

LET US WORSHIP GOD!

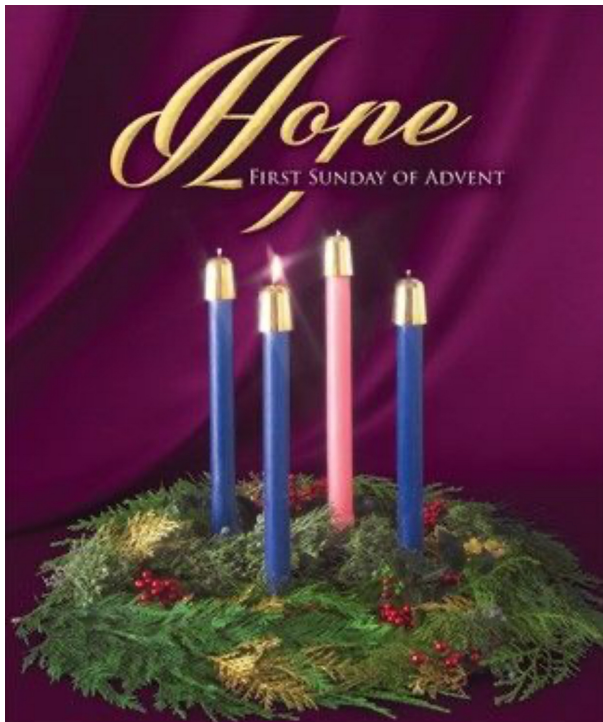
November 29, 2025—10:30 AM

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. Jack Wright, Pulpit Supply; Worship Production: Norris Clark



WELCOME! WORSHIP YOUR WAY!

So glad you're here today! Enjoy worship with your neighbors and be spiritually energized. Join us in-person in our beautiful, historic Red Brick Church or online: www.coldspringworship.com

MESSAGE PREVIEW: WE WELCOME REV. JACK WRIGHT THIS WEEK! HIS MESSAGE IS TITLED "UNEXPECTED"

MUSIC PREVIEW:

The Gathering hymn "**Angels from the Realms of Glory**" was written by English poet James Montgomery in 1816 to celebrate the birth of Jesus. It draws on the biblical account of the angels who announced Jesus's birth to the shepherds, calling on

various groups—including angels, shepherds, wise men, and sinners—to join in worshipping the newborn King. The carol was originally a poem published on Christmas Eve in Montgomery's newspaper and later became a hymn, often set to the tune "Regent Square," composed by Henry Smart.

"**Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence**", the phrase comes from a Christian hymn with origins in the 4th-century Liturgy of St. James, a pre-Eucharistic prayer that calls for awe and reverence before the arrival of Christ. The text was later translated into English in the 19th century, and the hymn is now widely used during Advent to reflect on Christ's descent to earth and sacrificial death. It is considered one of the oldest hymns still in use today.

The hymn "**Blessed Be the God of Israel**" is a metrical paraphrase of the "Benedictus," also known as the Song of Zechariah from the biblical text of Luke 1:68-79. The story behind it is that after his son, John the Baptist, was born, Zechariah's tongue was loosed, and he burst into a prophecy and song of praise. The hymn captures Zechariah's words of thanks and his recognition that John would prepare the way for the coming Messiah, Jesus.

PRELUDE
WELCOME:

JAYNE McDONOUGH
LITURGIST: BEVERLY MATE

GOD WELCOMES ALL (UNISON)

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



LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH:

CANDLE OF HOPE

ELAINE JORDAN AND LINDA KAEMPF

THE CALL TO WORSHIP: (RESPONSIVE)

One: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the Lord!"

Many: we are standing in God's presence, alert and ready to receive God's word.

One: The night is passing. The day of salvation is near.

Many: we seek to live as people of the Light. Come, Lord Jesus!

