



# Let Us Worship God!



April 21, 2024—10:30 AM  
Fourth Sunday of Easter

A Hybrid Worship Experience In-Person and Online

Today's worship team—Music Director: Jayne McDonough; Worship Leader: Beverly Mate;  
Soloist: Gretchen Sorenson; Message: Pastor David Wenker;  
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](http://www.coldspringworship.com).

*Be Involved*

Be involved in doing good, for at the proper time good things will result if we do not give up.  
Galatians 6:9



## WORSHIP PREVIEW

Pastor David Wenker's message is "Living as the Beloved: Blessed". Blessed is not a word we often use in everyday language, but it is a word in the Bible God uses to describe his beloved sons and daughters. We often associate blessed with getting our way in life and having what we want. But the word is much richer and deep than mere surface circumstances. We will explore that deeper meaning and how we can turn our blessedness into a blessing to others.

## MUSIC PREVIEW

We welcome Gretchen Sorenson, flautist to our service today.

The opening hymn is Our God, Our Help in Ages Past, a hymn by Isaac Watts, written in 1708 that paraphrases the 90th Psalm, of the Book of Psalms. The hymn of meditation, written in 1897, Oatman's most influential hymn, Count Your Blessings, was published in the hymnal Songs for Young People. It became an immediate sensation. True to its intent as a song for youth, its message is simple and clear: The best way to fight discouragement is to look for the blessings of life. The closing hymn is Make Me a Blessing. In 1924 George Shuler and Ira Wilson were roommates at Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, Illinois. They combined their efforts in giving to the world the wonderful Christian song, "Make Me a Blessing." Wilson wrote the lyrics and Shuler the musical setting. At first, the song was rejected by musical publishers. Not to be stopped, Shuler had 1,000 copies printed to distribute on his own. One copy fell into the hands of George Dibble, an outstanding singer who was the music director for the International Sunday School Convention in Cleveland, Ohio. Dibble asked permission to use the song, and it was granted. Soon people everywhere were singing it and publishers were wanting to distribute copies.

**PRELUDE: AMAZING GRACE**

GRETCHEN SORENSON, FLAUTIST

**WELCOME: PASTOR DAVID WENKER**

God Welcomes All (sing in unison):

**God welcomes all, strangers and friends;**

**God's love is strong and it never ends.**

(10:30)

**CALL TO WORSHIP - RESPONSIVE- PSALM 42: 1-5**

As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God.

**My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?**

My tears have been my food day and night, while men say to me all day long, "Where is your God?"

**These things I remember as I pour out my soul: how I used to go with the multitude,**

leading the procession to the house of God, with shouts of joy and thanksgiving among the festive throng.

**Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me?**

Put your hope in God for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

**OPENING HYMN: OUR GOD, OUR HELP IN AGES PAST, BLUE HYMNAL**

**#210**

**1. O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
And our eternal home:**

**2. Before the hills in order stood,  
Or earth received her frame,  
From everlasting Thou art God,  
To endless years the same.**

**3. A thousand ages in Thy sight  
Are like an evening gone;  
Short as the watch that ends the night  
Before the rising sun.**

**4. Time, like an ever rolling stream,  
Soon bears us all away;  
We fly forgotten, as a dream  
Dies at the opening day.**

**5. Our God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Be Thou our guard while life shall last,  
And our eternal home.**

#### **CALL TO RECONCILIATION**

The joy of this Easter season continues as we are called to Word and worship. Let us pause to confess our sins to our Good Shepherd.

#### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)**

**Dear Father, we admit our tendency to love what is comfortable, safe, and mediocre. We tend to avoid what is risky and frightening. You call us to a life of surrender to your will and giving ourselves away in love. We want to protect what is ours. Expand our perspective dear Lord, to see the vale of your call to discipleship on our lives. Forgive us and heal us of our self-centered ways for Jesus sake. AMEN**

#### **SILENT REFLECTION**

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

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel.

**In Jesus Christ we are Forgiven**

#### **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.**

**Solo: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty - Gretchen Sorenson, Flautist**

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God our helper, guide us into and through your Word, that we might be shaped by your Spirit's message to us today and transformed for service in your world. Amen

## FIRST READING: PSALM 128 (RESPONSIVE)

Blessed are all who fear the Lord, who walk in obedience to him.

**You will eat the fruit of your labor; blessings and prosperity will be yours.**

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table.

**Yes, this will be the blessing for the man who fears the Lord.**

May the Lord bless you from Zion; may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.

