

# LET US WORSHIP GOD!

December 28, 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: Marjorie Wetherill; 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](http://www.coldspringworship.com)



### MESSAGE PREVIEW:

Please welcome Rev. Jack Wright back to our pulpit today. His message is titled "The WORD Incarnate".

### MUSIC PREVIEW:

Select a Christmas carol you would like to sing for our hymn sing during the gathering hymn. We will sing one verse of 5-6 selections!

**"O Little Town of Bethlehem"** was written by American preacher Phillips Brooks in 1868, inspired by his moving Christmas Eve visit to the actual town of Bethlehem in 1865, where he reflected on the humble birth of Jesus amidst the ordinary village life, wanting to share that profound experience with his Sunday school children. He penned the lyrics after a trip to the Holy Land and asked his church's organist, Lewis Redner, to compose the simple, child-friendly melody.

**"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"** was written by Unitarian minister Edmund Hamilton Sears in 1849, reflecting the era's turmoil (Mexican-American War, slavery debate, European revolutions) with its call for peace, focusing on the angels' message rather than Christ's birth, and urging a weary world to "hush the noise" and hear the song of peace, a message that still resonates with calls for social justice and hope for a better world.

**PRELUDE**

**JAYNE McDONOUGH**

**WELCOME:**

**LITURGIST: MARJORIE WETHERILL**

**GOD WELCOMES ALL (UNISON)**

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

**THE CALL TO WORSHIP: (RESPONSIVE)**

One: Wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage."

**Many: On this first Sunday of Christmas, we, too, have come to worship Jesus the Messiah: the son of David, the son of Abraham.**

One: When the wise men saw the child with Mary his mother, they knelt down, paid him homage, and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

**Many: On this first Sunday of Christmas, we offer ourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to you, O God.**

One: For the grace of God has appeared,  
bringing salvation to all.

**Many: Glory to God in the highest heaven!**

**OPENING PRAYER: (UNISON)**

**Heavenly Father, as we gather on this Sunday, December 28th, a day often tied to the journey of the Holy Family, we pray for guidance, peace, and courage to follow your gentle Savior, even amidst suffering and uncertainty. Help us to see Your presence in all things, to show compassion to the vulnerable, and to reflect Your love and truth in our lives, so we may live as worthy children of God and spread the joy of Your salvation to a world in need. Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN - CHRISTMAS CAROL HYMN  
SING, CHOOSE YOUR FAVORITES! PLEASE SAY  
RED OR BLUE HYMNAL AND THEN THE NUMBER!**

**CALL TO CONFESSION: (ACTS 3:19-20)**

Hear these words of the Apostle Peter, “Repent, therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord ...” With humble and trusting hearts, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

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

**God of Christmas, we would never have thought to find your Savior in an innocent baby. We confess we would have expected a warrior with a great army. We would not have thought to find your kingdom to be one of service, obedience and humility. We confess we would have expected, maybe even wanted, a kingdom that reflected our own values and self-interests. Lord, forgive us when we quickly leave Christmas behind and neglect to live lives worthy of our calling as followers of our Lord, the Prince of Peace. By your Holy Spirit, help us turn to you and live according to the values of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen**

## **Silent Reflection**

## **HEAR THE WORDS OF ASSURANCE:**

The angel said to Joseph, “She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” Indeed, he did and still does. Friends, believe the good news: In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.

## **\*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:**

Almighty God, the gospel writer John tells us, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us." As we hear your Word read and proclaimed today, may we hear and see the glory of Jesus Christ and receive grace upon grace. Amen.

## **FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: ISAIAH 61:10 TO 62: 3**

I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation. and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations. Zion's New Name For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet, till

her vindication shines out like the dawn, her salvation like a blazing torch. The nations will see your vindication, and all kings your glory; you will be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will bestow. You will be a crown of splendor in the Lord's hand, a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

### **SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: GALATIANS 4: 4-7**

But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

### **GOSPEL READING: LUKE 2: 22-40**

When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord", and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons." Now there was

a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel. The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too." There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting

and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

**MESSAGE: "THE WORD INCARNATE"**

**REV. JACK WRIGHT**

**PRAYER AND SILENT REFLECTION**

**HYMN OF MEDITATION: #44 (BLUE), "O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM"**

**1. O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting Light:  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.**

**2. For Christ is born of Mary;  
And gathered all above,**



**While mortals sleep,  
The angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together  
Proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing to God the King,  
And peace to men on earth.**

**3. How silently, how silently,  
The wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heaven.  
No ear may hear His coming,  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him, still  
The dear Christ enters in.**

**4. O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin and enter in,  
Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel!**

## OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS: (HEBREWS 13:15-16)

The letter to the Hebrews calls us to a life of gratitude and generosity with these words: "Through Jesus let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." Let us present our tithes and offerings with glad and generous hearts.

## 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

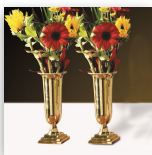
## COMMUNITY NEWS

Birthdays  
& Anniversaries

### BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES:

Mary Everitt ~ Dec. 28

Pam Barsby ~ Dec. 28



***The flowers that beautify our sanctuary  
are given by Jayne McDonough in memory  
of her Mother, Peggy Opdenaker, on her  
Birthday.***

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).

## 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:* Kirsten's family, victims of a house fire and in a temporary home, are feeling their loss greatly during this Christmas season; the Adkisson family in Denver, advise that Dana's Mom is in hospice care; Safe travels to all those traveling over Christmas; **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**, is scheduled for heart surgery on Jan. 6, 2026; **Melva Cremer** is still experiencing a lot of pain; **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, Richard.

## **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: #38 (RED) "IT CAME UPON THE  
MIDNIGHT CLEAR"**

**1. It came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth,  
To touch their harps of gold;  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,  
From heaven's all gracious King":  
The world in solemn stillness lay,  
To hear the angels sing.**

**2. Still thro' the cloven skies they come,  
With peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heavenly music floats  
O'er all the weary world:  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
They bend on hovering wing,  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds  
The blessed angels sing.**

**3. And ye, beneath life's crushing load,  
Whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way  
With painful steps and slow,  
Look now! for glad and golden hours  
Come swiftly on the wing:**

**O rest beside the weary road,  
And hear the angels sing.**

**4. For lo, the days are hastening on,  
By prophet bards foretold,  
When with the ever-circling years  
Comes round the age of gold:  
When peace shall over all the earth  
Its ancient splendors fling,  
And the whole world give back the song  
Which now the angels sing.**

**BENEDICTION:**

**REV. JACK WRIGHT**

**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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1. *God Welcomes All* - CCLI Song #5495557
2. *Gloria* Public Domain
3. *O Little Town of Bethlehem*: Lewis H. Redner, Phillips Brooks; CCLI Song #27879
4. *Doxology* - CCLI Song #4255578
5. *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*: Edmund H. Sears, Richard Storrs Willis; CCLI Song #31078