impossible to count the stars in the sky as it is to count the blessings God bestows. This Advent, take some time to go outside at night and stargaze. Imagine the hope Abraham felt as God pointed his attention to the heavens and promised him a long line of descendants. Imagine moving from a state of barrenness to a state of fulfillment. What blessing has God shown you this past year? What blessing is God preparing you for this Advent?

*God of uncountable blessings, your stars remind us of all we have been given and all that is still yet to come. Your promise to care for and protect us, our children and our children's children, illuminates the night sky with beauty and hope. In this season of Advent, we turn our eyes heavenward with Abraham to marvel at your faithfulness and praise you for all you provide. Amen.*

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup> | EXODUS 10:21-24

In this Exodus story, God uses darkness to strike fear in Pharaoh's heart and protect the Israelites from those who seek to keep them enslaved. The Egyptians could not find the Israelites hidden by God's darkness. This Advent, find some quiet time to sit in the dark. We are often afraid of the dark because of the way it limits our vision. But can you experience the dark's protection like this passage suggests? What do you find comforting when all the lights are out? How is God seeking to protect and comfort you this Advent?

*You cover and comfort us, Eternal God. We thank you for the darkness that reminds us of the ways you protect and provide for us. Help us to seek you, even when we cannot see. Help us to feel your presence among us this Advent. Amen.*

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> | PSALM 136:1-9

The moon and stars are a steady presence and a nightly reminder of the steadfast love of God. No matter what happens during the day, God's stars still shine. No matter what doubts or fears plague us, God's love for us never wavers. No matter the cruelty of the world, God is there every night, reminding us that love rises above all else. This Advent, spend some time praying in a place where you can view the moon and stars. This Advent, pause to remember and give thanks for God's steadfast love.

*Beautiful Creator, we pause to praise you. Your steadfast love endures forever. The moon and the stars point us toward this truth. In a cruel and violent world, we are grateful for this nightly reminder that your way is love. In a world where we are so often brought low, the signs in your night sky raise us up. Thank you. Amen.*

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup> | PSALM 148:1-3

A star praises God by being all that God created it to be. A star illuminates the night, directs wandering travelers and ships at sea, humbles us with the vastness of the universe beyond our planet, pokes holes in our dark loneliness and despair to let in a little light of hope, stokes the fires of our faith with a glimpse of what is beyond the beyond. This Advent, praise God by being who God created you to be.

*Creator God, like the stars, we praise you, we appreciate you, we marvel at the gifts you offer and the beauty you have painted in the sky. When we need direction, remind us to look up. When we need humility, let the night sky remind us of how small we really are. When we need hope, guide our eyes from our base reality toward your beauty and being. Amen.*

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup> | PHILIPPIANS 2:12-16

We are lights meant to shine in the world. This is who God created us to be. Paul reminds the Philippians that God is at work within and through them. The world can know of God by the way we illuminate injustice and work to overcome the darkness of evil and sin. The world can know of God as we reflect Christ's humility, love and desire to serve. As we move through this season of Advent, our mission becomes as clear as a cloudless night sky full of God's glory.

*Let us shine! Let us shine! Let us shine! Inspiring God, you ignite us with passion and purpose. May we live as Christ lived. May we shed light on all that is wrong so we can clearly see how to work towards what is right. Illuminate us from within, Holy God, so we can shine like your stars in the world. Amen.*

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup> | PSALM 104:19

Spring, summer, fall, winter. Morning, afternoon, evening, night. Childhood, youth, adulthood, older adulthood. Our days are marked by seasons. Our lives, by natural stages of development. This division of time adds interest and beauty to our days and reminds us of the preciousness and passing of life. We are not God. We begin and end. The church's seasons also mark time as sacred and precious. As the beginning of the church year, Advent calls us back to our faith to prepare us for Christ's birth. As the winter moon fills the sky this December, mark this time by praising God for the gift of Jesus Christ born into this precious and passing life.

*We praise you, God, for the variety of each season, the beauty of each stage of life. We praise you, Holy One, for the Christ child, born into our human, fleshy, worldly reality, to save us and set us free. Amen.*

