

# LET US WORSHIP GOD!

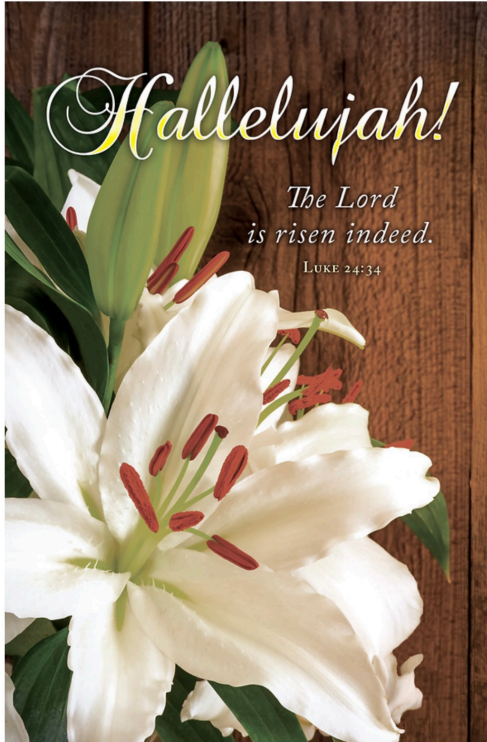
April 2, 2025— 10:30 AM

## SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER



A HYBRID WORSHIP EXPERIENCE IN-PERSON AND ONLINE

Today's worship team— Music Director: Jayne McDonough;  
Worship Leader: Marjorie Wetherill; Message: Norris Clark, Ruling  
Elder, Pulpit Supply; Worship Production: Dee Sloan



## 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)

## MESSAGE PREVIEW

Ruling Elder, Norris Clark's message is "Real Choices, Real Consequences".

## MUSIC PREVIEW

The Cold Spring Singers have grown to a Quintet and will sing "Resurrection Joy", an anthem of praise, celebrating the joy of Easter in an exciting rhythmic style.

The Day of Resurrection was written by St. John of Damascus, an eighth-century Greek poet. He is known for his writing of six canons for the major festivals of the church year. He lived a life of wealth and honor until he became dissatisfied with his life at age forty. He gave away his possessions, freed his slaves and entered the monastery of St. Sabas in the desert near Jerusalem. He wrote fifty-three hymns that we know of. He died around 787. John M. Neale translated the hymn into English.

The hymn "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" is believed to be based on the words of Nokseng, a Garo man from India who converted to Christianity in the 19th century. The story goes that Nokseng was forced to renounce his faith by a village chief, but he steadfastly declared his decision to follow Jesus, even in the face of persecution. Some accounts suggest that Nokseng and his family were martyred for their faith.

The hymn "He Lives" was written by Alfred Henry Ackley in 1933, inspired by a question posed to him by a Jewish man attending revival services. The man, who had attended several services, asked, "Why should I worship a dead Jew?". Ackley's fervent response, "He lives! I tell you, He is not dead, but lives here and now! Jesus Christ is more alive today than ever before." His subsequent contemplation of the Resurrection account in Mark's Gospel led him to write the hymn. The hymn expresses the believer's personal experience of Christ's life within their heart, mirroring the biblical truth of Galatians 2:20.

PRELUDE

JAYNE McDONOUGH

WELCOME:

NORRIS CLARK, RULING ELDER

**GOD WELCOMES ALL (UNISON)**

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

**THE CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE)**

(based on Psalm 118:14-29)

One: God of peace, we enter this holy room knowing the gospel's cornerstones of grace and mercy are often rejected in our world.

**Many: Yet we understand that rejection is not the end of the story.**

One: We know that those we have come to know as the builders and the rulers of the world do not have the final word.

**Many: The Gospel of Grace is the Lord's doing.**

One: Despite powers and principalities, despite the clamoring of meanness and cruelty,

**Many: this is the day that the Lord has made.**

One: Grace is the ground upon which we walk.

**Many: Let us rejoice and be glad.**

**OPENING PRAYER (UNISON) PSALM 150**

**Praise the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary;  
praise him in his mighty heavens. Praise him for his acts of  
power; praise him for his surpassing greatness. Praise him with  
the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre,  
praise him with timbrel and dancing, praise him with the strings  
and pipe, praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with  
resounding cymbals. Let everything that has breath praise the  
Lord. Praise the Lord.**

**GATHERING HYMN "THE DAY OF RESURRECTION"**

**BLUE HYMNAL**

**1. The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad;  
The passover of gladness, The passover of God.  
From death to life eternal, From this world to the sky,  
Our Christ has brought us over With hymns of victory.**

**2. Our hearts be pure from evil, That we may see aright  
The Lord in rays eternal Of resurrection light;  
And, listening to His accents, May hear, so calm and plain,  
His own “all hail!” and, hearing, May raise the victor strain.**

**3. Now let the heavens be joyful, Let earth her song begin,  
Let the round world keep triumph, And all that is therein;  
Let all things seen and unseen Their notes of gladness blend,  
For Christ the Lord is risen, Our joy that has no end.**

### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

We are called to tell the truth. Those who are perfectly loved need not fear their shadows. When we speak what we fear and what we hope, silence cannot trap us and lies cannot hold us. As much as we are tempted to hide, telling the truth together reminds us that we trust in God’s grace and the grace of this community. We remember that God’s love yields healing. Honesty, confession, and forgiveness restore us to one another. As we pray together, we are reminded that our confessions of sin, just like our confessions of faith, are held in community. The literal words matter less than the contrite hearts who speak it. Trusting God loves us, and we love and are loved by each other, let us pray.

