Let Us Worship God!

January 19, 2025—10:30 AM

Second Sunday after Epiphany

A Hybrid Worship Experience In-Person and Online

Today's worship team—Music Director: Jayne McDonough; Worship Leader:Beverly Mate; Message: The Rev. Joel Buckwalter; 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

Message Preview

Please welcome **The Rev. Joel D. Buckwalter, Presbyterian Church (USA), Chaplain Bayada. His message is "Putting On the Mind of Christ".**

The Rev. Joel Buckwalter was born and raised in Coatesville, PA. His grandparents were dairy farmers in Atglen, PA. He received his M. Div. from Fuller Theological Seminary. He has a Mechanical Engineering degree from Penn State. He was a full time pastor in the PC(USA) for 25 years, serving churches in Florida, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. He has been a hospice chaplain for the past 3 years. In 2020 he received a certificate in training from the Institute of Meditation and Psychotherapy which is affiliated with Harvard Medical School. He lives in Cherry Hill, is married with two children.

Music Preview

Isaac Watts wrote more than 600 hymns. Included in his first hymnal – the first hymnal printed in English – were the lyrics to this great hymn, *Come, We That Love the Lord*. In 1763, Aaron Williams put it together with a tune called "St. Thomas".

Many hymns are conceived in the throes of tragedy. "Precious Lord" was written in Chicago in 1932 following the death of Thomas Dorsey's wife Nettie and infant son during childbirth. "Precious Lord" has been recorded by many famous singers including Elvis Presley, Mahalia Jackson, Roy Rogers, and Tennessee Ernie Ford. Martin Luther King Jr. drew inspiration from this, his favorite song. It was sung at the rally in Memphis the night before the civil-rights leader's assassination. President Lyndon B. Johnson requested that "Precious Lord" be sung at his funeral. Dorsey was the first African American elected to the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame and the Gospel Music Association's Living Hall of Fame.

“Lift Every Voice and Sing” is a truly great work, and an impromptu one: In January 1900 James Weldon Johnson, principal of Jacksonville, Florida’s segregated Stanton School, was casting about for student assembly ideas to celebrate Lincoln’s birthday. Johnson decided to write a poem for the occasion. Then a better idea occurred: Since his composer brother was at hand, why not have a poem with music? Together at the family home in Jacksonville, the Johnsons set to work. James paced the front porch working out the words, handing each finished stanza to John, who sat inside at the piano. These elements perfectly joined, the Johnsons mailed the manuscript to their publisher in New York, requesting mimeographed copies for use by their students. Over the following weeks the brothers taught the Stanton School’s chorus their new “song.” And on February 12, 1900 these youngsters gave the first performance of “Lift Every Voice and Sing!” Black people who had heard it were touched and spread the song across the South the ancient way—orally. By 1910 “Lift Every Voice” was generally known around the country. In 1919 the N.A.A.C.P. (of which James Weldon Johnson was a founder) adopted it as the organization’s official anthem.

Prelude — Jayne McDonough

Welcome: — Rev. Joel Buckwalter

God Welcomes All (unison)

God welcomes all,
strangers and friends;

God's love is strong
and it never ends.

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE)

LITURGIST: BEVERLY MATE

(based on Psalm 36:7-9)
How precious is your steadfast love, O God!
May all people take refuge in the shadow of your wings.
We feast on the abundance of your house, and you give us drink from the river of your delights.
For with you is the fountain of life;
in your light we see light.

OPENING PRAYER (UNISON) PSALM 36: 5-6, 10

Your love, Lord, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies. Your righteousness is like the highest mountains, your justice like the great deep. You, Lord, preserve both people and animals. Continue your love to those who know you, your righteousness to the upright in heart. Amen

GATHERING HYMN "*COME, WE THAT LOVE THE LORD" RED HYMNAL # 68, CASES 1,2,4,5*

1. Come, we that love the Lord,
And let our joys be known;

Join in a song with sweet accord,
And thus surround the throne.

2. Let those who refuse to sing
Who never knew our God;
But the children of the heav'nly King
May speak their joys abroad.

4. The hill of Zion yields
A thousand sacred sweets
Before we reach the heavn'ly fields,
Or walk the golden streets.

5. Then let our songs abound,
And ev'ry tear be dry,
We're marching thro' Emmanuel's ground
To fairer worlds on high.

Call to Confession

Let us humbly approach God's throne of grace to confess our sins and present ourselves honestly before our Savior.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

(based on 1 Corinthians 12:1-11)

You have blessed us with a variety of gifts, Holy God, but we are reluctant to share. We

hoard what is most valuable and make excuses for ourselves when called to share. The Spirit has blessed each of us uniquely, but we hide our light under a bushel and fail to rise to our potential. God, forgive us and embolden us. Help us to claim our gifts and put them to good use. Amen.

Silent Reflection

Hear the Words of Assurance

Our God is a loving God, full of mercy. In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Believe in this forgiveness, be at peace, and respond in grateful service.

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.

Prayer for Illumination

Holy God, we need the guidance of your Word. Help us be honest with ourselves and with you in this sacred moment of proclamation. Amen.

