



# Let Us Worship God!

December 17, 2023—10:30 AM



## THIRD 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

This is the Third week of Advent. Pastor David Wenker will give the message today, "Learning to Listen: The Story of Zechariah".

## MUSIC PREVIEW

The Handbell choir, under the direction of Carolyn Meldrum, will be playing several beautiful selections for us today. We are thrilled to have the handbells enhance our worship! Thank you to the ringers for sharing their music today!

The opening hymn is "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 closing hymn, "Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne", was written for the children and the choir in her father's parish, St. Mark's in Brighton, England. Like Mrs. Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895), who wrote her famous hymn "Once in royal David's city" to explain the significance of the incarnation to children, Elliott wrote her hymn to clarify meaning of Advent and Nativity to children. Emily Elizabeth Steele Elliott (1836-1897) was the daughter of an Anglican clergyman and the niece to Charlotte Elliott (1789-1871), the author of the famous hymn, "Just as I am."

## COUNTDOWN TO WORSHIP

(10:24)

## PRELUDE: JOY TO THE WORLD - HANDBELL CHOIR

(10:27)

Bernadette Atwell

Mary Beth Nelson

Carol Bostrom

Gretchen Sorensen

Gayle Copskey

Pastor David Wenker

Vivian Dowling

Janet Wenker

Sue Hahn

Marge Wetherill

Beverly Mate

Director:Carolyn Meldrum

## WELCOME: PASTOR DAVID WENKER

(10:30)

## CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVELY) - ROBERT STILES

Leader: The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light and on those living in  
the land of the shadow of death a light has  
dawned.

**Congregation: 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**

## GOD WELCOMES ALL (UNISON)

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

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE: JOY - TOM & MARY IMPERATO



Reading - .....

Let us pray.

O Lord our redeemer,  
You lead us from languishing in  
sorrow's shadows into laughter's joy  
over your abundant redemption. Thank  
you that you are coming for us to lead  
us home along your way, our Savior  
Jesus Christ.

All together let us pray;

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

### OPENING HYMN - O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL BLUE 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. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,  
Born this happy morning,**

**Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing!  
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, all Glory 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**

When we come to worship God, we must first remember who we are, and we are people who often sin and turn from the ways of God. Relying on God's abundant grace, let us offer our confession together, knowing that we will be offered forgiveness in Christ.

### **PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS (UNISON)**

**We struggle with things we can't control and expect circumstances to be about us and go the way we want. Forgive us for thinking we are still the center of the universe. Open our eyes to see what you may be doing in**

**someone else through us. Give us willing hearts to be your instruments of peace without being the center of attention. We pray in Jesus name. AMEN.**

### **SILENT REFLECTION**

### **HEAR THE WORDS OF ASSURANCE (RESPONSIVE)**

Hear the good news! Through the grace and love of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!  
**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

### **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)**

**Gracious God, for generations, your Word has brought love and life to your people. Speak to us now; we pray that we may hear, and in hearing, we may be transformed. Amen.**

### **FIRST READING: LUKE 1:5-20**

#### **The Birth of John the Baptist Foretold**

In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a

priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly. But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old.

Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside.

Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. And he will go on before the

Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous —to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

Zechariah asked the angel, “How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years.” The angel said to him, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time.”

## **GOSPEL READING : LUKE 1: 57-66**

### **The Birth of John the Baptist**

When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy.

On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, but his mother spoke up and said, “No! He is to be called John.”

They said to her, “There is no one among your relatives who has that name.”

Then they made signs to his father, to find out

what he would like to name the child. He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone's astonishment he wrote, "His name is John." Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising God. All the neighbors were filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, "What then is this child going to be?" For the Lord's hand was with him.

**MESSAGE: "LEARNING TO LISTEN: THE STORY OF ZECHARIAH" - PASTOR DAVID WENKER**  
**PRAYER AND SILENT REFLECTION**

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Heidelberg Catechism Questions 33, 34, 35

Q Why is he called God's "only begotten son" when we also are God's children?

