



Let's Worship Christ, the Lord!

December 24, 2022—6:00 PM

Christmas Eve

A Hybrid Worship Experience In-Person and Online

Tonight's worship team—Music Director and soloist: Jayne McDonough.

Worship Leader: Barbara Cain. Message: Norris Clark.

Worship Production: Max Moran.



WELCOME! YOU ARE IN THE RIGHT PLACE!

We are delighted you have joined us for a worship experience like no other!

WORSHIP YOUR WAY!

In-person: We are ready for you in the Red Brick Church!

Online: www.coldspringworship.com! Tip: Click the YouTube Subscribe button!

WORSHIP PREVIEW

Create new memories at Cold Spring Church, making this Christmas, and every Christmas to come, vitally different, better. How? Unwrap God's gift! Can you imagine a thriving Christmas, not merely surviving it?! This year, let's take all the best of Christmas' past and open our arms and spirits to new ways to receive God's gift of Christmas now? And what is that Gift ready to be opened this year? Jesus. Jesus is the Gift. The Gift that keeps on giving. It's Jesus moving into our neighborhood, now. Today. Sure, he was born in the past to Mary and Joseph among the animals in crowded Bethlehem. But it's (also) today that God is with us. Today, God can blossom afresh into our lives.

MUSIC PREVIEW:

We will enjoy several Christmas carols that will lift your spirit! We begin with, *Joy to the World*, a forward looking carol, unlike all the others because it is about the second coming of Jesus. The poem was written in 1719 by Isaac Watts and discovered a century later by Boston music teacher Lowell Mason. It has become the most published Christmas Carol in America.

French shepherds had a Christmas Eve tradition of shouting “Gloria in excelsis Deo” to each other as they watched over their sheep flocks on their respective hills in France. That phrase is the chorus of *Angels We Have Heard on High*, possibly written as early as 129 AD and known as “The Angel’s Hymn” it became the first Christmas hymn of the Christian church. *Away in a Manger* is an American written carol that originated among German Lutherans in Pennsylvania about 1885. Jayne McDonough will accompany Barbara Cain singing “The Birth of a King”, a Christmas hymn that was composed by William Harold Neidlinger. This hymn shows the contrast between the humble birth of Jesus and his holiness and the fact that angels sang in praise of this child. The lyrics to “*O Little Town of Bethlehem*” were written by Phillips Brooks in 1868 after visiting the town of Bethlehem on his trip to the Holy Land two years earlier. Since that time, this song has become a favorite for many people as they celebrate the Christmas season. Our candle-lighting will include singing of “*Silent Night*” first performed in German in 1818, with the young priest & lyric writer, Joseph Mohr on guitar and singing with Franz Gruber, the choir director who wrote the melody.

5-MINUTE CHRISTMAS EVE COUNTDOWN VIDEO:

PRELUDE JAYNE McDONOUGH

JESUS IS BORN (MINI-MOVIE)

WELCOME: NORRIS CLARK

MUSIC (VIDEO): JOY TO THE WORLD

HYMNAL #40

1.
Joy to the world the Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heav'n and nature sing
And heav'n and nature sing
And heav'n and heav'n and nature
sing
2.
Joy to the earth the Savior reigns
Let all their songs employ
While fields and floods
Rocks hills and plains

Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat repeat the sounding joy
3.
He rules the world with truth and
grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love
And wonders and wonders of His
love

CALL TO WORSHIP (UNISON):

Welcome to a celebration like no other!
Merry Christmas! God is here. Christ our
Savior is born Hallelujah! Amen.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE:

Tonight we light the Christ candle. Jesus is
the Light of *the* world. Jesus is the Light of
our world, right where we are! Can you see
the Light? God is with us!

MUSIC- ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH HYMNAL #23

1.

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains
Glo-ri-a In excelsis Deo
Glo-ri-a In excelsis Deo

2.

Shepherds why this jubilee
Why your joyous strains prolong
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song
Glo-ri-a In excelsis Desi
Glo-ri-a In excelsis Deo

3.

Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing
Come adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord the newborn King
Glo-ri-a In excelsis Deo
Glo-ri-a In excelsis Deo

4.

See Him in a manger laid
Whom the choirs of angels praise
Mary Joseph lend your aid
While our hearts in love we raise
Glo-ri-a In excelsis Deo
Glo-ri-a In excelsis Deo

CALL TO RECONCILIATION:

God loves you and nothing separates you from God's love. In a spirit of gratitude and honesty, let us pray together:

PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS:

Loving God, forgive us our sins, hurting or neglecting others, missing opportunities to serve and share Christmas Joy. Help us turn around to live like Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION

HEAR THE WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

OUR CHRISTMAS GIFTS OF GRATITUDE:

If you believe in our mission, thank you for supporting our mission! To give during worship, you may use the Giving Box as an usher passes. You may also give as you leave, or give online.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (UNISON):

God of Surprising Love and Hope, at the end of the Advent road, we look on the Child born to our world. Open our hearts tonight to hear the story like it's the first time. Feel the story in a fresh way. Touch the story so we can carry its hope to all we meet. Keep our hearts and minds open to Christmas Joy as we learn, grow, and serve. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: ISAIAH 9:2, 6-7 (NIV)

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

CAROL: *AWAY IN A MANGER*

HYMNAL #25

1.

