



# Let Us Worship God!

December 3, 2023—10:30 AM

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### A HYBRID WORSHIP EXPERIENCE IN-PERSON AND ONLINE

Today's worship team—Music Director: Jayne McDonough; Worship Leader: Robert Stiles  
Message: Pastor David Wenker; 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

Pastor David Wenker's message is titled, "Anticipating Christmas: A Messenger is Coming"

God is a very vocal God. God speaks to us in many ways all the time. His message is very important and we need to pay careful attention to what God is saying. But our lives are filled with so much business we have a difficult time giving God a few minutes to listen to what God is saying to us. Jesus is God's final perfect message to us.

## MUSIC PREVIEW

We begin our Advent worship with *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*, a solemn and delicate carol originally written in Latin with a title of 'Veni, Veni, Emmanuel' about 1710. The English translation of this Advent carol came about in 1851 when the priest and scholar John Mason Neale's version was featured in the pages of *The Hymnal Noted* – a key text in the history of hymns. Let's join in watching and waiting for the promised Messiah, Emmanuel (God is here).

The Communion hymn Red Hymnal #137 "Tell Me the Story of Jesus" was written in 1885, by William Henry Parker. He was a member of the Chelsea Street Baptist Church, in Nottingham, England, where he was active in the work

of the Sunday School. He wrote many hymns and songs throughout the years, and had fifteen of them published in the Sunday School Hymnary (1905). The verses of "Tell Me the Stories of Jesus" are told from a child's perspective, asking to hear stories such as when Jesus calmed the stormy Sea of Galilee, or when He blessed the little children in Judea.

Before the benediction we will sing Closing hymn, "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" To lift up the head, therefore, or to raise one up, is to relieve his distresses, or to take away his troubles. This hymn from Georg Weissel makes use of the language of Psalm 24 to help us pray that God would come to us as our Savior and King.

## COUNTDOWN TO WORSHIP

(10:24)

**PRELUDE:** JAYNE McDONOUGH

(10:27)

**WELCOME: PASTOR DAVID WENKER**

(10:30)

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (RESPONSIVELY) (LUKE 1: 49-51)

Pastor: For the Mighty One has done great things for me – Holy is his name.

**Congregation: His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.**

Pastor: He has performed mighty deeds with his arm.

**Congregation: My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.**

**GOD WELCOMES ALL** (UNISON)

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

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE: HOPE - JOHN SAALMAN**

Reading - .....

All together let us pray;  
**God of promise, God of hope,  
into our darkness come.**



OPENING HYMN " O COME, O COME,  
EMMANUEL "

BLUE HYMNAL #9

**1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**2. O come Thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thine advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night.  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**3. 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!**

## CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Preparing for Christ's coming requires honest examination of our lives and our hearts. Let us turn to God in prayer to confess our sins.

## PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS (UNISON)

**You alone know the places in our hearts where we harbor hatred, prejudice, jealousy and resentment. We may not even realize the presence of some of those dark emotions and thoughts. Shine your light on our hearts that we might become aware of where we need repentance, forgiveness and healing in our souls. We pray in Jesus name. Amen.**

## SILENT REFLECTION

## HEAR THE WORDS OF ASSURANCE (RESPONSIVE)

Pastor: If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us, but if we confess our sin God is faithful and just and will forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**Congregation: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

## THE GLORIA

(3) (1\0:56)

**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.**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION** (UNISON)

**Savior God, guide us by your Word and Spirit that we might hear your truth, heed your call and be prepared for Christ's coming this Christmas. Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING: MALACHI 2:17-3:4**

**Breaking Covenant Through Injustice**

You have wearied the Lord with your words.

“How have we wearied him?” you ask.

By saying, “All who do evil are good in the eyes of the Lord, and he is pleased with them” or “Where is the God of justice?”

“I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the Lord Almighty. But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the Lord, as in days

gone by, as in former years.

(10:38)

## GOSPEL READING : HEBREWS 1:1-3

### **God's Final Word: His Son**

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

**MESSAGE: "ANTICIPATING CHRISTMAS:  
A MESSENGER IS COMING" - PASTOR DAVID  
WENKER**  
**PRAYER AND SILENT REFLECTION**

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - APOSTLES CREED (UNISON)**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
the Creator of heaven and earth,  
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived of the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell.**

**The third day He arose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen**

### **MOMENT FOR GIVING - (2 PETER 3:8-15)**

“All things in heaven and earth belong to God, who is coming in glory to reveal a new creation.” Let us present our tithes and offerings to the Lord.

### **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.**

### **PRAYER OF GRATITUDE**

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Barbara Keister (12/6)

To order your Wreaths and Poinsettias, pick up order forms today in the Narthex. They can be returned to Beverly Mate and Elaine Jordan with your payment.

