

# LET US WORSHIP GOD!

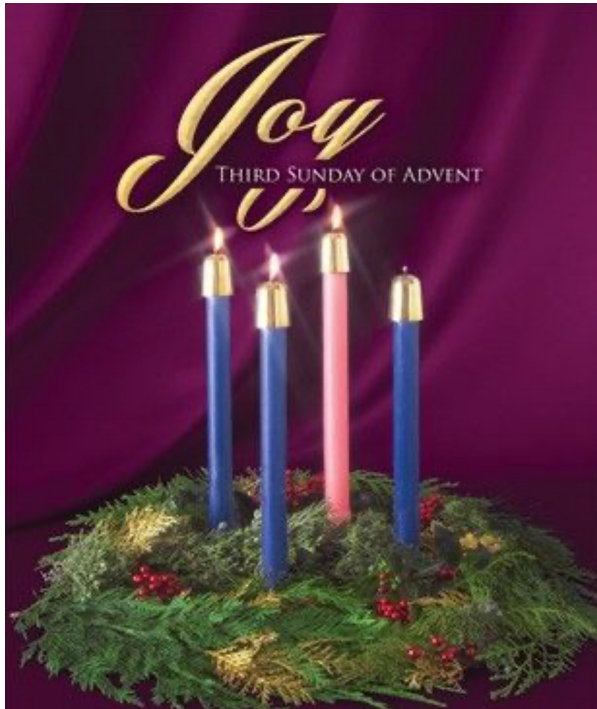
December 14, 2025—10:30 AM

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



A HYBRID WORSHIP EXPERIENCE IN-PERSON AND ONLINE

*Today's worship team—Music Director: Jayne McDonough;  
Worship Leader: John Saalman; Message: Rev. Virginia Scott, 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](http://www.coldspringworship.com)*

### MESSAGE PREVIEW:

**Rev. Virginia Scott message is titled: "Let It Begin With Me"**

Please welcome Rev. Virginia (Ginnie) Scott to our service this morning. Rev.

Ginnie received her Master's in Divinity & Master's in Theology from the Princeton Seminary and was actually there about the same time as Rev. Dave Wenker! She retired last December, after 45 years in ministry.

Rev. Ginnie grew up going to the beach with her Grandmother in Ocean City and after retirement has settled in South Seaville. She very recently came to Cold Spring looking for a church and we are so glad she found us and so grateful for her ministry this morning!

### MUSIC PREVIEW:

Our Gathering hymn, "**Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus**" is a 1744 Advent and Christmas carol common in Protestant

hymnals. The text was written by Charles Wesley. It is performed to the tune, "Hyfrydol" by Rowland Prichard, in our hymnal. The hymn is considered an enduring classic in Christian hymnody.

**"What Child Is This?"** is a Christmas carol with lyrics written by William Chatterton Dix in 1865 and set to the tune of "Greensleeves", a traditional English folk song (possibly by Richard Jones), in 1871. Although written in Great Britain, the carol today is more popular in the United States than its country of origin. The lyrics were inspired by one of William's verses titled "The Manger Throne." It urges humanity to accept Christ. The eloquent melody is haunting, and its beautiful essence reiterates the "Adoration of the Shepherds" who paid a visit to Jesus during the nativity.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote the hymn, **"I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"**, on Christmas Day 1864 after suffering two devastating blows – his wife's tragic death in a fire and his son's severe wounding in the Civil War. The song tells of the narrator hearing Christmas bells during the American Civil War, but despairing that "hate is strong and mocks the song of peace on earth, good will to men". After much anguish and despondency the carol concludes with the bells ringing out with resolution that "God is not dead, nor doth He sleep" and that there will ultimately be "peace on earth, good will to men".

**PRELUDE**

**JAYNE McDONOUGH**

**WELCOME:**

**LITURGIST: JOHN SAALMAN**

**GOD WELCOMES ALL (UNISON)**

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

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH:

### THE CANDLE OF JOY:

WAYNE & SUE DILKS

### THE CALL TO WORSHIP: (RESPONSIVE)

One: Each of us has been put in charge of a part of the house of God.

**Many: When the Master of the house returns, we want to be ready**

One: What I say to you, I shall say to all, "Watch."

**Many: Let us worship and watch, getting ready for the coming of the Christ.**

### OPENING PRAYER: (UNISON) (ISAIAH 35:1-2; MATTHEW 11:4-5)

**What if joy were to break out unrestrained in our world? What would we notice? The wilderness and dry land would be glad; the desert rejoice and blossom. The blind would see and the lame would walk. Lepers would be cleansed, and the deaf would hear. The dead would rise and the poor would receive good news. May joy break out in our worship today as we anticipate the One who comes into our world! Come thou long expected Jesus!**

**GATHERING HYMN - #2 (BLUE) "COME, THOU  
LONG EXPECTED JESUS"**

**1. 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.**

**2. 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.**

**CALL TO CONFESSION: (ROMANS 3:23-24)**

There are two great equalizers among us. One is that we have all sinned and fallen short of God's glory. The other is that we are all now justified by God's grace through the gift of Christ Jesus. Confident of both, let us admit where we have fallen short and receive grace without limit.