OPENING PRAYER: (UNISON)

O God, whose will is justice for the poor and peace for the afflicted, let your herald's urgent voice pierce our hardened hearts and announce the dawn of your kingdom. Before the Advent of the one who baptizes with the fire of the Holy Spirit, let our complacency give way to conversion, oppression to justice, and conflict to acceptance of one another in Christ. We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near: your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN - #22 (BLUE) "ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY"

**1. Angels, from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye, who sang creation's story
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King!**

**2. Shepherds, in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
Yonder shines the infant light:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King!**

**3. Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations;
Ye have seen His natal star:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King!**

**4. All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To the eternal Three in One:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King!**

CALL TO CONFESSION:

Prepare the way of the Lord!
Let us make our confession to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (UNISON)

Merciful God, always with us, always coming: We confess that we do not know how to prepare for your Advent. We have forgotten how to hope in miracles; we have ignored the promise of your kingdom; we get distracted by all the busyness of this season. Forgive us, God. Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds, the intelligent courage of the Magi, and the patient faith of Mary and Joseph, that we may journey with them to Bethlehem and find the good news of a child born for us. Now, in the quiet of our hearts, we ask you to make us ready for his coming. Amen.

Silent Reflection

HEAR THE WORDS OF ASSURANCE: (RESPONSIVE)

One: The good news of this Advent season is forgiveness of sin and new life. Let us commit our lives to Christ's way of hope and peace.

Many: Thanks be to the Advent God, who comes among us,
setting us free to love and serve.

* **The Gloria**

**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.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:

Savior God, guide us by your Word and Spirit that we might hear your truth, heed your call and be prepared for Christ's coming this Christmas. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: ISAIAH 2: 1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: ROMANS 13: 11-14

And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 24: 36-44

“But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son,[a] but only the Father. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left. “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

MESSAGE: “UNEXPECTED”

REV. JACK WRIGHT

PRAYER AND SILENT REFLECTION

HYMN OF MEDITATION - #5 (BLUE) "LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE"

**1. Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing worldly minded,
For with blessing in His hand,
Christ our God To earth descendeth,
Our full homage to demand.**

**2. King of kings, yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
In the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heav'nly food.**

**3. Rank on rank the host of heaven
Spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of light descendeth**

From the realms of endless day,
That the pow'rs of hell may vanish
As the darkness clears away.

4. At His feet the six winged seraph;
Cherubim, with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence,
As with ceaseless voice they cry,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord Most High!

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS: (2 PETER 3: 8-15)

"All things in heaven and earth belong to God, who is coming in glory to reveal a new creation." Let us present our tithes and offerings to the Lord.

Offertory

THE DOXOLOGY

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.

Prayer of Dedication

COMMUNITY NEWS

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES:



Happy Birthday Blessings to:

Lenore McGann ~ Dec. 3

Barbara Keister ~ Dec. 6



Flowers: To donate flowers in memory, or in honor, of a loved one, sign up in the narthex and/or contact Beverly Mate, 609-847-1530. (\$20/vase).

Readers needed for Advent Candle Lighting, families, couples, friends, all welcome! See Pastor Dave for details.



**SAVE THE DATE: CHURCH DECORATING FOR ADVENT
THIS SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 10:00 a.m.**

Please let Beverly Mate know if you are available to help!



Poinsettias for the church sanctuary for Advent & Christmas Eve- forms are in the narthex to purchase a poinsettia in honor or memory of loved ones. \$20.00 per Poinsettia, you can take them home after the Christmas Eve Worship Celebration. **Please return forms with payment by Dec. 7,** in the collection plate or to the church office.



Cold Spring Advent Covered Dish Luncheon - Sunday, December 7, in Price Hall, following the Worship Service. A Sign up sheet is in the Narthex. You do not need to bring anything to attend. Everyone is welcome!



Wreaths Across America

Ceremony on **Saturday, December 13 at noon.** Order forms to sponsor or buy a wreath for a veteran's gravesite, are available in the narthex.



Sunday, December 21st - 10:30 am Worship Service - be here & bring your family & invite your friends for this special Musical Celebration of Christ's Birth through readings & music, "**Christmas Around the World**".