First Scripture Reading: Isaiah 62: 1-5

Zion's New Name

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, for
Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet,
till her vindication shines out like the dawn,
her salvation like a blazing torch. The nations
will see your vindication, and all kings your
glory; you will be called by a new name
that the mouth of the Lord will bestow.
You will be a crown of splendor in the Lord's
hand, a royal diadem in the hand of your God.
No longer will they call you Deserted, or name
your land Desolate. But you will be called
Hephzibah, and your land Beulah; for the Lord
will take delight in you, and your land will be
married. As a young man marries a young
woman, so will your Builder marry you; as a
bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your
God rejoice over you.

Second Scripture Reading: Philippians 2: 1-11

Imitating Christ's Humility

Therefore if you have any encouragement from
being united with Christ, if any comfort from his
love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any
tenderness and compassion, then make my joy

complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with Godsomething to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature[b] of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Message: "putting On the Mind of Christ"

Rev. Joel Buckwalter

Prayer and Silent Reflection

Hymn of Meditation -"*Precious Lord, Take My Hand*" Blue Hymnal # 404

1. Precious Lord, take my hand,
Lead me on, Help me stand;
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
Through the storm, through the night,
Lead me on to the light;
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

2. When my way grows drear,
precious Lord linger near;
When my life is almost gone,
Hear my cry, hear my call,
Hold my hand lest I fall;
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

Offering of Our Gifts -

Our God blesses us with extravagance and abundance. Grateful for all we have been given, let us present our tithes and offerings to the Lord.

Offertory -

The Doxology

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 Dedication

Community News

Birthdays and Anniversaries: any in Congregation today?

Flowers: Sign-up in the Narthex, or online, if you'd like to donate flowers in memory, or in honor, of a loved one. For more information, contact Beverly Mate, 609-847-1530. ($20/vase).

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will follow worship in Price Hall on Feb. 2, 2025. We will receive the Nominating and financial reports, elect elders and deacons, and celebrate what God is doing. All are invited to enjoy lunch that is provided.

The Deacons are holding a Soup-er Sunday collection for the food banks, from now through Feb. 9. Bring soups and place them on your winning team, AFC or NFC, for the Super Bowl!

The Christ Child Society is a non-profit local organization that believes “Nothing is too much to do for a child”. The life of a child is a promise of the future, but for many children, their future is at risk. With that in mind and if you would like to make a difference in the life of a child, please consider becoming a member of the Christ Child Society of Cape May County. Meetings are held on the second Monday of every month at 12:30 pm from September to June at St. John of God Parish Hall on Townbank Rd, NCM. Attend a meeting to find out more or call or e mail Marilyn at 609-827-8379 - mtk1ccs@gmail.com

Receiving of Joys and Concerns
Prayers of the People:

Pray for: **Linda Kaempf**, recovering from hip replacement surgery on Jan. 15; **Carol Bostrum** recovering from surgery; **Debbie Ferry & family** on the passing of her husband Mike Ferry; for Family Promise as they celebrate 15 years of serving Cape May County homeless families; **Dr Regina** Is thankful for our constant prayers and the blessing of being clear of blood cancer; **Karen Boyle** suffered the loss of her home and possessions; **Victims of New Orleans terror attack**; **Victims and families of California wild fires**; **Jim Cremer** prayers for illness; **Carol & Don**, blessing of a cancer free biopsy report; Pat Harris' sister, **Cherie McKinney** prayers for negative results of lung & lymph node biopsies;

Continual prayer requested for: **Eileen Stalford** in nursing care; **Pastor Bob & Anna Sheidly** friends of Bob Heinly, as they battle multiple maladies of aging; **Bob Sheidly** is improving and grateful for our prayers.

Those on hospice care: **Marty, John Stalford, Gertrude Hess, Celeste Bashaw, Ted Lewis, Ed McCaughey, Mike Ferry.**

Those undergoing cancer treatment: **Katrina Gonzalez, Bob Maher, Karen R., Keith, Todd, Brian, Gerri Mills, Robin B, Mike, Kim, Steve,**

Rickey, Lorraine, Candy, Donna, Liz, Jennifer, Julie, Lori, Ruth & Debbie, Mike Grecco.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

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

Once we were strangers,
Now we are neighbors.
Once we were strangers,
Now we are friends.

Music - "Lift Every Voice and Sing" Blue Hymnal #563, verse 1

Lift every voice and sing
'Til earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty,
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the list'ning skies;
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith
That the dark past has taught us;
Sing a song full of the hope
That the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on, 'til victory is won.

BENEDICTION: REV. JOEL BUCKWALTER

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.

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.

2. *God Welcomes All* - CCLI Song #5495557
3. *Come, We That Love the Lord: Isaac Watts, Aaron Williams ; CCLI #4175854*
4. *Gloria* Public Domaine
5. Precious Lord, Take My Hand: Thomas A. Dorsey, George N. Allen; CCLI Song #7205306
6. *Doxology* - CCLI Song #425557
7. Lift Every Voice and Sing; James Weldon Johnson, J. Rosamond Johnson; CCLI Song #7163967