



Silver Spring Presbyterian Church

(717) 766-0204 www.silverspring.org

Sunday, December 14, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent, 9:00 am

Please silence your cell phone.

GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

+WELCOME

Austin Shoop

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Christmas Joy Offering

Cheryl Moore

MUSIC FOR ADORATION

"Silent Night"

arr. Ruiz-Bernal

+*ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Mike and Nancy Gawlas, and
The Alba family

L: To those who are oppressed, the Lord gives joyous good news.

P: We rejoice in the Lord our God!

L: As we light our third candle, we pray for the joy of God's deliverance.

P: We sing aloud, for the Lord has done marvelous things!

L: Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O people of God!

P: The LORD, our God, is in our midst!

L: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice!

ALL: Let us worship God!

+*HYMN #123

["It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"](#)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Betsy Neilson

Gracious, loving and merciful God, as we wait to celebrate your birth at Christmas and for your return during this season of Joy, we confess we are not always joyful. We hurry, consumed by the expectations of the holiday, and we miss out on the opportunities to serve more authentically, to forgive more fully, and to love more deeply. Forgive us, Lord, and restore us to you by your mercy.

(Continue in Silent Reflection and Confession)

*KYRIE—HYMN # 551 “Lord, Have Mercy”

**Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.**

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Betsy Neilson

L: Hear the good news of God's promise: All creation will thrive and blossom, and the weak and forgotten will be made strong and affirmed.

P: **God is faithful, God renews and restores.**

L: Live now in Joy and Hope, for the coming of the Lord is near. In the name of Jesus our Saviour, our sins are forgiven!

ALL: Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

+*RESPONSE TO PARDON #443 “There Is a Redeemer”

**There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son;
precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One
Thank you, O my Father, for giving us your Son, and
leaving your Spirit till the work on earth is done.**

+* PASSING THE PEACE

Betsy Neilson

L: Now, as those who know God's peace in Jesus Christ, let us share his peace with one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

P: And also with you!

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Lisa Chase

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Rev. Chase

*Doxology, Hymnal #606 “Doxology”

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

CANTATA

Rhapsody in Bluegrass—A Christmas Jubilee

by Joseph M. Martin

1. Hear the Wonderous Story
2. The King Shall Come
3. Star of Promise, Light of Glory
4. A Morning Star Will Rise
5. Mary Went A-Riding
6. O Little Town
7. Here Comes The Light
8. A Christmas Answer
9. A Little Light Was Born

Silver Spring Sanctuary Choir and Cantata Singing Friends
Lucy Vaughan and Jay Ledvina, narrators

Acoustic Guitar—Ben Carraher

Mandolin—William Nork

Banjo—Kevin Neidig

Piano—Erica Ickes

Drum Set—Mark Alexander-Gray

Upright Bass—Allen Roth

Fiddle—Erin Stefanic

SENDING IN THE SPIRIT

*HYMN #87

[“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”](#)

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Chase

*MUSICAL RESPONSE #541, v.1

**God be with you till we meet again; Loving counsels guide, uphold you,
With a shepherd’s care enfold you: God be with you till we meet again.**

*POSTLUDE

“God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”

arr. Nevue

**Please rise in body and/or spirit*

+Latecomers will be seated



Hearing-assist devices are located at each entrance of the Meeting House.

To assist those who for some reason must leave the sanctuary during the worship service, a video-camera link broadcasts the service to the Chapel.

WE THANK THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE FOR THEIR SERVICE THIS WEEK

Ushers: Fred and Mary Jane Voigt, and Terry Reed

Liturgist: Betsy Neilson

Deacon Servers: Jenny Bell and Cindy Corbin

Downtown Daily Bread December 19th: Lisa Scherlinsky and Jane Bishop

WEEKLY SSPC ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR DECEMBER 14, 2025

Angel Tree

All gifts must be returned to the church (wrapped, with the angel-shaped tag affixed) no later than TODAY at 12 noon. Thank you for your support ! Please email Heather McCarthy with any questions, hjd.gmb@gmail.com, or call 817-789-3381.

Christmas Joy Offering

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we lift up past, present, and future leaders of the church. God has blessed the church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. This Offering provides support for Presbyterian church workers and their families in their time of need and leadership development and education for communities of color at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Please prayerfully consider how you will give to this Special Offering this year, which will be received on Christmas Eve.

Advent at SSPC: Please join us!

