



Silver Spring Presbyterian Church

(717) 766-0204 www.silverspring.org

Sunday, December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent, 9:00 am

Please silence your cell phone.

GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE

"March of the Three Kings"
SSPC Brass Ensemble

+WELCOME

Austin Shoop

MUSIC FOR ADORATION

"The Prayer of Hansel and Gretel"
SSPC Brass Ensemble

+*ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Gary, Karen, Stefan and Samuel Karkuff

L: To a people lost in darkness, he has brought the light of hope.

P: To a people bound in exile, he has shown the way home.

L: To a people held captive, he has paid their ransom.

P: To a people parched in the desert, he has brought living water.

L: As we light our fourth Advent candle, we pray for the Messiah, the living love of God.

P: Come now, O holy child of Mary!

L: Come now, O Prince of Love!

ALL: Let us worship God!

+*HYMN #98

"To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary"

Verse 1: All Verse 4: Men

Verse 2: Men Verse 5: Women

Verse 3: Women Verse 6: All

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Rich Sebring

God of Grace, we praise you for sending your light into this world through your son. We confess that we live as though your light had never defeated the darkness. We ignore Jesus' message of peace, hope, joy, and love and do not anticipate his return to make all things new. Forgive us for doubting your presence with us, for overlooking your gracious blessings, and for failing to share your love to create joy in the lives of others. Strengthen our faith and reshape our hearts to follow more closely the way of Jesus. In his name, we pray.

(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**

Rich Sebring

L: At the beginning, at the end, and in every age between, God's Word speaks to us his tender mercy and never-failing love.

P: In the Christ child, God came to us as a helpless babe in a manger to set us free from our slavery to sin.

L: Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

ALL: Thanks be to God! Amen!

+*RESPONSE TO PARDON #88

**O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

+* PASSING THE PEACE

Rich Sebring

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

TIME WITH CHILDREN		Rich Sebring
FIRST READING	Luke 1:26-33	Rich Sebring
SECOND READING	Luke 1:46b-55	Rev. Dr. Don Wahlig
SERMON	"A Pregnant Pause"	Rev. Dr. Wahlig
ANTHEM	"Breath of Heaven (Mary's Song)" Sanctuary Choir	Grant and Eaton arr. Emerson

RESPONDING TO 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.

SENDING IN THE SPIRIT

*HYMN #121 ["O Little Town of Bethlehem"](#)

*BENEDICTION Rev. Dr. Wahlig

*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 "The First Noel and It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"
SSPC Brass Ensemble

**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: Tim and Barb Wiggin **Liturgist:** Rich Sebring

Deacon Servers: Tracy Katshir, Shannon Leary

Downtown Daily Bread December 26th: Bill Cook and friend

WEEKLY SSPC ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR DECEMBER 21, 2025

Adult Forum and Sunday School today, 10 am

We will continue the Rob Bell series. This class is for all adults. Come, learn, and discuss.

Youth Church, Room 112: Join us downstairs for music, a Christian Education lesson, crafts and games. This class is for children from 1st grade and up.

Pre-KK Youth Church: We will resume Sunday, January 11th at 10:45 am, Room 108.

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.

Lessons and Carols: December 28th, 11:00 am In the Meeting House

Christmas Joy Offering: Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we lift up past, present, and future leaders of the church. 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.

Sympathy: We extend our prayers and sympathy to Roy McLain upon the death of his brother Bruce. Please keep Roy and his siblings, children and grandchildren in your thoughts and prayers.

Church Office Schedule for Christmas: The church office will close at noon on Christmas Eve, December 24th, and will remain closed on Christmas Day and December 26th. We will reopen on Monday, December 29th. We wish you and your family a most blessed and Merry Christmas!

In Case of Inclement Weather: In the event of severe weather, cancellations will be posted on our website home page at www.silverspring.org.

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 - January 12th

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!

Communion help needed!

