

LET US WORSHIP GOD!

September 21, 2025—10:30 AM

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

A HYBRID WORSHIP EXPERIENCE IN-PERSON AND ONLINE

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

Rev. David Wenker's message is "A Long Obedience in the Same Direction"

My title comes with thanks to the late Rev. Eugene Petersen, who authored one of my favorite books with that title. Today we will be considering the Fruit of the Spirit; Faithfulness.

Faithfulness is the endurance to follow Jesus no matter what throughout our lives; a long obedience if you will. Faithfulness is not a duty we keep but a relationship we cherish and nurture.

God's love for us is not only faithful in all circumstances of our lives but it is fresh and new each day. Faithfulness is not perfection in obedience. It is the daily repentance to return each time we may stray.

MUSIC PREVIEW:

Welcome the Cold Spring Community Handbell Choir, directed by Carolyn Meldrum. Thank you for your beautiful music!

Ring the prelude and offertory music today, are eleven ringers:

Jo Armstrong

Connie Blocher

Ann Fulginiti

Linda Hadrava
Marylou McPherson
Janet Wenker

Barbara Kraemer
Pat Mowry
Marjorie Wetherill

Linda Linhares
Ruth Rich

The Prelude, hymn "*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*" was written by Scottish pastor Walter Chalmers Smith in the late 19th century, inspired by the Apostle Paul's words in 1 Timothy 1:17. Smith spent nearly four decades refining the hymn to capture the profound mystery of God's nature as an incomprehensible, yet powerful and unchanging being, using the central metaphor of light to portray His majesty and inaccessibility.

The story behind the Offertory song "*Simple Gifts*" is that it was composed in 1848 by Elder Joseph Brackett of the Shaker community as a dance song celebrating their ideals of simplicity and humility. The song remained largely unknown until American composer Aaron Copland incorporated its melody into his 1944 ballet *Appalachian Spring*, which brought the tune to a wide audience. Later, British composer Sydney Carter wrote new lyrics to the melody, creating the popular hymn "*The Lord of the Dance*," which was also famously used in Michael Flatley's dance show of the same name.

The Gathering hymn, "*All Things Bright and Beautiful*" was written by Cecil Frances Alexander in 1848 to help children understand the Apostles' Creed, specifically the first line, "I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth". The hymn's text was inspired by the natural beauty Alexander witnessed during her visits to various locations, including Llanwenarth House in Wales and Bellarena House in Northern Ireland. The melody most often associated with it was composed by William Henry Monk.

The hymn of Meditation, "*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*" was written by Thomas O. Chisholm in 1923, inspired by Lamentations 3:22-23, as a testament to God's steadfast love amidst Chisholm's lifelong struggles with ill health and financial difficulties. Chisholm, an ordinary man with a passion for poetry and the Bible, sent the poem to his friend and musician William Runyan, who set it to music. The hymn gained widespread popularity after being featured in Dr. William Henry Houghton's ministry at the Moody Bible Institute and later by Billy Graham in his international crusades.

The Sending hymn, "*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*" was written by Welsh preacher William Williams of Pantycelyn in the 18th century, originally in Welsh, to express a Christian's longing for God's guidance through life's hardships, drawing heavily on biblical imagery of the Israelites' journey through the wilderness. The hymn uses metaphors of a "barren land," "bread of heaven," and a "pillar of cloud and fire" from the book of Exodus to depict a perilous spiritual journey, reflecting Williams' own difficult travels as an itinerant preacher.

PRELUDE: "*IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE, GOD ONLY WISE*"

**Cold Spring Community Handbell Choir -
Director Carolyn Meldrum**

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: ISAIAH 55: 6-7
(RESPONSIVE)**

One: Seek the Lord, while he may be found;

Many: **Call on him while he is near.**

One: Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts.

**Many: Let him turn to the Lord, and he will
have mercy on him,
One: And to our God, for he will freely pardon.**

OPENING PRAYER: (UNISON)

**Thank you, O Creator God, for the gift of life.
You have placed us in a beautiful place and
enabled us to have senses to enjoy it. You
have surrounded us with loving people who
enrich our lives with their gifts and
presence. Your love reaches out to us to
heal, forgive, and redeem us. Thank you, O
Creator God, for the gift of life. We are glad
to be in worship today. We praise you in
Jesus name AMEN**

**GATHERING HYMN - #267 (BLUE) "*ALL THINGS
BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL*"**

**All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful:
The Lord God made them all.**

**1. Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings:
He made their glowing colours,**

He made their tiny wings.

**2. The purple-headed mountain,
The river running by,
The sunset, and the morning
That brightens up the sky.**

**3. The cold wind in the winter,
The pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden:
God made them every one.**

**4. God gave us eyes to see them,
And lips that we might tell
How great is God Almighty,
Who has made all things well.
All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful:
The Lord God made them all.**

CALL TO CONFESSION:

Let us honestly acknowledge how we have
gone astray and confess our sins to God

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (UNISON)

**We confess we struggle to trust you, O God,
in the midst of the challenging anxieties of**

life. We look for and long for an easier way than trust and often find ourselves turning to quicker and more safe looking methods to cope. It is tempting to look for our own solution rather than trust you. Forgive us. Open our eyes to see the amazing sufficiency of your grace and love for us. We pray in Jesus name. AMEN

SILENT REFLECTION

HEAR THE WORDS OF ASSURANCE: (RESPONSIVE)

One: Friends hear the good news of the gospel. The grace of God overflows for us through Christ Jesus who came into the world to save sinners.