Advent Feast and Festival - Today, immediately following the Cantata Join us in the Gym following today's Christmas Cantata for a special choir recognition, followed by a delicious ham dinner with all the fixings.

Christmas Eve: Children & Families Service at 5:00 pm, Traditional Candlelight Service at 7 pm, both in the Meeting House. Enjoy the **Live Nativity** between the services at 6 pm.

Annual Christmas Breakfast - CE will again hold the Annual Christmas Breakfast, prior to our single service, on Sunday, December 28th, at 9:30 am, in the gym. Come and enjoy a full breakfast before church of eggs, bacon, sausage, pancakes and more.

Poinsettia Dedications: The Christmas poinsettia order forms are available in the Gathering Place. Today is the last day to return the form to the box in the Gathering Place. The names of dedication will be listed in the bulletin on Sunday, December 21st. The cost of each poinsettia is \$10.

From the Worship Committee

Feel moved by something in worship, perhaps an element of praise that glorifies God in a particularly poignant way? The Book of Order tells us that applause is appropriate so long as it is understood to be our reflection and amplification of the praise being offered to God. As with everything we do in worship, applause and the occasional “amen” (which means “Truly!”) are directed not to any of us, but to God and God alone.

Wednesday Bible Study

We meet every Wednesday in the Parlor, 1pm—3 pm. The group is studying a new book called "The Book of Signs" by Dr. David Jeremiah. This class is for adults from 19 to 99. Come and learn, come and discuss.

Monday Afternoon Bible Study - December 22

All are invited as we meet 1 pm to 3 pm, every other week. We will be studying Max Lucado's video “Because of Bethlehem.” This class is for adults from 18 to 99!

NEW! Silver Spring Presbyterian Church Care Communities

The newly established Care Community is a network of support within our neighborhoods designed to provide care during both challenging and joyful times. Each “neighborhood” has an assigned captain(s) who will serve as the key point of contact for coordinating responses to various needs. SSPC members are asked to please contact the ministers with emergencies (such as death of an immediate family member, or serious illness) by calling the church office (717) 766-0204 during normal business hours. After hours, the pastors can be reached by dialing the main number and waiting for the prompt for the pastoral emergency line. The Care Communities will help us to live out the values of compassionate community, ensuring that no one has to face tough times alone. It also allows us to celebrate milestones and achievements as a united church. If you would like to know who your care captain(s) are, please reach out to Carol Anderson at cjacv@comcast.net and Pastor Lisa at lisa@silverspring.org.

Something fun to look forward to in the New Year!

Watch for something new and fun appearing on the bulletin board in the Gathering Place this January! Short stories will be shared to spark curiosity, build connection, and provide a fun, delightful literary treat to look forward to. As the stories begin, we will invite you to share your own experiences – especially the funny, surprising, heartwarming, and bittersweet moments of being a member of a church. Stay tuned for more information.

Shop early for Christmas gifts now! Discount cards to support the SSPC YOUTH

The SSPC Youth are continuing our effort to raise additional funds for our Christian Education programs. Here's how it works: the Discount Cards feature savings from 15 local and national programs, like restaurants, family fun centers and service organizations. The cards are usable until January 31, 2026, and can be used over and over. Each card costs \$15. This is how the SSPC youth can give back to our congregation. Just reach out to me at puppytrainer52@aol.com or call me at 717-389-5100 to request a card or cards. Make out a check for SSPC and drop it off at the office or give it to me. They are great to use or give as gifts. For each card we sell, the SSPC Christian Education program will make \$10, and we hope to sell another 100 cards in 2025. As always, the CE Youth appreciate your support of our efforts and your prayers.

Earth Care—Bible herbs included in this year's advent wreath:

Rue - herb of sorrow (upcoming death of Jesus)

Lavender - associated with Mary, mother of Jesus; purple (lavender color)

Sage - wisdom

Rosemary - Remembrance - season of Jesus' birth

2026 ROAR Winter Mission Trip

The ROAR Team will return to Tallahassee, Fla. to work with Big Bend Habitat For Humanity building homes for families who need a decent affordable place to live. The work week will be Monday, February 02 through Friday, February 06, 2026. If you are interested in being part of this ROAR Team, please contact Terry Reed at tsreed@verizon.net, 717-766-2714, or see me in church.

Elf on a shelf

Your fun-loving Fellowship Committee has placed an Elf somewhere in the church for you to find. When you find it, add your name to the Elf on the shelf paper in the Gathering Place, and what room you found it. Then, find a new location for the Elf.

