



# Let Us Worship God!

December 18, 2022—10:30 AM



## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

A HYBRID WORSHIP IN-PERSON AND ONLINE

Today's worship team—Music Director: Jayne McDonough. Worship Leader: Rev. Larry Moyer  
Message: Rev. Dr. Kevin Yoho. Worship Production: Norris Clark.



## WELCOME! WORSHIP YOUR WAY!

So glad you're here today! Enjoy worship with your neighbors and be spiritually energized. Mask wearing is optional. Join us in-person in our beautiful, historic Red Brick Church or online: [www.coldspringworship.com](http://www.coldspringworship.com).

## MESSAGE PREVIEW

This fourth week of Advent is moving us closer to Christmas! We have planned a beautiful 4th Sunday of Advent, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Sunday worship experience ahead! All the signs point to the unwrapping of God's present to the world! Once you open God's Christmas gift, nothing remains the same. The message today is titled, *"How God Wraps Your Christmas Present."*

This Christmas, God can empower us to live our very best selves. Or, sure, we can remain stuck in Christmas' past, repeating fine traditions but not learning and overhearing the Greatest Story Ever Told, but not letting the radical Good News transform our life. God Is With Us, Emanuel (Matthew 1:23), as God's emerging future unfolds with our every step.

What kind of gifts do you give? Memories of Christmas' past can help you unpack Christmas' meaning. In these pandemic times, we must creatively refashion and reset these essential activities. New ways to gather safely with family and friends are a must. Seasonal food favorites. Unique ornaments and events. Christmas movies and holiday music. Christmas Eve candlelight worship. The traditions go on and on. Sometimes the past familiar traditions can overwhelm us as we miss loved ones, reminisce about by-gone days, or feel a bit lonely during Christmas. Now is a great time to remember that from that First Noel, Christmas was always about God's wrapping Christmas gifts. All things become new...again. Once you open God's Christmas gift, nothing remains the same. Invite others to join you this Christmas week!

## MUSIC AND VIDEO PREVIEW

We begin with our Advent countdown that sets the theme for our worship experience. Jayne McDonough will accompany Rev. Moyer singing “Will You Come to the Manger”. After the message, the congregation can sing along with the video lyrics on the screen, “O Come All Ye Faithful.” From its Roman Catholic origins, this 18th-century hymn has spread worldwide by many denominations in both Latin and local language versions. Once popular with a wide range of hymn texts, this tune is now firmly associated with this Christmas text from which it is named.

Our sending hymn, “*It Came Upon A Midnight Clear,*” will be played on the organ. The “it” of the first line of this text by a Unitarian minister does not refer to the birth of Jesus, but to “that glorious song of old,” the angelic tidings of peace on earth. The restored third stanza laments how often the noise of human strife has obscured that message.

## COUNTDOWN TO ADVENT WORSHIP

**GREETING:** PASTOR KEVIN (10:24)

**PRELUDE:** JAYNE McDONOUGH (10:27)

**WELCOME:** (10:30)

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (RESPONSIVELY) REV. LARRY MOYER (10:32)

Welcome to our Advent adventure to  
nurture our spirit and inspire our faith!

**During these days of anticipation  
and hope, we step out together to  
experience God’s love.**

Everyone is included on our journey to  
Bethlehem, where justice is born, love is  
displayed, and our lives are transformed.

**Jesus is the Gift of salvation  
promised long ago, the One who  
comes to us today.**

Let us worship God!



## LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE: LOVE

Today we light the candle of love. “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16). In 1 John 4:7 we read, “Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.”

Jesus shows us love and wants us to show it, too.

**SHARING THE LOVE** OFFER AN EXPRESSION OF CHRIST’S LOVE TO THOSE NEAR YOU

**GOD WELCOMES ALL** (UNISON)

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

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION** (UNISON)

**Loving God, open our hearts and  
minds to the Good News as we learn,  
grow, and serve. Amen.**

**GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 1:18-25** (MSG)

The birth of Jesus took place like this. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. Before their wedding night, Joseph discovered she was pregnant. (It was by the Holy Spirit, but he didn’t know that.) Joseph, chagrined but noble,

determined to take care of things quietly so Mary would not be disgraced.