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (UNISON)**

**Holy and wonderful God, we confess that we have closed our eyes to what you are doing. We prefer to concentrate on problems, bad news and violence. When we do, we miss all the healing, freeing and helping you accomplish in our world. We pass up opportunities to participate in your Good News. We rob ourselves of so much joy. Forgive us and give us eyes to see, ears to hear, minds to understand, and hearts to treasure your mission in the world. Fill us with unquenchable joy at the coming of Jesus. Amen.**

*Silent Reflection*

### **HEAR THE WORDS OF ASSURANCE: (RESPONSIVE)**

**One:** The angel told Joseph, “You are to name the baby Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” Believe the good news of the gospel:  
**Many: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Hallelujah! Amen.**

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:**

**Come Holy Spirit! Through the reading and hearing of the Word today, may a deep and complete joy be born in us. Amen.**

## **FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: ISAIAH 11: 1 & 6**

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them.

## **SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: MATTHEW 25: 34-40**

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’ “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

**MESSAGE: "LET IT BEGIN WITH ME"**

**REV. VIRGINIA SCOTT**

***PRAYER AND SILENT REFLECTION***

**HYMN OF MEDITATION: #53 (BLUE), "WHAT CHILD  
Is THIS"**

**1. What Child is this, who, laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this, is Christ the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary!**

**2. Why lies He in such mean estate  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian fear; for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.  
This, this, is Christ the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary!**

**3. So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
Come, one and all, to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;**



**Let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
This, this, is Christ the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary!**

### **OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS:**

We give to God's work in the world in response to all that God has done for us. In awareness and gratitude, let us give God's tithes and our offerings.

### **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.**

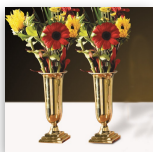
**Prayer of Dedication**

### **COMMUNITY NEWS**

**Birthdays  
& Anniversaries**

### **BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES:**

*None on the list*



*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).*





*Wreaths Across America*  
Ceremony on **Saturday,**  
**December 13 at noon.**



**Sunday, December 21st - 10:30 am**

**Worship Service** - come to worship &  
bring your family & friends for this special  
Musical Celebration of Christ's Birth  
through readings & music,  
**"*Christmas Around the World*".**

*The Deacon's Reverse Advent Calendar*  
*Project* - copies in the narthex of requested  
items to donate to local food banks. Please  
bring all donations by December 21st, to  
church or Price Hall.



**The Angelus Chorus**

**"Our Favorite Things" Holiday Concerts :**  
**Final concert for this year!**

***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: **Linda's Sister, Annette**, having extensive oral surgery; **Kevin Beare's Brother, Richard**, is being treated for liver cancer; **Barb Keister's great-granddaughter, Riley**, 20 years old, is scheduled for a breast biopsy; Sue's **cousin Greg Smith**, can't have needed shoulder surgery because of a weak heart; **Melva Cremer** is suffering with shingles on her face affecting her eyes; **Amanda Dodd's Mother** is home from the hospital and continuing her care; **Wayne Spang**, dear friend of John Saalman, had open heart surgery; **Julie Groob** at home now, but still needs our prayers; **Rev. Jim Shanley**, recuperating slowly; **Ariana Palmer**, 23 year old awaiting heart transplant;*

*Continual prayer requested for: **Eileen Stalford** in nursing care; **Pastor Bob Sheidly** friend of Bob Heinly, as he battles multiple maladies of aging; Anna Sheidly is now receiving hospice care.*

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

*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, Patricia, Julie.*

## **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: #123 (RED) "I HEARD THE BELLS ON CHRISTMAS DAY"**

**1. I heard the bells on Christmas day  
Their old familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet the words repeat**

**Of peace on earth, goodwill to men.**

**2. I thought how, as the day had come,  
The belfries of all Christendom  
Had rolled along th'unbroken song  
Of peace on earth, goodwill to men.**

**3. And in despair I bowed my head:  
"There is no peace on earth," I said,  
"For hate is strong, and mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, goodwill to men."**

**4. Then pealed the bells more loud and  
deep:  
"God is not dead: nor doth He sleep;  
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,  
With peace on earth, goodwill to men."**

**5. Till, ringing, singing on its way,  
The world revolved from night to day,  
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime,  
Of peace on earth, goodwill to men!**

**BENEDICTION:**

**REV. VIRGINIA SCOTT**

**POSTLUDE:**

**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.*

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*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. Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus: Charles Wesley, 1744/Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1831 ; CCLI Song #31999
3. *Gloria* Public Domain
4. What Child is This: William Chatterton Dix, 1871 & 16th C. English Ballad; CCLI Song #30983
5. *Doxology* - CCLI Song #4255578
6. I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, J. Baptiste Calkin; CCLI Song #109663