Let's take this elf on an epic journey!

CORE Youth Group: There is no Core this evening.

Core will have their annual Christmas Party on Saturday, December 21st from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM. We'll be watching The Polar Express, enjoying Christmas-themed snacks and hot chocolate, and playing Sneaky Santa!

Gift Exchange: Please have your child bring a wrapped gift with a value of no more than \$10 for the Sneaky Santa game (where we can switch our gifts).

RSVP: Please let me Austin know if your student can attend the party.

Young Adults Christian Education Group, the Pathfinders!

CE and young leaders from SSPC lead a group for young adults over 18. For information, contact Ty Headley. The group is currently studying from the Book of Acts.

Young Families Christian Education Group

Interested families can contact Scott Pepperman at puppytrainer52@aol.com or 717-389-5100 for more information and to get involved. Watch for new events being planned.

Laundry Ministry Update

The SSPC Youth and CORE members continue their new ministry, the Laundry Ministry. We have had unbelievable response and have been able to now purchase more than 85 cards to distribute to various laundromats throughout the West Shore. Coming soon, we will visit a laundromat in Enola and Shiremanstown to distribute cards and greet patrons.

Prayers of healing and comfort: Kris Carpinello's parents, the Arborgasts, Elizabeth Bentzel, Debbie Bitting, Roxanne Dagino, Linda Darkes, Betsy Eichelberger, Margaret Glockner, Ron Kutz, Pat Langdon, Jan Larson, Pat Miller, Betsy Neilson, Kathy Rutledge, Ada Sloane, Don Spangler, Nancy Thomas, Pastor Don Wahlig, Don Winning

Prayers for our Military Members & First Responders: Olivia Chase, Jacob Flenner, Justin Ledvina, Josiah Scandle, Wyatt La Pointe, Chloe Scott

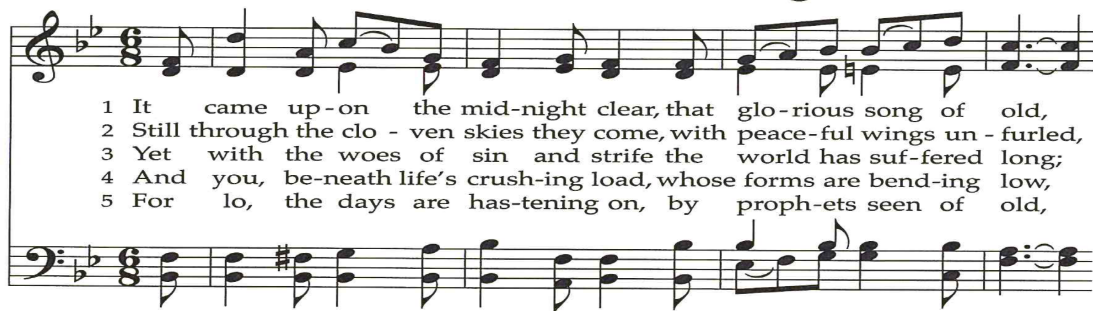
Thank You

Dear SSPC congregation,

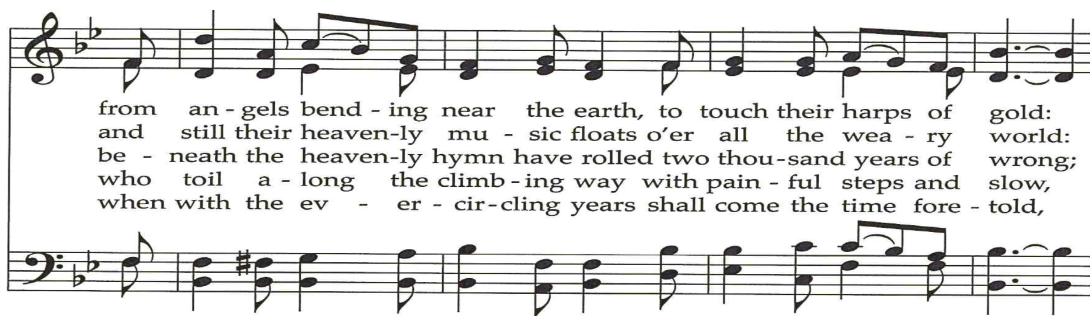
Thank you so very much for all the prayers before, during, and after my November 24th surgery. I appreciate the many calls, cards, and transportation for both Dale and myself. I sincerely look forward to returning soon to Sunday worship and all the festive Christmas events. Many blessings to you, in Christ's name.