Through the monthly service of Communion we are reminded that we are one in body in Christ, united with believers across time and space. With this in mind, please volunteer to prepare Communion or serve Communion in 2026. There is a sign up sheet in the Gathering Place. If you have never done this and need help, indicate this when you sign up. Thank you, Kathryn Ressler and Teena Russell

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. 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.

Angel Tree Thank You!

The Deacons sincerely thank the congregation for their generous donations of presents for our 2025 Angel Tree, which was a success. All the angels were selected, the gifts were sorted, and all gifts were delivered on Monday to Hampden Elementary School, Winding Creek Elementary School, Eagle View Middle School, and Mountain View Middle School. The guidance counselors were very appreciative and pass along their gratitude to you all. Thank you also to the staff members and Deacon volunteers whose assistance was instrumental in this project! - Heather McCarthy

Laundry Ministry Update: The SSPC Youth and CORE members continue their laundry ministry and will be visiting several Morris laundromats over the Holiday to share the blessings from the congregation - stay tuned for further updates.

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. Stay tuned for more information.

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.

CORE Youth Group: Christmas party this evening.

Core will have their annual Christmas Party tonight, 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 out gifts). RSVP: Please let me Austin know if your student can attend the party.

Austin will need help placing Luminaries on Christmas Eve. We will meet at the gym at 2:30 pm and place them around the church campus. We will also need help putting the Luminaries back after the Christmas Eve services. Please let Austin know if you can help by reaching out to him by text at 717-919-6161, or email him at austin@silverspring.org.

Earth Care—Did you know?

Paper padded mailers are recyclable. They are curbside recyclable along with cardboard boxes and other paper products. [Click here](#) for additional details.

Year-End Announcements from the Business Manager

Contributions

According to IRS regulations, any contributions that you would like to be credited in 2025 must be received in the church office on or before December 31, 2025. A quick option is to contribute online via the church website, or if you would like to mail your contribution, the postmark must be no later than December 31, 2025.

Requisitions

Any invoices, reimbursements, or charges that should be expensed to the 2025 Operating budget must be submitted along with an approved requisition no later than Monday, December 29, 2025. For any purchases made on the church credit card in December, please list which year should be used for the expense (2025 or 2026).

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, Phil Mercatili, Pat Miller, Betsy Neilson, Kathy Rutledge, Chris Sebring, Ada Sloane, Don Spangler, Nancy Thomas, Pastor Don Wahlig, Don Winning

Prayers for sympathy:

Roy McLain and his family for the death of his brother, Bruce

Prayers for our Military Members & First Responders:

Olivia Chase, Jacob Flenner, Wyatt La Pointe, Justin Ledvina, Josiah Scandle, Chloe Scott

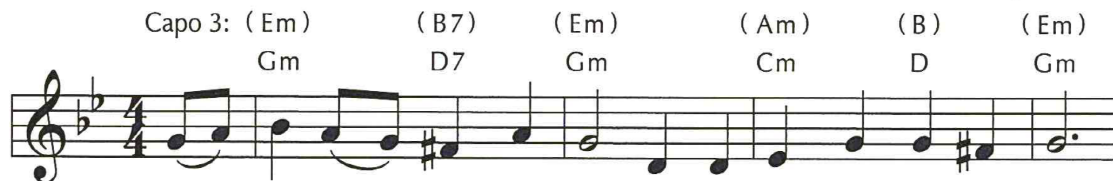
Thank You

Dear Silver Spring family,

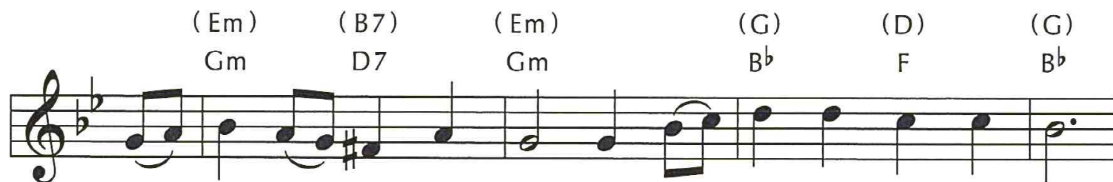
I feel the best gift anyone can receive regardless of season is the gift of Christian love. Cards, calls and collective prayer for my well being and recovery from my recent surgery have been and are greatly appreciated. They are uplifting to the spirit and fortifying to the body. We are all on a journey to the same destination and the support we provide each other along the way is a priceless gift. Thank you to my SSPC family for making the bumpy parts of the journey easier.

