



Let Us Worship God!

December 10, 2023—10:30 AM

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

A HYBRID WORSHIP EXPERIENCE IN-PERSON AND ONLINE

Today's worship team—Music Director: Jayne McDonough; Worship Leader: Beverly Mate
Message: Norris Clark; Worship Production: Max Moran



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.

MESSAGE PREVIEW

The Second Sunday of Advent invites us to prepare for something fantastic. News that's worthy of being shouted from the mountaintops, or posted to your Instagram account, or texted to a friend. Yes. It's that fantastic because there is nothing ordinary about the preparatory days that lead us to celebrating Christmas. We will flesh out God's story as we hear the prophet Isaiah tell of a messenger to come. Five hundred years later, John the Baptizer fulfilled the prophecy and prepared the way for Jesus.

Norris Clark will give the message: "The Comings of Christ".

MUSIC PREVIEW

We begin our Second week of Advent worship singing Come Thou Long-expected Jesus. In 1744, Charles Wesley considered Haggai 2:7 and looked at the situation of orphans in the areas around him. He also looked at the class divide in Great Britain. Through this train of thought, he wrote "Come, Thou long expected Jesus" based upon Haggai 2:7 and a published prayer at the time which had the words: "Born Your people to deliver, born a child and yet a King, born to reign in us forever, now Your gracious kingdom bring. By Your own eternal Spirit, rule in all our hearts

alone; by Your all sufficient merit, raise us to Your glorious throne. Amen." Wesley adapted this prayer into a hymn in 1744 and published it in his "Hymns for the Nativity of our Lord" hymnal. Wesley wrote "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" with the intent for people to remember Advent and Christmas as commemorating the Nativity of Jesus and preparing for the Second Coming.

Before the benediction we will sing Closing hymn, Prepare the Way, O Zion. Frans Mikael Franzen, in this Advent hymn, calls on "Zion," the people of God, to give attention to preparation for the coming of Messiah. He echoes the words of Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist, as she praised God for her son and the mission God had for him. Both Elizabeth and Franzen bring to mind the prophecy of Isaiah 40:3-5, as in our First Reading today.

In ancient times, preparation for the arrival of royalty would include people going ahead of the royal procession to prepare the road that would be traveled – removing obstacles and filling holes in the road to make the way "straight" and smooth. It was to this kind of "preparation ministry" that John the Baptist was called – to remove false ideas about what made people right with God, and to issue a call to repentance and preparation of the heart for the coming of Messiah.

COUNTDOWN TO WORSHIP

(10:24)

PRELUDE: JAYNE McDONOUGH

(10:27)

WELCOME: PASTOR DAVID WENKER

(10:30)

CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVELY)

Comfort, O comfort my people!

We welcome God's tender words to us today.

Prepare the way for your God!

We gather for worship to prepare ourselves for Christ's coming.

Christ is coming! The glory of God will be revealed!

Thanks be to God for this good news!

GOD WELCOMES ALL (UNISON)

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

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE: PEACE - BOB & LINDA HALL

Reading -

All together let us pray;

**God of promise, God of hope, into our
darkness come.**

OPENING HYMN "COME, THOU LONG- EXPECTED JESUS, BLUE HYMNAL #2

1. Come, Thou long expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

2. Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious Kingdom bring.



By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

God promises forgiveness through Jesus Christ. On this second Sunday of Advent, let us approach God in humility and faith.

PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS (UNISON)

Eternal God, John the Baptist prepares the way by calling upon us to repent. We have failed to share as we should. We have failed to honor the poor and the oppressed. We have failed to bear fruit worthy of your salvation. Have mercy upon us, God. Heal and forgive us so we can welcome Christ with pure and genuine hearts. Amen

SILENT REFLECTION

HEAR THE WORDS OF ASSURANCE (RESPONSIVE)

With joy, let us draw water from the springs of salvation.

Give thanks to the Lord! Call on God's name.

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)

Open us, Holy One, to your Word and your way.
Clear our minds of holiday distractions and
busy tasks. Fill our hearts with the humility we
need to hear and receive the message you
intend for us today. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: ISAIAH 40:3-5

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the
way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a
highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up, and every
mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together, for the
mouth of the LORD has spoken."

GOSPEL READING : MARK 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus
Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am
sending my messenger ahead of you, who will
prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in

the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

MESSAGE: "THE COMINGS OF CHRIST" - NORRIS CLARK

PRAYER AND SILENT REFLECTION

**MOMENT FOR MISSION - CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING
- BEVERLY MATE**

MOMENT FOR GIVING -

With joy and gratitude for all we have been given, let us offer our tithes and gifts to God.

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

None listed. Are there any we may have missed this week?

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



Join us this afternoon, Sunday Dec.10 at 3:00 pm for a concert by The Cape Shore Chorus, women's a capella chorus of Sweet Adeline's International, in our Sanctuary today. All are invited!



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



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



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 in the narthex.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service!

Come and celebrate the birth of Jesus in a very special and inspiring candlelight worship experience, 6:00 PM in person and online.

RECEIVING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Prayers for: Jim Paulits with breathing problems; the Carson Family, comfort in passing of Barbara Baker, older sister of Becca McCaughey; Elmer Cain, in rehab. for injuries from bicycle accident; Barbara Cain medical issues.

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

LORD'S PRAYER

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 - PREPARE THE WAY, BLUE HYMNSL #13

1. Prepare the way, O Zion,
Your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley
A level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory,
Foretold in sacred story.
O blest is Christ that came
In God's most holy name.

2. Christ brings God's rule, O Zion;
He comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom,
And justice, truth, and love.
Lift high your praise resounding,
For grace and joy abounding.
O blest is Christ that came
In God's most holy name.

3. Fling wide your gates, O Zion;
Your Savior's rule embrace.
And tidings of salvation
Proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow rejoicing,
Their adoration voicing.
O blest is Christ that came
In God's most holy name.

BENEDICTION: NORRIS CLARK

POSTLUDE: JAYNE McDONOUGH

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.

**Experience Christmas
with Cold Spring Church!**

**6:00 Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
Red Brick Church or online**

www.coldspringworship.com



*Energize your Christmas experience
with Cold Spring Church...
Transforming lives for 307 years,
and we're just getting started!*

**www.coldspringchurch.com
780 Seashore Rd. Cold Spring, NJ 08204
609-884-4065**

In-Person and Online Worship Every Sunday, 10:30 AM

Notes for Today's Music: CCLI License #20561018. CCLI Streaming License #20561001 Worship Lyric Videos, all rights reserved, Web license. Worship House Media, Web License. OneLicense Limited Podcast / Streaming License #M-401274.

1. *God Welcomes All* - CCLI Song #5495557
2. *Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus*: Charles Wesley/Rowland Pritchard; CCLI #31999
3. *Gloria* Public Domain
4. *Doxology* - CCLI Song #425557
5. *Prepare The Way*: Mikael Franzen, adapt. Charles Price/Augustus Nelson;
6. CCLI Song #1210135