Love, Linda Darkes

123 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear



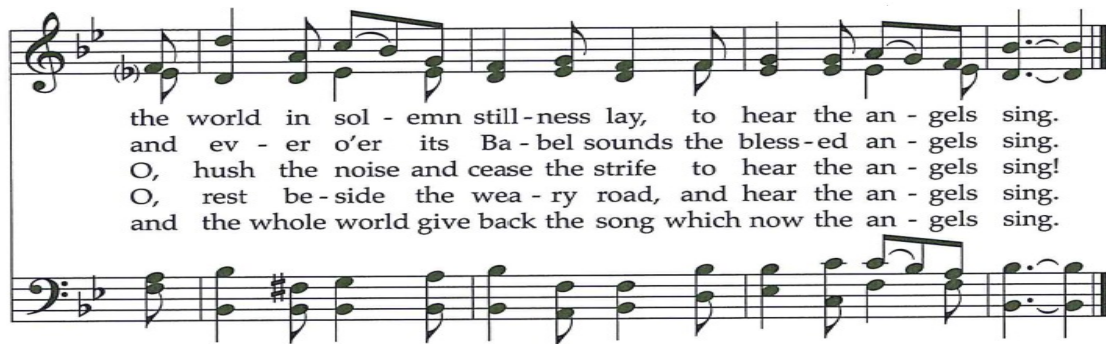
1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-rious song of old,
 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come, with peace-ful wings un - furled,
 3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suf-fered long;
 4 And you, be-neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing low,
 5 For lo, the days are has-tening on, by proph-ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
 and still their heav-en-ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world:
 be - neath the heav-en-ly hymn have rolled two thou-sand years of wrong;
 who toil a - long the climb-ing way with pain - ful steps and slow,
 when with the ev - er - cir-cling years shall come the time fore - told,

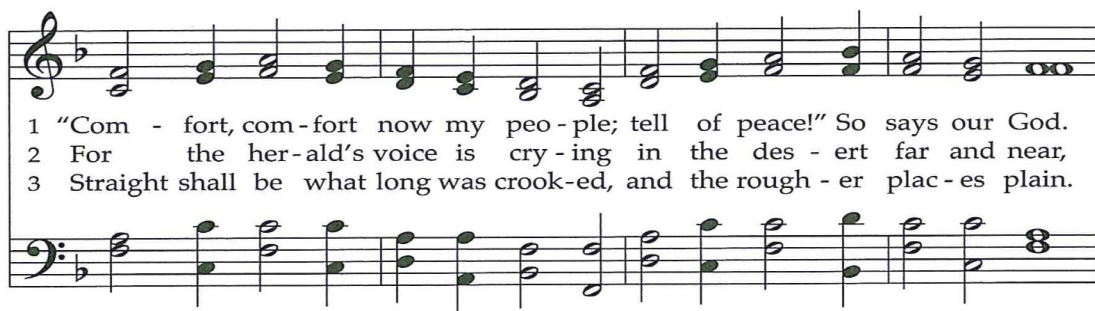


"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all-gra-cious King":
 a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov-ering wing,
 and we at war on earth hear not the tid - ings that they bring;
 look now, for glad and gold-en hours come swift - ly on the wing:
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen-dors fling,

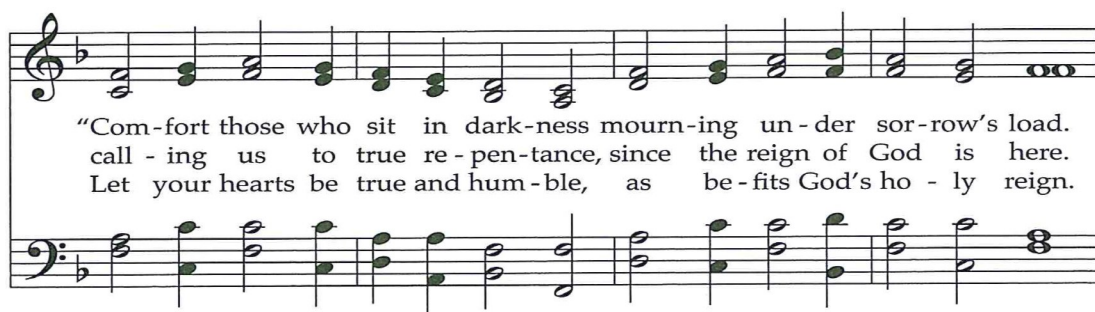


the world in sol - emn still-ness lay, to hear the an - gels sing.
 and ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds the bless-ed an - gels sing.
 O, hush the noise and cease the strife to hear the an - gels sing!
 O, rest be-side the wea - ry road, and hear the an - gels sing.
 and the whole world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