Away in a manger no crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus
laid down His sweet head
The stars in the bright sky
looked down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay

2.

The cattle are lowing the Baby awakes
But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes
I love Thee Lord Jesus look down from
the sky
And stay by my side until morning is nigh

3.

Be near me Lord Jesus I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me I pray
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender
care
And take us to heaven to live with Thee
there

MESSAGE FOR KIDS:

PRAYER FOR FAMILIES

SOLO - *THE BIRTHDAY OF A KING* BARBARA CAIN

GOSPEL READING PART 1: LUKE 2:1-14 (MSG)

About that time Caesar Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Empire. This was the first census when Quirinius was governor of Syria. Everyone had to travel to his own ancestral hometown to be accounted for. So Joseph went from the Galilean town of Nazareth up to Bethlehem in Judah, David's town, for the census. As a

descendant of David, he had to go there. He went with Mary, his fiancée, who was pregnant.

While they were there, the time came for her to give birth. She gave birth to a son, her firstborn. She wrapped him in a blanket and laid him in a manger, because there was no room in the inn.

There were shepherders camping in the neighborhood. They had set night watches over their sheep. Suddenly, God's angel stood among them and God's glory blazed around them. They were terrified. The angel said, "Don't be afraid. I'm here to announce a great and joyful event that is meant for everybody, worldwide: A Savior has just been born in David's town, a Savior who is Messiah and Master. This is what you're to look for: a baby wrapped in a blanket and lying in a manger." At once the angel was joined by a huge angelic choir singing God's praises:

*Glory to God in the heavenly heights,
Peace to everyone on earth who please him.*

CAROL: O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

HYMNAL #44

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 wond'ring love
O morning stars together
Proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God the King
And peace upon the earth

3.

How silently how silently
The wondrous gift is giv'n
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heav'n
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

GOSPEL READING PART 2: LUKE 2:15-20 (MSG)

As the angel choir withdrew into heaven, the shepherders talked it over. “Let’s get over to Bethlehem as fast as we can and see for ourselves what God has revealed to us.” They left, running, and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. Seeing was believing. They told everyone they met what the angels had said about this child. All who heard the shepherders were impressed.

Mary kept all these things to herself, holding them dear, deep within herself. The shepherders returned and let loose, glorifying and praising God for everything they had heard and seen. It turned out exactly the way they’d been told!

MESSAGE— *UNWRAPPING GOD'S AMAZING GIFT!*

NORRIS CLARK



PRAYER AND SILENT REFLECTION

CAROL: *SILENT NIGHT*

HYMNAL #60

1.

Silent night holy night
All is calm all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and Child
Holy Infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace

2.

Silent night holy night
Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar

Heav'nly hosts sing alleluia
Christ the Savior is born
Christ the Savior is born

3.

Silent night holy night
Son of God love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus Lord at Thy birth
Jesus Lord at Thy birth

FRESH EXPRESSION OF COMMUNITY

Once we were in darkness,
Now we have the Light of Jesus!
Once we were strangers,
Now we share the Light with neighbors.
Once we were strangers,
Now we are friends.

BENEDICTION: NORRIS CLARK

POSTLUDE: JAYNE McDONOUGH

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY!

God is here, with us, and goes with us into our new year. Make 2022 your year for possibilities. Join us online or in-person every Sunday at 10:30 AM, or anytime at www.coldspringworship.com. Thank you for being with us! Remember, God is here always!

Thank you for sharing your Christmas Joy with friends and family, and your Youtube, Facebook and Instagram friends, too!

Notes for Tonight's Worship:

Cold Spring Presbyterian Church

CCLI License #20561018

Streaming License #20561001

1. (01) Worship Music Countdown CCLI #4662491
2. (02) Joy to the World: text-Isaac Watts, Music-George Frederick Handel; CCLI # 24016
3. (03) Angels We Have Heard on High: text-French Carol, trans. James Chadwick 1860, Music-arr. Edward Barnes 1937; CCLI #3196504
4. (04) Away in a Manger: text-Little Children's Book for Schools and Families 1885, Music-James R. Murray 1887; CCLI #322031
5. (05) The Birthday of a King - Robert F. Douglas | William Harold Neidlinger: CCLI Song # 5258622
6. (06) O Little Town of Bethlehem: text-Phillips Brooks, Music-Lewis Redner; CCLI #1741697
7. (07) Silent Night: text-Joseph Mohr, music-Franz Gruber; CCLI #27862