



Let's Worship Christ, the Lord!

A Hybrid Worship Experience In-Person and Online
Tonight's worship team—Music Director: Jayne McDonough.
Worship Leader - Marjorie Wetherill.
Message: Pastor David Wenker. Worship Production: Linda Kaempf

**Worship Gathering • December 24, 2023 • 6:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve**



The Rev. David Wenker, Pastor

Cold Spring Presbyterian Church

780 Seashore Rd. Cold Spring, NJ 08204

www.coldspringchurch.com

Hello. we're glad you're here! We believe that everyone deserves to experience God's love in relevant and authentic ways. Our thriving faith community puts God's love into action to help make greater Cape May a better place. Join with us as we joyfully love and serve God and our neighbors through the power of the Holy Spirit in the name of Jesus Christ.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

PRELUDE: JAYNE McDONOUGH, ORGANIST

WELCOME: PASTOR DAVID WENKER

CALL TO WORSHIP - MARGE WETHERILL

Liturgist: Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and goodwill to all mankind".

Congregation: The shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about".

CAROL SINGING: #40 (BLUE) 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.**

CAROL: #25 (BLUE) AWAY IN A MANGER

**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.

CAROL: #53 (BLUE) *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!

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE: JESUS
ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTER: TERRYL CHAPMAN
READING

RESPONSE:

Together: God of hope, Prince of peace,
rejoicing Father, Lord of love, your
goodness is beyond our wildest
imagination. You give more than we can
ask or think, coming to us in flesh as a
baby. Glory to God in the highest!!



***CAROL SINGING: #23 (BLUE) 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.

***CAROL: #38 (BLUE) IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT
CLEAR***

1. It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,

From angels bending near the earth,
To touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to all,
From heaven's all gracious King”:
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.

2. Still through the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world:
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

3. And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow,
Look now! for glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing:
O rest beside the weary road,
And hear the angels sing.

4. For lo, the days are hastening on,
By prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever-circling years

Comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world give back the song
Which now the angels sing.

CAROL: #29 (BLUE) GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

Go, tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born!

1. While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light.
Go, tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born!

2. The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo! above the earth,
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed the Savior's birth.
Go, tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere;

**Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born!**

**3. Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn.
Go, tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born!**

OUR CHRISTMAS PRAYERS

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.`

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE - THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING:

(of our Christmas gifts and Christmas Joy Offering)

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

OFFERTORY: MARY DID YOU KNOW -

DUET - PASTOR DAVID WENKER & MRS JANET WENKER

PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

CHRISTMAS GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 2: 1-11

The Magi Visit the Messiah

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

"But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE: *THEY CAME TO WORSHIP HIM* - PASTOR DAVID WENKER

SERVICE OF CANDLE LIGHTING

(After the Pastor lights the ushers' candles, they will begin lighting the individual candles. Worshippers are reminded to tip unlit candle to light it, and not to tip burning candles.)

Together join in singing:

CAROL: *SILENT NIGHT*

**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,
Heavenly 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.

4. Silent night, holy night,
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.

BENEDICTION: PASTOR DAVID WENKER

POSTLUDE: JAYNE McDONOUGH

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY!

God is here, with us, and goes with us into our new year. Make 2024 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. Joy to the World: text-Isaac Watts, Music-George Frederick Handel; CCLI # 24016
2. Away in a Manger: John T. McFarland/Martin Luther; CCLI #38583
3. What Child is This: William Chatterton Dix; CCLI #30983
4. Angels We Have Heard on High: text-French Carol, trans. James Chadwick 1860, Music-arr. Edward Barnes 1937; CCLI #3196504
5. It Came Upon the Midnight Clear: Edmund Hamilton Seers/Richard Storrs Willis: CCLI #131078
6. Go Tell it on the Mountain: John W. Work, Jr; CCLI #29080
7. Mary Did Your Know: Mark Lowry, Buddy Greene; CCLI #839225
8. Silent Night: text-Joseph Mohr, music-Franz Gruber; CCLI #27862