Let Us Worship God!

January 26, 2025—10:30 AM

Third Sunday after Epiphany

A Hybrid Worship Experience In-Person and Online

Today's worship team—Music Director: Jayne McDonough; Worship Leader:Robert Stiles; Message: The Rev. David Wenker's; 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

Pastor David Wenker's message is "The Marvelous Love of the Father"

The marvelous love of the Father throws a party whenever we turn in faith to God. The marvelous love of the Father throws a party whenever someone else turns in some way to God in faith. It is hard for us to believe God ever throws a party for us. It is also hard for us to believe God throws a party for others. We judge ourselves so harshly and we are so judgmental towards others it is hard to believe in a party. But that is where we need to grow.

Music Preview

"Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above" is a hymn written by Johann J. Schütz in 1675. The hymn was written in response to a revival in German churches. Schütz was a prominent lawyer in Frankfurt who helped establish prayer meetings and Bible study groups. His desire was to have the song proclaim the greatness of the Lord while emphasizing the nearness of a personal God.

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" is a Christian hymn written by Robert Robinson in 1758. The hymn is based on 1 Samuel 7:12 and is a reflection on the theme of divine grace. Robinson wrote the hymn for his Pentecost Sunday sermon in 1758. The hymn was first published in A Collection of Hymns for

Public Worship in 1758. The melody for the hymn was added by composer John Wyeth a few years later.

The story of “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” is about a Methodist minister who wrote a poem about God's faithfulness, and a friend who set it to music. The hymn became popular through the Moody Bible Institute and Billy Graham’s Crusades. The phrase “Great is Thy faithfulness” comes from the Bible, specifically Lamentations 3:23. It is a declaration of God's unchanging reliability and constant presence in our lives. The term “faithfulness” here refers to God’s steadfastness, His unwavering commitment to His promises, and His consistent character. This means that God is dependable and trustworthy, regardless of our circumstances.

Prelude — Jayne McDonough

Welcome: — The Rev. David Wenker

God Welcomes All (unison)

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

THE CALL TO WORSHIP (Resp.) (Psalm 48)

Liturgist: Robert Stiles

One: Great is the Lord, and most worthy of praise, in the city of our God, his holy mountain. It is beautiful in its loftiness, the joy of the whole earth.

Many: Within your temple, O God, we meditate on your unfailing love. Like your name, O God, your praise reaches to the ends of the earth.

OPENING PRAYER (UNISON)

We are glad to be here today. We have much to be grateful for in our life and we want to give you the honor and thanks for those gifts. We have much we struggle with in our lives personally and in our relationships and we need your strength and guidance. You are our God. You are our friend. In Jesus name we pray, AMEN

GATHERING HYMN "SING PRAISE TO GOD WHO REIGNS ABOVE" *BLUE HYMNAL #483*

1. Sing praise to God, who reigns above,
The God of all creation,
The God of power, the God of love,
The God of our salvation;
With healing balm my soul is filled,
And every faithless murmur stilled:
To God all praise and glory!

2. What God's almighty power hath made,
God's gracious mercy keepeth;
By morning glow or evening shade
God's watchful eye ne'er sleepeth;
Within the kingdom of God's might,
Lo! all is just and all is right:
To God all praise and glory!

3. The Lord is never far away,
But through all grief distressing,
An ever-present help and stay,
Our peace, and joy, and blessing;
As with a mother's tender hand,
God gently leads the chosen band:
To God all praise and glory!

4. Thus all my gladsome way along,
I sing aloud Thy praises
That all may hear the grateful song
My voice unwearied raises,
Be joyful in the Lord my heart,
Both soul and body bear your part:
To God all praise and glory!

Call to Confession

In our day-to-day lives, we sin in a multitude of ways — by what we have done and what we have left undone. Confession allows us to unburden ourselves and lay before God our stark humanity. Let us offer our prayer, knowing that God is merciful and offers forgiveness to all who turn to God.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

We confess we can easily be like the Pharisees, looking down on another's sin

and justifying our own. We minimize our sins, finding it difficult to see the destructiveness of our respectable sins of greed, judgmental attitudes and slander. Forgive us and show us a better way. Teach us the way of humility. We pray in Jesus name. AMEN

Silent Reflection

Hear the Words of Assurance

One: Friends hear the good news of the gospel. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone and a new life has begun.

Many: 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.

Prayer for Illumination

Loving God, may your Spirit be with us each, showing us your Word and your Way. Amen.

Gospel Reading: Luke 15: 11-32

The Parable of the Lost Son

Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them. “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ So he got up and went to his father. “But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned

against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate. “Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’ “The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’ “‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”

Message: "The Marvelous Love of the Father" Rev. David Wenker

Prayer and Silent Reflection

Hymn of Meditation -"*Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*" Blue Hymnal #356

1. Come Thou fount of ev'ry blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of God's unchanging love!

2. Here I raise mine Ebenezer,
Hither by Thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wand'ring from the fold of God;
He to rescue me from danger,
Interposed His precious blood.

3. O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,

Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.

Offering of Our Gifts -

All that we have, all that we are, is a gift from God. Let us in turn offer our gifts to God's work in the world. Let us give our offering.

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, Elaine has the sign up sheet for covered dishes.

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: **Charlie Keister** at Cooper in Camden for surgery for an obstruction, possibly malignant; Comfort for the **Schofield family** on the loss of 17 yr old **Aiden** in a dirt bike accident; Thanks & praise that **Ferrari’s son, Freddie** was in church with them and is cancer free! **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.

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.**
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 - "Great is Thy Faithfulness"

Blue Hymnal #276

1. Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow Of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not,
Thy compassions they fail not;
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning New mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

2. Summer and winter,
And springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars In their courses above
Join with all nature In manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, Mercy and love.
Great is Thy faithfulness!

Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning New mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

3. Pardon for sin And a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence
To cheer and to guide;
Strength for today
And bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine,
With ten thousand beside!
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning New mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

BENEDICTION: REV. 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.

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. *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above: Johann Jacob Schultz, Franes Eliz. Cox ; CCLI #6066215*
4. *Gloria* Public Domaine
5. Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing: Robert Robinson; CCLI Song #108389
6. *Doxology* - CCLI Song #425557
7. Great is Thy Faithfulness; Thomas Obediah Chisholm, William Marion Runyon; CCLI Song #18723