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

(based on John 20:19-31)

**Holy God, we have found ourselves in fear, locked in rooms of inaction and indecision, unclear where we are called or what we could offer. We have lost ourselves in anxiety so loud we have not heard your voice. We have not recognized you on the move in the world, wounds in your side and life in your lungs. We have believed in the finality of your death and assumed all is left to our own meager efforts. We have refused to see, so we might not have to believe the gospel and live our lives accordingly. God of new life, restore hope throughout our bodies. Help us to breathe again. Strengthen us for the joy that is before us. Grant us eyes to see your beloved people all around us and ears to hear your good news through all the noise. Even as we have looked away, come to see us, call us forth from our locked rooms and bring us out to walk with you in the world you so love.**

## SILENT REFLECTION

### HEAR THE WORDS OF ASSURANCE (RESPONSIVE)

One: The God of truth is present to us in the speaking of truth. The Spirit of grace is present to us in the sharing of grace.

**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

Holy God, we have come here for a word of life. As we seek you in your Word, meet us here. Grant us your wisdom and your hope.

### SCRIPTURE READING: MATTHEW 7: 1-20, 24-29

#### **Judging Others**

“Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye. “Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.

#### **Ask, Seek, Knock**

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. “Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

#### **The Narrow and Wide Gates**

“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it. True and False Prophets “Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

### **The Wise and Foolish Builders**

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

## **MESSAGE: "REAL CHOICES, REAL CONSEQUENCES" NORRIS CLARK, RULING ELDER**

PRAYER AND SILENT REFLECTION

HYMN OF MEDITATION -"*I HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW JESUS*" RED  
HYMNAL #299

**1. I have decided to follow Jesus,  
I have decided to follow Jesus,  
I have decided to follow Jesus,  
No turning back, no turning back.**

**2. The world behind me,  
The cross before me;  
The world behind me, The cross before me;  
The world behind me, The cross before me,  
No turning back, No turning back.**





**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).



**Angelus Chorus  
Presents Spring Concerts  
"Dare to Dream"**

The Angelus Chorus, a community choir of 60 talented local Cape May County residents, invites you to our spring 2025 concerts. This year in memory of Carl Wannan, a longtime supporter, choral member and past board president, the chorus has established a \$2000 scholarship opportunity to a senior in Cape May County who plans to pursue a college degree in music or the performing arts. Admission is free. Free will donations are gratefully accepted.

**Friday May 16th - 7:00 PM** Lower Cape May Regional High School  
687 US- 9, Cape May, NJ

**Sunday May 18th- 3:00 PM** at the Middle Township Performing Art  
Center 212 Bayberry Dr, Cape May Court House NJ

**Monday May 19th - 7:00 PM** at Resurrection Church 200 Tuckahoe  
Rd, Marmora, NJ

**RECEIVING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:**

Pray for: **April Wilburn**, recovering from surgery; **Dale Myers** recovering in Cooper Hospital after heart surgery and some complications; **Linda Kaempf** is home, recovering from surgery; the family and friends of **Stan Crawley** on his passing; **Guy Kessler** is now in rehab at Pelican Point;; **Rebecca McCaughey** is recuperating in North Cape Rehab. Center from pneumonia; **Roseann Crook** suffering with breast cancer, she is the daughter of Joe & Roseann Paulits; **Charlie Keister** is home on hospice care; **Barb Keister** also needs prayers for her injuries from the fall. **James Palmisano**, Dee Sloan's Brother, is home in hospice care; **Kiley Fulford**, 17 yrs old recently diagnosed with MS, Chuck & Barbara McPherson's Niece.

**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: Charlie Keister, Marty, John Stalford, Gertrude Hess, Ted Lewis, James Palmisano.**

**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, Lori, Ruth, Debbie, Mike Grecco Norma, Roseann Crook.**

**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.**

**SENDING HYMN - "HE LIVES" RED HYMNAL #167**

**1. I serve a risen Savior, He's in the world today;  
I know that He is living, Whatever men may say;  
I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer,  
And just the time I need Him He's always near.  
He lives, (He lives), He lives (He lives),  
Christ Jesus lives today!  
He walks with me and talks with me  
Along life's narrow way,  
He lives, (He lives), He lives, (He lives),  
Salvation to impart!  
You ask me how I know He lives?  
He lives within my heart.**

**2. In all the world around me  
I see His loving care,**



**And though my heart grows weary,  
I never will despair;  
I know that He is leading  
Through all the stormy blast,  
The day of His appearing Will come at last.  
He lives, (He lives), He lives (He lives),  
Christ Jesus lives today!  
He walks with me and talks with me  
Along life's narrow way,  
He lives, (He lives), He lives, (He lives),  
Salvation to impart!  
You ask me how I know He lives?  
He lives within my heart.**

**3. Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian, Lift up your voice and sing  
Eternal hallelujahs To Jesus Christ the King!  
The Hope of all who seek Him, The Help of all who find,  
None other is so loving, So good and kind.  
He lives, (He lives), He lives (He lives),  
Christ Jesus lives today!  
He walks with me and talks with me  
Along life's narrow way,  
He lives, (He lives), He lives, (He lives),  
Salvation to impart!  
You ask me how I know He lives?  
He lives within my heart.**

**BENEDICTION:** NORRIS CLARK, RULING ELDER

**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.***

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1. *God Welcomes All* - CCLI Song #5495557
2. *The Day of Resurrection: John of Damascus trans. John M. Neale, Henry Thomas Smart; CCLI Song #2725914*
3. *Gloria* Public Domaine
4. *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus: Folk Melody from India; CCLI Song #24494*
5. *Resurrection Joy; J. Paul Williams/Michael Barrett; Shawnee Press*
6. *Doxology* - CCLI Song #425557
7. *He Lives: Alfred H. Ackley ; CCLI Song #17597*