



Let Us Worship God!



December 24, 2023—10:30 AM

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

A HYBRID WORSHIP EXPERIENCE IN-PERSON AND ONLINE

Today's worship team— Music Director: Jayne McDonough; Worship Leader: Beverly Mate
Message: Pastor David Wenker; Worship Production: Linda Kaempf



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

This is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Today we light the fourth candle on the Advent Wreath, the candle of **Love**.

Pastor David Wenker will give the message "God's Christmas Present to you: Full of Grace and Truth".

We will receive many gifts this Christmas. Each comes with thought and love. Each is to be received with gratitude. But we ought not miss the gift God offers us in Jesus. Today we will unwrap God's gift of Jesus to see what is there beyond a baby in a manger. It is the gift we may not realize we need more than all the others. God's grace and truth, lived out in the person of Jesus.

MUSIC PREVIEW

The opening hymn is "Joy to the World", a poem by Isaac Watts, based on Psalm 98 as Watts interpreted this psalm to be a celebration of Jesus's role as King of both his church and the whole world. Watts never knew that the poem he wrote became one of his most famous hymns when more than a century

later a Boston music teacher named Lowell Mason discovered his poem and set it to music. Because it was released at Christmastime, it quickly became a holiday favorite and went on to become the most published Christmas carol in America.

The hymn after the message will be “Angels We Have Heard on High”. Reports say that in 129 A.D. Pope Telesphorus ordained that the “Gloria” be sung at the Christmas Eve midnight mass. The phrase became known as the “Angels Hymn” and considered one of the earliest known Christmas hymns.

The “Gloria” is believed to have inspired the chorus in Angels We Have Heard on High. The tune is believed to be inspired by an unknown tune that was arranged by Edward Shippen Barnes in the early 1900s.

Our closing hymn, “What Child is This”. was written as The Manger Song, first published in 1865. The tune is to the ever-popular Greensleeves, written a full century before Dix’s hymn.

COUNTDOWN TO WORSHIP

(10:24)

PRELUDE: JAYNE McDONOUGH

WELCOME: PASTOR DAVID WENKER

(10:30)

CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVELY) - BEVERLY MATE

(Luke 2: 11-14)

Liturgist: “Do not be afraid, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

Congregation: Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord”

Liturgist: Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

Congregation: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

GOD WELCOMES ALL (UNISON)

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

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE:

Reading

All together let us pray;

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

OPENING HYMN - BLUE #40, JOY TO THE WORLD

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come:

Let earth receive her King;

Let every heart prepare Him room,

And heaven and nature sing,

And heaven and nature sing,

And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

2. Joy to the world! 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. No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.**

**4. 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, wonders of His love.**

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, let us confess the sins that have kept us from glorifying and enjoying our God.

PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS (UNISON)

We want to let our light so shine that others are drawn to you. But our needs get in the way. We love the attention and want others to think of us as really good people. We often find it easier to place judgment and

blame and call it standing up for right. We find it harder to love people as you do and serve them as Jesus did. Forgive us. Enlighten us to the places in us we need to grow. We pray in Jesus name. AMEN

SILENT REFLECTION

HEAR THE WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(Psalm 103:17)

“The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.” Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. Amen.

THE GLORIA

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

SPECIAL MUSIC - SOLO

BORN IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD - BEVERLY MATE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (UNISON)

Savior God, liberate us from the sins which distort our vision and disrupt our hearing as we approach your Word. Standing firm in your love, let us open ourselves to the truth you reveal to us today. Amen.

GOSPEL READING: JOHN 1: 1-14

The Word Became Flesh

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.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

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: "GOD'S CHRISTMAS PRESENT TO YOU:
FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH" - PASTOR DAVID**

WENKER

PRAYER AND SILENT REFLECTION

**MUSIC - BLUE #23, ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON
HIGH**

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 Deo;
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.

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO: JESUS (12/25),

PAMELA BARSBY (12/28)

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

REBECCA & JIM MCCAUGHEY (12/30)

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 we

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Tonight!

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: 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 at home today! 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 and 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 - BEVERLY MATE

Once we were strangers,

Now we are neighbors.

Once we were strangers,

Now we are friends.

MUSIC - BLUE #53, WHAT CHILD IS THIS

1. What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

2. Why lies He in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

3. So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come, one and all, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,

The Babe, the Son of Mary!

BENEDICTION: PASTOR DAVID WENKER

POSTLUDE: JAYNE McDONOUGH

Go in peace. Join us tonight at 6pm for the
Christmas Eve Candlelight Celebration!

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.

Notes for Today's Music: CCLI License #20561018. CCLI Streaming License #20561001
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1. *God Welcomes All* - CCLI Song #5495557
2. *Joy to the World*: text-Isaac Watts, Music-George Frederick Handel; CCLI # 24016
3. *Gloria*: Public Domain
4. *Born Is the Light of the World*: Sally Deford Music
5. *Angels We Have Heard on High*: text-French Carol, trans. James Chadwick 1860, Music-arr. Edward Barnes 1937; CCLI #3196504
6. *Doxology* - CCLI Song #425557
7. *What Child is This*: William C. Dix; CCLI #30983