**May you live to see your children's children—peace be on Israel.**

## GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 5: 1-12

### Introduction to the Sermon on the Mount

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them. The Beatitudes He said: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

**Message: "Living as the Beloved: Blessed" -**  
Pastor David Wenker

## PRAYER AND SILENT REFLECTION

## HYMN OF MEDITATION: COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS, RED HYMNAL #545

1. When upon life's billows  
You are tempest tossed,  
When you are discouraged, Thinking all is lost,  
Count your many blessings—  
Name them one by one,  
And it will surprise you  
What the Lord hath done.  
Count your blessings— Name them one by one;  
Count your blessings—  
See what God hath done;  
Count your blessings—Name them one by one;  
Count your many blessings—  
See what God has done.

2. Are you ever burdened With a load of care?  
Does the cross seem heavy  
You are called to bear?  
Count your many blessings—  
Every doubt will fly,  
And you will be singing As the days go by.  
Count your blessings—Name them one by one;  
Count your blessings—  
See what God hath done;  
Count your blessings—Name them one by one;  
Count your many blessings—  
See what God has done.

3. When you look at others  
With their lands and gold,  
Think that Christ has promised  
You His wealth untold;  
Count your many blessings— Money cannot buy  
Your reward in heaven Nor your home on high.  
Count your blessings—Name them one by one;  
Count your blessings—  
See what God hath done;  
Count your blessings—Name them one by one;  
Count your many blessings—  
See what God has done.

4. So amid the conflict, Whether great or small,  
Do not be discouraged—God is over all;

Count your many blessings— Angels will attend,  
Help and comfort give you  
To your journey's end.  
Count your blessings— Name them one by one;  
Count your blessings—  
See what God hath done;  
Count your blessings— Name them one by one;  
Count your many blessings—  
See what God has done.

### GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

Humbled by God's generosity, let us offer our gifts to God and Christ's church.

### Offertory - Solo - *Simple Gifts* -

Gretchen Sorenson, Flautist

### The Doxology (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:

Birthday's & Anniversaries - any we missed?

### SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS -

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Prayers for: Jill Whipple (Linda's Daughter), serious illness; Glenn Kaempf recovering from knee surgery 4/8; Bev's Brother's, Bob Page, recovering from open heart surgery, Russell Page, recovering from broken hip; Von George, friend of Stiles', treating for pancreatic cancer in Boston @ Mass. General; Daniel Huester; Marty, now in hospice care; Keith Palek-cancer struggles; Dale & Jonna Myers, their Granddon & Daughter in law are improving, & son, Greg is recovering from surgery, he has a long road ahead. Barbara Cain preparing for surgery on May 8.

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

Those undergoing cancer treatment: Keith, Todd, Brian, Gerri Mills, Robin B, Mike, Kim, Steve, Rickey, Lorraine, Grover, Glenn, Candy, and Donna.

### 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: MAKE ME A BLESSING, RED HYMNAL #477**

**1. Out in the highways and byways of life,  
Many are weary and sad,  
Carry the sunshine where darkness is rife,  
Making the sorrowing glad.  
Make me a blessing, make me a blessing,  
Out of my life may Jesus shine;  
Make me a blessing, O Savior, I pray,  
Make me a blessing to someone today.**

**2. Tell the sweet story of Christ and His love,  
Tell of His pow'r to forgive;  
Others will trust Him if only you prove  
True, every moment you live.  
Make me a blessing, make me a blessing,  
Out of my life may Jesus shine;  
Make me a blessing, O Savior, I pray,  
Make me a blessing to someone today.**

**3. Give as 'twas given to you in your need,  
Love as the Master loved you;  
Be to the helpless a helper indeed,  
Unto your mission be true.  
Make me a blessing, make me a blessing,  
Out of my life may Jesus shine;  
Make me a blessing, O Savior, I pray,**

**Make me a blessing to someone today.**

**BENEDICTION - PASTOR DAVID WENKER**

**POSTLUDE - JAYNE McDONOUGH**

*So glad you've joined us. Please share your worship experience with others on our YouTube channel, Facebook, and Instagram. View worship at any time on our YouTube page. Invite others to join you next week.*

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1. *Amazing Grace*: John Newton; CCLI Song #4755360
2. *God Welcomes All*: CCLI Song #549555
3. *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*: Isaac Watts, William Croft; CCLI Song #43152
4. *Gloria*: Public Domain
5. *Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty*: John Bacchus Dykes, Reginald Heber; CCLI Song #1156
6. *Count Your Blessings*: Edwin Pthello-Excel, Johnson Oatman, Jr; CCLI Song #40416
7. *Simple Gifts*: Johann Pachelbel; CCLI Song #7161211
8. *Doxology*: CCLI #425557
9. *Make Me a Blessing*: George S. Schuler, Ira Bishop Wilson; CCLI Song #11603