

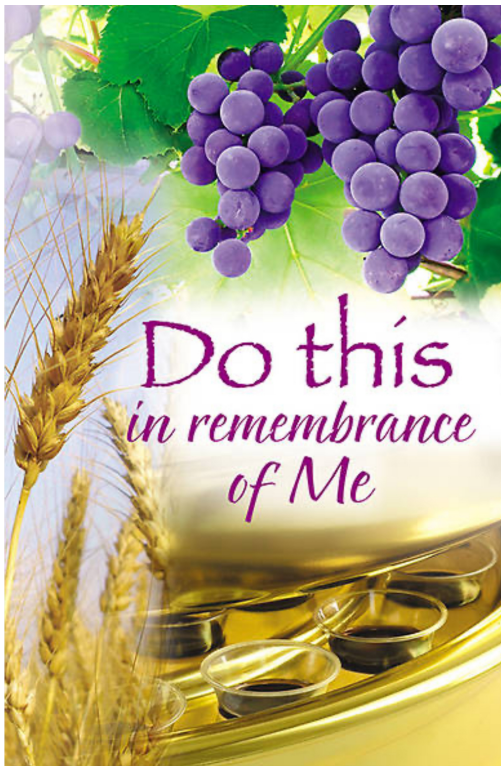
LET US WORSHIP GOD!

May 4, 2025—10:30 AM
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Communion Sunday

A HYBRID WORSHIP EXPERIENCE IN-PERSON AND ONLINE

Today's worship team—Music Director: Jayne McDonough;
Worship Leader: Beverly Mate; Message: Rev. David Wenker;
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

Pastor Dave Wenker is leading a New Members Class beginning on Sunday, May 4th at 9:30 AM in the Red Brick Church, please come if you are interested in learning more.

MESSAGE PREVIEW

Rev. David Wenker's message is "How Is God's Love Made Visible?"

This week we start a series of sermons on the fruit of the Spirit. More than a moralistic "you should do this" or judgmental "you should not do this", I want us to see how God uses people

and circumstances in our lives for a specific agenda. That agenda is working out the fruit of the spirit in our character. This week we look at love. A most abused word that can mean anything. But it is a very specific sort of love God is working into us. That is His unconditional, ever reaching out, visible love.

MUSIC PREVIEW

The hymn "Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing" was written by Brian Wren in response to the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1968. Wren penned the hymn for Easter Sunday, ten days after the tragedy, seeking to express hope in the face of such a terrible event. The hymn's lyrics emphasize Christ's presence in the world, not just as a historical figure, but as a living reality in the midst of suffering and injustice.

"More Love to Thee" emerged out of a time of personal tragedy. During the 1850s, the Prentisses lost a child and shortly thereafter a second. Through her grief she confided in her diary, "Empty hands, a worn-out, exhausted body, and unutterable longings to flee from a world that has so many sharp experiences." Inspired by Sarah Adams' hymn, "Nearer, My God, to Thee," Elizabeth Prentiss began to write her own hymn in an almost identical metrical pattern.

"Here I Am, Lord" is a popular Christian hymn written by Dan Schutte in 1979 and published in 1981. It was written for a diaconate ordination Mass at the request of a friend, and it draws inspiration from the biblical story of Isaiah's vision in Isaiah 6:8. The song is now widely sung in various Christian denominations

PRELUDE

JAYNE McDONOUGH

WELCOME:

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 - (RESPONSIVE)

One: This is the day the Lord has made.

Many: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

OPENING PRAYER (UNISON)

God of all glory, on this first day you began creation bringing light out of darkness. On this first day you began your new creation, raising Jesus Christ from the darkness of death. On this Lord's Day grant that we, the people you create by water and the Spirit, may be joined with all your works in praising you for your great glory. We pray in Jesus name, AMEN

GATHERING HYMN "CHRIST IS ALIVE"

BLUE HYMNAL #108

- 1. Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, Shall never die.**
- 2. Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
But saving, healing, here and now,
And touching every place and time.**
- 3. Not throned afar, remotely high,
Untouched, unmoved by human pains,
But daily, in the midst of life,
Our Savior in the Godhead reigns.**
- 4. In every insult, rift, and war,
Where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
And lives, where even hope has died.**