The Angelus Chorus

"Our Favorite Things" Holiday Concerts :

Wed. 12/3, 7 pm - C. M. Convention Center -

714 Beach Ave, Cape May

Mon. 12/8, 7 pm - C. M. United Methodist Church -

635 Washington St., Cape May

Wed. 12/10, 7 pm - First United Meth. Church of Cape May

Court House - 1 Church Street, CMCH

Thurs. 12/11, 7 pm - Resurrection Church (St. Maximillian

Kolbe Parish, - 200 Tuckahoe Rd, Marmora

Sun. 12/14, 2 pm - Performing with the John Walter Cape

Community Band at Middle Township

Performing Arts Center - 212 Bayberry Dr. CMCH

RECEIVING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

(If you'd like to add to our prayer list, please complete a green Let's Pray card.)

Pray for: **Wayne Spang**, dear friend of John Saalman, having open heart surgery this week; Sue's cousin in Texas, **Greg**, fell and will have shoulder replacement surgery on Monday; Marge requests prayers for her **family member's** and **all those traveling this week** for Thanksgiving; **Abby Carr** has had a set back and is hospitalized; **Julie Groob** hospitalized with complications from cancer surgery; **James Dodd, Jr** recuperating at home after a serious illness and hospital stay; Comfort for friends and family of **Ken Ross**, a veteran who passed away; **Rev. Jim Shanley**, his recuperation from a heart procedure is not going well; **Max Moran's Mother Lori**, who was recently diagnosed with breast cancer; **Denise's stepdaughter, Lori**, whose cancer has returned for the third time. She is receiving very serious treatment; **Ariana Palmer**, 23 year old awaiting heart transplant;

Continual prayer requested for: **Eileen Stalford** in nursing care; **Pastor Bob & Anna Sheidly** friends of Bob Heinly, as they battle multiple maladies of aging; Bob Sheidly is now the caretaker for Anna, who is having more health difficulties.

Those on hospice care: **Marty, John Stalford, Gertrude Hess, Ted Lewis**

Those undergoing cancer treatment: **Kiley Fulford; Bob Maher, Karen R., Keith, Todd, Brian, Gerri Mills, Robin B, Mike, Kim, Steve, Rickey, Lorraine, Candy, Donna, Liz, Joe, Jennifer, Lori, Ruth, Debbie, Mike Grecco Norma, Roseann Crook, Christa, Jackie, Diane, Charlotte Holman, Joe Paulits, Gretchen, Ray, Carl & Robert, Lori.**

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, 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.

FRESH EXPRESSION OF COMMUNITY

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

SENDING HYMN: (FROM GLORY TO GOD HYMNAL)

"BLESSED BE THE GOD OF ISRAEL"

**1. Blessed be the God of Israel
who comes to set us free;
who visits and redeems us,
who grants us liberty.
The prophets spoke of mercy,
of rescue and release:
God shall fulfill the promise
to bring the gift of peace.**

**2. Now from the house of David
a child of grace has come;
a savior who will lead us
to our eternal home.
Before him goes his herald,
forerunner in the way,
the prophet of salvation,
the messenger of Day.**

**3. On those who live in darkness
the sun begins to rise -
the dawning of forgiveness
upon the sinner's eyes;
to guide the feet of pilgrims
along the paths of peace:
O bless our God and Savior,
with songs that never cease!**

BENEDICTION:

POSTLUDE:

**REV. JACK WRIGHT
JAYNE McDONOUGH**

Go in peace. See you next week!

So glad you've joined us. Please Like and Subscribe on our YouTube channel, Facebook, and Instagram. Worship at any time on YouTube. Invite others to join you next week

Notes for Today's Music: CCLI License #20561018. CCLI Streaming License #20561001
Worship Lyric Videos, all rights reserved, Web license. Worship House Media, Web License.
OneLicense Limited Podcast / Streaming License #M-401274.

1. *God Welcomes All* - CCLI Song #5495557
2. Angels from the Realms of Glory: James Montgomery vs 1-3, Salisbury Hymn Book vs 4, Henry Thomas Smart, 1867; CCLI Song #31669
3. *Gloria* Public Domain
4. Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence: from Liturgy of St. James 4th c., trans. Gerard Moultrie, 1864, French Carol, Harm. The English Hymnal 1906; CCLI Song #2780502
5. *Doxology* - CCLI Song #4255578
6. Blessed Be the God of Israel: Michael Perry 1973 alt., Hal H. Hopson 1983, Merle's tune; CCLI Song #11098866