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

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on us. Open us to your life-giving Word. Quiet the voices

within us that do not align with your will. Focus our minds on the message you intend for us, so we may faithfully discern your way. **Amen.**

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: LAMENTATIONS 3:19-26

I remember my affliction and my wandering,
the bitterness and the gall. I well remember
them, and my soul is downcast within me.
Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope
Because of the Lord's great love we are not
consumed, for his compassions never fail.
They are new every morning; great is your
faithfulness. I say to myself, "The Lord is my
portion; therefore I will wait for him." The Lord is
good to those whose hope is in him, to the one
who seeks him; it is good to wait quietly for the
salvation of the Lord.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: JOHN 15: 1-11

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the
gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that
bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear
fruit he prunes[a] so that it will be even more
fruitful. You are already clean because of the
word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I
also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by
itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you
bear fruit unless you remain in me. "I am the

vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

**MESSAGE: "A LONG OBEDIENCE IN THE SAME
DIRECTION" REV. DAVID WENKER**
PRAYER AND SILENT REFLECTION

HYMN OF MEDITATION - #276 (BLUE) HYMNAL
"GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS"

**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!**

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS:

God's abundance cannot be matched. Still, we are inspired to be generous by a generous God. We are inspired to give by the greatest of givers. In gratitude to God, let us present our tithes and offerings.

**OFFERTORY - "SIMPLE GIFTS" - COLD SPRING
COMMUNITY HANDBELL CHOIR,
DIRECTOR CAROLYN MELDRUM**

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:



Birthday Blessings to: **Tom Imperato ~
Sept. 23**

Norris Clark ~

Sept. 24

Happy Anniversary to:

Dale and Jonna Meyers ~ Sept. 22

Flowers: The flowers that beautify the sanctuary are given by Pat Heller in memory of her husband, George Rementer

If you'd like to donate flowers in memory, or in honor, of a loved one, contact Beverly Mate, 609-847-1530. (\$20/vase).

****Anyone considering membership at the Cold Spring Presbyterian Church should come to the class Pastor Wenker is offering the first two Sunday's of October, the 5th and 12th, at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary. There is no obligation to join if you participate in the class."**

Cold Spring Suppers - Tuesday, Sept. 23, at 6:30 pm. for free pizza, salad and drink, a short presentation and thoughtful discussion on spirituality from a Christian perspective. Sept. discussion topic: TBA Held in Price Hall ***Please RSVP at:***
ColdSpringSuppers.com

COLD SPRING CHURCH & CEMETARY TOUR -LAST ONE FOR 2025, MEETS AT 10:00 AM IN FRONT OF THE RED BRICK CHURCH, APPROX 60 MINUTES.
Saturday - September - 20th



Annual Cold Spring Presbyterian Church Picnic - will be after church service, on September 21st at Price Hall. Weather permitting, it will be outside. Hot dogs, hamburgers and beverages will be provided. There will be a sign-up sheet (or contact Elaine) for side dishes and/or desserts. You don't need to bring anything to attend.

RECEIVING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

(If you'd like to add to our prayer list, please complete a green Let's Pray card.)

Pray for: **Gregg Meyers** is recuperating from another surgery 9/15, from the injuries of his 2024 accident;

A joy to have our **friends from Summer churches**, back with us! Good to see **Beverly, Anne Ferrari & Linda Kaempf**, prayers for healing answered!; Dee Sloan, and family & friends of **James Palmisano**, on his passing on Sept. 7; . **Aliana Palmer**, 23 yrs old in need of a heart & liver transplant, friend of Barbara Smith; for **our Country**; the family & friends of **Lillian Ridgeway**, on her passing; **Janice Lewis** recovering from surgery; **Ann Ferrari** receiving radiation treatments; Barb Keister's family friend Sal had his surgery and is doing well recuperating.

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 now the caretaker for **Anna**, who is having more health difficulties. **Betty**, Beverly's mother in law suffering with dementia; Elaine's friend, **Doug** with a heart condition.

Those on hospice care: Marty, John Stalford, Gertrude Hess, Ted Lewis,

Those undergoing cancer treatment: Kiley Fulford; Bob Maher, Karen R., Keith, Todd, Brian, Gerri Mills, Robin B, Mike, Kim, Steve, Rickey, Lorraine, Candy, Donna, Liz, Joe, Jennifer, Lori, Ruth, Debbie, Mike Grecco Norma, Roseann Crook, Christa, Jackie, Diane, Charlotte Holman, Joe Paulits.

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE 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

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

SENDING HYMN - #281 (BLUE) "GUIDE ME, O THOU GREAT JEHOVAH"

**1. Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
Hold me with Thy powerful hand;
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more,
Feed me till I want no more.**

**2. Open now the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through;**

**Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,
Be Thou still my strength and shield,
Be Thou still my strength and shield.**

**3. When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side;
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to Thee,
I will ever give to Thee.**

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. *All Things Bright and Beautiful*: Cecil Frances Alexander, English melody, adapted by Martin Shaw; CCLI Song #4835534
3. *Gloria* Public Domain
4. *Great is Thy Faithfulness*; Thomas Obediah Chisholm, William Marion Runyan; CCLI Song #18723
5. *Doxology* - CCLI Song #425557
6. *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*; William Williams, *Peter Williams*, *John Hughes*; CCLI Song #1448