**A. Because Christ alone is the eternal, natural Son of God. We, however, are adopted children of God- adopted by grace through Christ**

Q. Why do we call him "our Lord"?

**A. Because, not with gold or silver, but with the precious blood- he has set us free from sin and from the tyranny of the devil, an has**



**bought us, body and soul, to be his very own.**

Q. What does it mean that he "was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary"?

**A. That the eternal Son of God, who is and remains true and eternal God, took to himself, through the working of the Holy Spirit, from the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary, a truly human nature so that he might also become David's true descendant, like his brothers and sisters in every way except for sin.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC - INFANT LOWLY, INFANT HOLY -  
HANDBELL CHOIR**

**MOMENT FOR GIVING**

In this holiday season, we find many demands made upon our time and resources. Yet in worship we are called to remember who is the author of all that we are and all that we have. In response to God's gracious action in our lives, we are called to give an offering to God.

**OFFERTORY MUSIC: HANDBELL CHOIR**

How Great Our Joy  
On Christmas Night All Christians Sing  
Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella

## 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

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO: VERNA SHIFFLET (12/19)

Request for Christmas cards from John Word, for our friend Eileen Word, send to :

Eileen Word c/o John Word  
3640 Sirett Court  
Hastings, Mn. 55033

To order Poinsettias, pick up order forms today in the Narthex. To be returned to Beverly Mate and/or 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, today, when they will be delivered to the food centers for Christmas distribution.

**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.

**Experience Christmas  
with Cold Spring Church!**

**6:00 Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service**

**Red Brick Church or online**

**[www.coldspringworship.com](http://www.coldspringworship.com)**



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and we're just getting started!*

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780 Seashore Rd. Cold Spring, NJ 08204  
609-884-4065

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

## RECEIVING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Prayers for: Jack MacVeigh in Crestview Rehab; Rob Riehl in ICU at Cape Regional with congestive heart failure and renal failure. Max Moran & his family on the passing of his Grandmother. Jim Paulits with breathing problems; the Carson Family, comfort in passing of Barbara Baker, older sister of Becca McCaughey. Elmer Cain, progressing in rehabilitation in Vineland.

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 & Grover.

### 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 - BOB STILES

Once we were strangers,

**Now we are neighbors.**

Once we were strangers,

**Now we are friends.**

**MUSIC - THOU DIDST LEAVE THY THRONE - RED  
HYMNAL #116**

**1. Thou didst leave Thy throne  
And Thy kingly crown  
When Thou camest to earth for me;  
But in Bethlehem's home  
Was there found no room  
For Thy holy nativity:  
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus!  
There is room in my heart for Thee.**

**2. Heaven's arches rang  
When the angels sang,  
Proclaiming Thy royal degree;  
But in lowly birth Didst Thou come to earth,  
And in great humility:  
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus!  
There is room in my heart for Thee.**

**3. The foxes found rest  
And the birds their nest  
In the shade of the forest tree;  
But Thy couch was the sod,  
O Thou Son of God,  
In the desert of Galilee:  
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus!  
There is room in my heart for Thee.**

**4. Thou camest, O Lord,  
With the living word**

**That should set Thy people free;  
But with mocking scorn,  
And with crown of thorn,  
They bore Thee to Calvary:  
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus!  
There is room in my heart for Thee.**

**5. When the heavens shall ring,  
And the angels sing,  
At Thy coming to victory,  
Let Thy voice call me home,  
Saying, “yet there is room,  
There is room at My side for thee.”  
My heart shall rejoice, Lord Jesus!  
When Thou comest and callest for me.**

**BENEDICTION: PASTOR DAVID WENKER**

**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.*

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1. *God Welcomes All* - CCLI Song #5495557
2. *Joy to the World: George Frederic Handel*: CCLI Song #7100235
3. *O Come All Ye Faithful; John Francis Wade/Frederick Oakeley*; CCLI Song #31054
4. *Gloria* Public Domain
5. *How Great Our Joy*: Tom Fettke; CCLI Song #4072830
6. *Infant Lowly, Infant Holy*: Edith M. Gellibrand-Reed: CCLI Song #162538
7. *Doxology* - CCLI Song #425557
8. *Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne*: Emily E.S. Elliott/Timothy R. Matthew's: CCLI Song #91977