While he was trying to figure a way out, he had a dream. God's angel spoke in the dream: "Joseph, son of David, don't hesitate to get married. Mary's pregnancy is Spirit-conceived. God's Holy Spirit has made her pregnant. She will bring a son to birth, and when she does, you, Joseph, will name him Jesus — 'God saves' — because he will save his people from their sins." This would bring the prophet's embryonic revelation to full term:

Watch for this—a virgin will get pregnant and bear a son;

They will name him Immanuel (Hebrew for "God is with us").

Then Joseph woke up. He did exactly what God's angel commanded in the dream: He married Mary. But he did not consummate the marriage until she had the baby. He named the baby Jesus.

## MESSAGE FOR KIDS- *TIME TO SHOW LOVE*

### PRAYER FOR FAMILIES

(10:38)

### MUSIC - *WILL YOU COME TO THE MANGER?* - LARRY MOYER

### GOSPEL READING : JOHN 1:1-5, 14 (MSG)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.



## MESSAGE: *THEOS: THE GLORY OF CHRISTMAS*

MATTHEW 1:18-25, JOHN 1:1-5, 14 REV. DR. KEVIN YOHO

## PRAYER AND SILENT REFLECTION

## MUSIC VIDEO LYRICS - *O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL*

HYMNAL #41

1. O come all ye faithful  
Joyful and triumphant  
O come ye O come ye to  
Bethlehem  
Come and behold Him  
Born the King of angels  
O come let us adore Him  
O come let us adore Him  
O come let us adore Him  
Christ the Lord

2. God of God  
Light of light  
Lo He abhors not the  
virgin's womb  
Very God

Begotten not created  
O come let us adore Him  
O come let us adore Him  
O come let us adore Him  
Christ the Lord

3. Sing choirs of angels  
Sing in exultation  
Sing all ye citizens of  
heaven above  
Glory to God  
In the highest  
O come let us adore Him  
O come let us adore Him  
O come let us adore Him  
Christ the Lord

## CALL TO RECONCILIATION

We may not know the time, but our every moment is held in God's hands. We may not do and say what we should or could, but God offers us forgiveness. Join me as we pray together, saying...

## PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS (UNISON)

**God of our lives, sometimes it is hard to walk in joy. When our joy is shrouded, show what only you can reveal as we become beacons of light.**

**Forgive us, God of Advent, and have mercy. Fill us with the joy of your Spirit, as we expect you to come in people and places which surprise us, just as you did in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.**

## SILENT REFLECTION

## HEAR THE WORDS OF ASSURANCE (RESPONSIVE)

In the name of Jesus Christ, God loves and forgives us to live a life of faith, justice, hope, and love.

**Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.**

## THE GLORIA

(3) (10:56)

**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.**

## MOMENT FOR GIVING

God calls us to lives of grateful generosity. To give during worship, you may use the Giving Box as an usher passes. You may also give as you leave, or give online anytime. If you believe in our mission, thank you for supporting our mission.

## THE DOXOLOGY

(5) (10:58)

**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.**

## PRAYERS OF GRATITUDE

## SPECIAL CELEBRATIONS!

Happy birthday to Verna Shiflett (12/19).



## **Experience Christmas Eve at Cold Spring Church**

*Enjoy our beautiful  
6PM candlelight service  
in-person or online*

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Let us pray for: Jonna, pneumonia. Verna Shiflett and Bob Fite (hospice). Bob Stiles recovering from surgery. Pam Smith and Tara Garton's Christmas mission trip to Alabama. Eileen and David Word. Pastor Kevin, Mike, Steve, Rickey, Lorraine, Carl, Kate, Candy (cancer treatment).

We mourn gun violence add injustice. We pray for the people of Ukraine. We pray for those suffering from Covid-19 and RSV. We ask God's blessing for those serving in healthcare, law enforcement, fire, government, armed forces, education, and business.

## LORD'S PRAYER

(11:03)

**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

(11:24)

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

## MUSIC HYMN: IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR #38

**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 men  
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**

**BENEDICTION:** PASTOR KEVIN

**POSTLUDE:** JAYNE McDONOUGH

(11:27)

**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. *Will You Come to the Manger*: Sally DeFord, permission for use granted to churches.
3. *O Come All Ye Faithful*: John Francis Wade; *Frederick Oakeley*: CCLI Song #31054
4. *Gloria* - public domain
5. *Doxology*: CCLI #42555
6. *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*: Edmund Sears; Richard Willis- CCLI #31078