The deacons are holding a Reverse Advent Calendar to support local food banks. Pick up your Reverse Advent Calendar and put something special *into* your Advent experience. Items can be brought in each week through Dec. 17, when they will be delivered to the food centers for Christmas distribution.



The Angelus Chorus is presenting a Christmas program with the John Walter Band on **Sunday December 3 at 3pm** at the PAC center in Middle Township. A program is also being presented at the Cape May Methodist Church on **Monday December 4 at 7pm**. A third program is presented at the Cape May Convention Center on **Wednesday December 6 at 7pm**. Barbara Cain, Janet and David Wenker are part of the choir. All programs are free.

“Christmas at Cold Spring Church” concert by The Cape Shore Chorus, a women’s a capella chorus of Sweet Adeline’s International, in our Sanctuary on Sunday, December 10, 2023 at 3:00 pm.



**-National Wreaths Across America Day Ceremony** in the veterans flag area of Cold Spring Cemetary at 12:00 noon on Saturday, December 16, 2023.



Sunday, December 17, Worship will include selections from the handbell choir. Anyone



interested in playing handbells can speak to Pastor Dave or Janet, his wife. Rehearsals are Thursday, December 7 & 14, at 1:00 p.m.



The session is planning an ***Advent Covered Dish Fellowship luncheon*** on **Sunday December 17,** in Price Hall immediately after worship. There is a sign up sheet to report what you might

## RECEIVING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Prayers for: Elmer Cain injuries from bicycle accident; Sylvia, with injuries from a fall; Barbara Cain medical issues. Samantha recovering from spinal surgery.

Those on hospice care: John Stalford, Bob Fite, Gertrude Hess, Celeste Bashaw.

Those undergoing cancer treatment: Freddie, Jr, Denise, Brian, Gerri Mills, Robin B, Mike, Kim, Steve, Rickey, Lorraine, Kate, Candy, Donna.

**In the Community:**

### Prayer

## COMMUNION HYMN -"TELL ME THE STORY OF JESUS" RED HYMNAL #137, VERSES 1 & 3

**1. Tell me the story of Jesus,  
Write on my heart every word;  
Tell me the story most precious,  
Sweetest that ever was heard.  
Tell how the angels in chorus  
Sang as they welcomed His birth,  
"Glory to God in the highest!**

**Peace and good tidings to earth."**

**Tell me the story of Jesus,  
Write on my heart every word;  
Tell me the story most precious,  
Sweetest that ever was heard.**

**3. Tell of the cross where they nailed Him,  
Writhing in anguish and pain;  
Tell of the grave where they laid Him,  
Tell how He liveth again.  
Love in that story so tender  
Clearer than ever I see:  
Stay, let me weep while you whisper,  
Love paid the ransom for me.  
Tell me the story of Jesus,  
Write on my heart every word;  
Tell me the story most precious,  
Sweetest that ever was heard.**

**INVITATION TO ALL: COME TO THE LORD'S TABLE!  
THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING  
(RESPONSIVE)**

**The Lord be with you.**

**And also with you.**

**Lift up your hearts.**

**We lift them up to the Lord**

**Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.**

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, God of Hope, Breath of peace, Giver of all life.....  
as Jesus taught us to pray, saying,  
**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.**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION - PASTOR DAVID WENKER**

**PRAYER OF THANKS (UNISON)**

**Ground us in your good news, O God, and hearten us with your hope filled promise of redemption through Jesus Christ. We are grateful for the ways you are active and at work in our world and we revel in your presence. Keep us steady on Christ's path, following his teachings, loving as he loved.**

**FRESH EXPRESSION OF COMMUNITY**

(11:24)

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

## MUSIC - LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, YE MIGHTY GATES, BLUE HYMNAL #8

**1. Lift up your heads, you mighty gates,  
Behold, the King of glory waits;  
The King of kings is drawing near;  
The Savior of the world is here!**

**2. Fling wide the portals of your heart;  
Make it a temple, set apart  
From earthly use for heaven's employ,  
Adorned with prayer, and love, and joy.**

**3. Redeemer, come! I open wide  
My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide.  
Let me Thy inner presence let us feel;  
Thy grace and love in us reveal.**

**BENEDICTION:** PASTOR DAVID WENKER

**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. <i>God Welcomes All</i> - CCLI Song #5495557   | 5. <i>Tell Me the Story of Jesus: Fanny Jane Crosby/John Robson Sweeney; CCLI Song #33399</i>          |
| 2. <i>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel: John Neale, Henry Coffin; Thomas Helmore, CCLI #31982</i> | 6. <i>Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates: Catherine Winkworth/George Weissel ; CCLI Song #1863214</i> |
| 3. <i>Gloria</i> Public Domain  |  |
| 4. <i>Doxology</i> - CCLI Song #425557  |  |