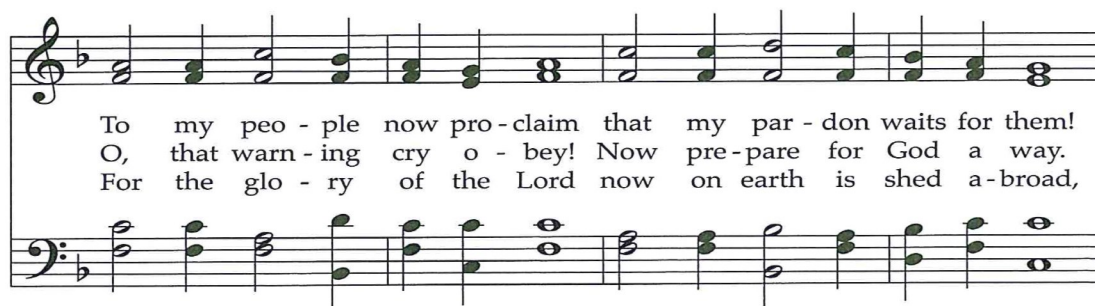
Comfort, Comfort Now My People 87



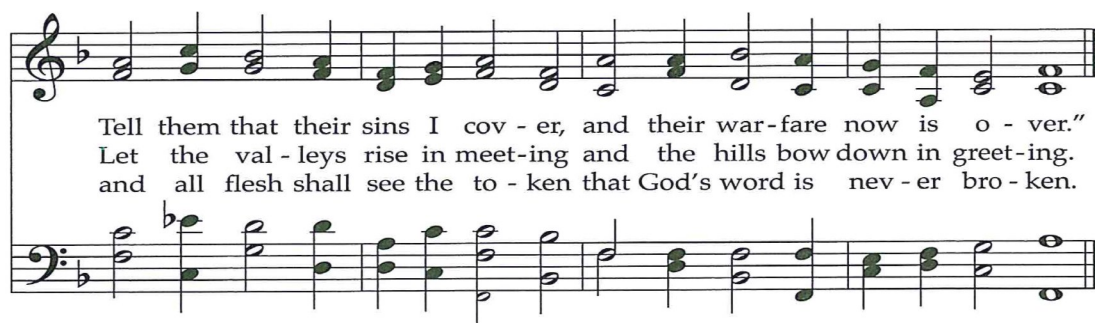
1 "Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



"Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn - ing un - der sor - row's load.
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.



To my peo - ple now pro - claim that my par - don waits for them!
O, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their sins I cov - er, and their war - fare now is o - ver."
Let the val - leys rise in meet - ing and the hills bow down in greet - ing.
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

ATTENDANCE

November 30

9 am Traditional—110 YouTube—113
11 am Gathering—45 YouTube—32
Sunday School—26

December 7

9 am Traditional—128 YouTube— 66
11 am Gathering—62 YouTube— 18
Sunday School—26

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Donald B. Wahlig	Senior Pastor/Head of Staff
Rev. Lisa S. Chase	Associate Pastor
Tracy Wieseman	Director of Music
Erica Ickes	Organist
Ryan Edwards	Worship Tech Specialist
Emily Cocores	Preschool Director
Austin Shoop	Youth Director
Diane G. Rabold	Business Manager
Priscilla Biller	Office Manager
John Clegg	Sexton

We are a Stephen Ministry congregation.

Our Mission is to love and praise God, love and nurture our church family, and love and serve our neighbors,

through worship, prayer, fellowship, education, hands-on work, financial support and compassionate care,

in order to follow Jesus and make known the Kingdom of Heaven.

Our Vision is to be a grace-filled family of faith sharing Christ's love with all.

Our Values:

Glorify God: Glorify and praise God through discipling, sharing faith and serving with love

Show Compassion: Compassion expressed as care and concern for all

Share Hospitality: Inclusive hospitality through welcome, acceptance and fellowship

Nurture Relationships: Nurture relationships through respect, support and communication

Steward God's gifts: Faithful stewardship of all God's gifts

Soli Deo Gloria



Silver Spring Presbyterian Church

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