You are a blessing, Don Winning

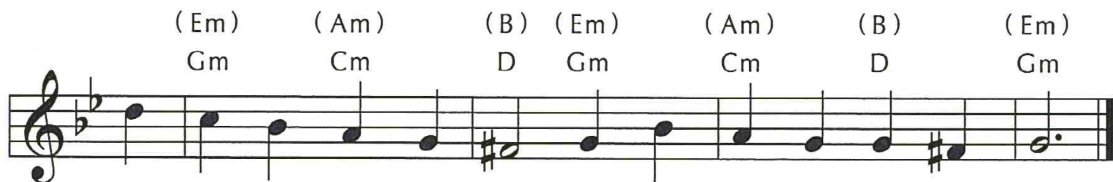
98 To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary



- 1 To a maid whose name was Mar - y, the an - gel Ga-briel came.
- 2 "For you are high - ly fa-vored by God the Lord of all,
- 3 But Mar-y was most trou-bled to hear the an-gel's word.
- 4 "Fear not, for God is with you, and you shall bear a child.
- 5 "How shall this be?" said Mar - y, "I am not yet a wife."
- 6 As Mar-y heard the an - gel, she won-dered at his words.

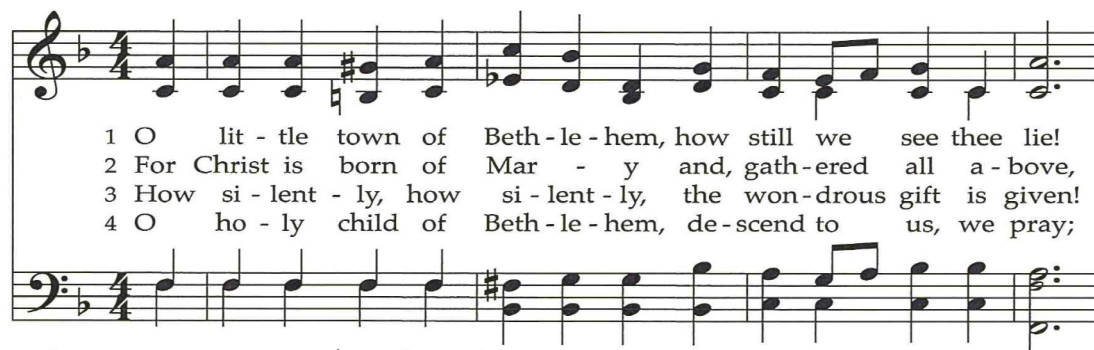


"Fear not," the an - gel told her, "I come to bring good news;
 who e - ven now is with you. You are on earth most blest;
 What was the an - gel say - ing? It trou-bled her to hear,
 His name shall be called Je - sus, God's off-spring from on high.
 The an - gel an-swered quick - ly, "The power of the Most High
 "Be - hold, I am your hand-maid," she said un - to her God.