**5. Christ is alive and comes to bring
Good news to this and every age,
Till earth and sky and ocean ring
With joy, with justice, love, and praise**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Occasionally, God invites us into confession and repentance with a blinding light from the heavens. But often, God invites us into relationship over a humble cookfire. Let us illumine our lives using this prayer of confession.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)

We confess we want our life to go the way we want it to go. When we don't get our way, we have all sorts of negative reactions that hurt others, your name, and us. We resist surrendering to you, believing our way is better. Forgive us. You alone are the way to life. We acknowledge you are working out our life out of love, in our best interest, for your glory and our good. Help us to trust you when we can't see it. We pray in Jesus name. AMEN

SILENT REFLECTION

HEAR THE WORDS OF ASSURANCE (RESPONSIVE) FROM PSALM 30)

One: The Lord's anger is but for a moment. God's favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

Many: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, 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

In the reading and hearing of your Word, O God, remove the scales from our eyes that we may see your works and know your ways.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 13: 1-13

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: GALATIANS 5: 22-26

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

MESSAGE: "HOW IS GOD'S LOVE MADE VISIBLE"

Rev. David Wenker

PRAYER AND SILENT REFLECTION

Profession of Faith - The Apostles Creed (Unison)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS -

Jesus invites us to bring what we have to the feast. With gratitude for God's provisions and assured of our place at Christ's table, we respond with generosity.

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: none on our calendar.



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 prayers to Jim and the McCaughey family as Rebecca McCaughey passed on April 30, 2025. There will be a viewing on Tuesday, May 6, 2025 10AM to 11:30AM at the Evoy Funeral Home, 3218 Bayshore Road North Cape May, and a Graveside service will be held at 11AM on Friday, May 9, 2025 at Cold Spring Cemetery.

Pastor Dave Wenker is leading a New Members Class beginning on Sunday, May 4th at 9:30 AM in the Red Brick Church, please come if you are interested in learning more.



**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: Jim and Family & Friends of **Rebecca McCaughey** on her passing; **Ken Baldwin** in Cooper with breathing issues; **Mary Jane Lipton** in Crest Haven Rehab due to falls; Jo Armstrong’s daughter, **Stacey Weir** with ongoing health issues; **Paula Spence** having some difficulties recovering from heart procedure, hopes to return to NJ in late May; **Ruth Rich** for a loss of a dear family member; **April Wilburn**, recovering from surgery; **Dale Myers** is recovering at home from his heart surgery; **Guy Kessler** in rehab at Pelican Point; **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

**Hymn of Preparation - "More Love to Thee, O Christ" , (Blue)
#359**

**1. More love to Thee, O Christ. More love to Thee!
Hear Thou the prayer I make on bended knee.
This is my earnest plea: More love, O Christ, to Thee,
More love to Thee, More love to Thee!**

**2. Once earthly joy I craved, sought peace and rest;
Now Thee alone I seek, give what is best.
This all my prayer shall be: More love, O Christ, to Thee,
More love to Thee, More love to Thee!**

**3. Then shall my latest breath whisper Thy praise;
This be the parting cry my heart shall raise.
This still its prayer shall be: More love, O Christ, to Thee,
More love to Thee, More love to Thee!**

Invitation To All: Come To The Lord's Table!

Rev. David Wenker

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving (Responsive)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you,....

... who taught us to pray, saying,

**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.**

Words of Institution
Prayer of Thanksgiving

FRESH EXPRESSION OF COMMUNITY

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

SENDING HYMN - "HERE I AM, LORD",
BLUE HYMNAL #525

**1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin My hand will save.
I who have made the stars of the night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
Here I am, Lord. Is it I Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.**

**2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have born my people' pain.
I have wept for love of them, They turn away.
I will break their heart's of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone,
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
Here I am, Lord. Is it I Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.**

**3. I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them, My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?
Here I am, Lord. Is it I Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart**

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.

1. *God Welcomes All* - CCLI Song #5495557
2. *Christ is Alive: Brian Wren/ Thomas Williams, Harm. Lowell Mason; CCLI Song #68041*
3. *Gloria* Public Domaine
4. *More Love to Thee, O Christ: Elizabeth Payson Prentiss/ William Howard Doane; CCLI Song #5158564*
5. *Doxology* - CCLI Song #425557
6. *Here I Am, Lord: Daniel L. Schutte; CCLI Song #3999519*