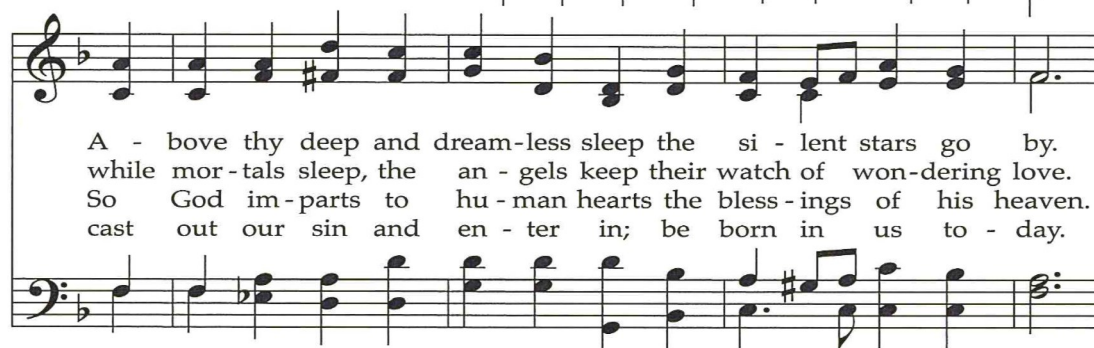


good news I come to tell you, good news, I say, good news."
 you are most blest, most bless - ed; God chose you, you are blest!"
 to hear the an - gel's mes - sage, it trou-bled her to hear.
 And he shall reign for - ev - er, for - ev - er reign on high."
 will come up - on you short - ly, your child shall be God's child."
 "So be it; I am read - y ac - cord - ing to your word."

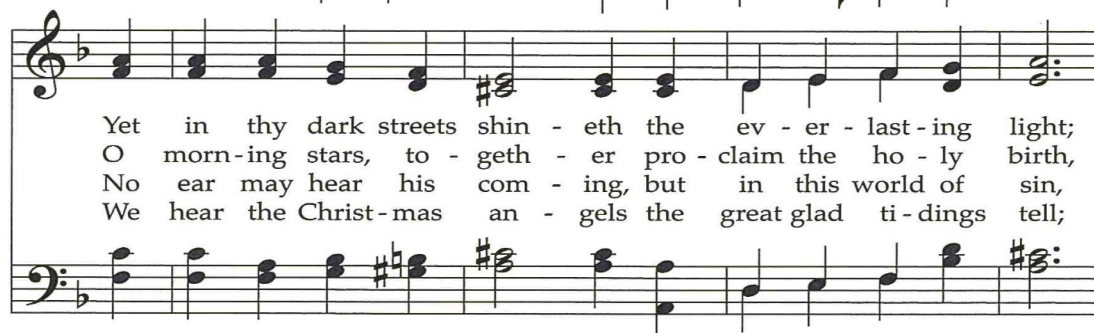
121 O Little Town of Bethlehem



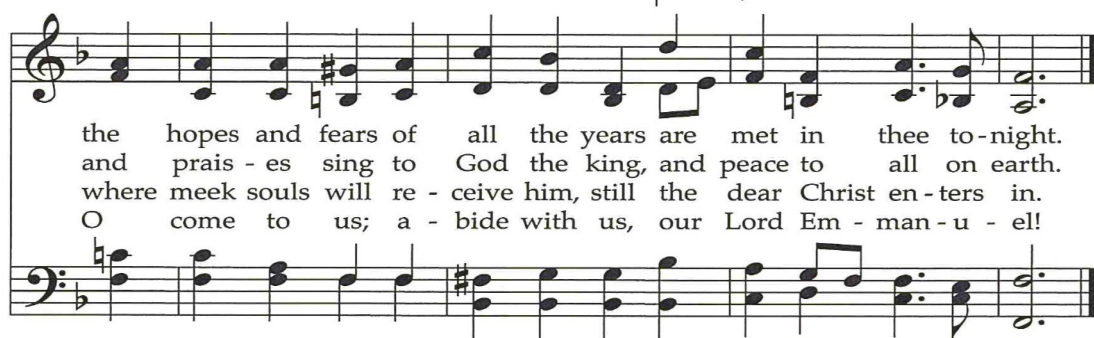
1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y and, gath - ered all a - bove,
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by.
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
 cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light;
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;



the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us; a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

ATTENDANCE

December 7

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

December 14

10 am Cantata—167 YouTube— 254

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

444 Silver Spring Road Mechanicsburg, PA 17050
www.silverspring.org * * * 717.766.0204