

LET US WORSHIP GOD!

January 4, 2026—10:30 AM

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS



A HYBRID WORSHIP EXPERIENCE IN-PERSON AND ONLINE

Today's worship team—Music Director: Jayne McDonough;
Worship Leader: John Saalman; 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 "The Invitation to Pray to 'Our Father in Heaven' "

This prayer, that many know and pray regular, offers us a profound way to connect to God. We will be examining it phrase by phrase to see and feel the depth of what Jesus is inviting us to pray. The phrase "Our Father" can invoke a variety of responses within us.

We each come with our unique set of father experiences. Jesus invites us to connect with God in a personal relationship rather than an abstract distant force.

MUSIC PREVIEW:

"*What Child Is This*" is a classic Christmas carol written in 1865 by William Chatterton Dix, a British insurance manager, who was inspired by a severe illness and spiritual awakening to pen the lyrics to the well-known 16th-century English folk tune, "Greensleeves," creating a contemplative hymn about the humble birth of Jesus, Christ the King.

"*Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne*," written by Emily E. S. Elliott in 1864, tells the full Gospel story, contrasting Jesus' heavenly glory with His earthly humility, from His birth in Bethlehem (Luke 2:7) to His crucifixion and anticipated Second Coming, designed to teach children about Advent and Christ's love by inviting Him into their hearts. The lyrics use stark contrasts: heaven's splendor versus no room at the inn, angels' songs versus mocking scorn, and anticipate Jesus calling believers home at His triumphant return, making room in our hearts for Him.

"*Born in the Night, Mary's Child*" is a modern Christmas carol by Geoffrey Ainger, written for a teenage nativity play in the late 1950s, reimagining Mary and Joseph as a young, unwed couple struggling for shelter in a garage, highlighting the timeless message of Christ's birth for the marginalized, unlike the popular, older "Mary's Boy Child" (Jester Hairston/Harry Belafonte) which tells the traditional nativity story with a Caribbean rhythm.

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) (PSALM 100)

One: Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

Many: Worship the lord with gladness;

One: Come before Him with joyful songs.

Many: Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

OPENING PRAYER: (UNISON)

Thank you for your invitation to worship you. We worship you not because you need to be worshiped, but because we need to worship you. Open our spiritual eyes to see the wonder of who you are. Teach us today the richness of your love and grace toward us. Help us to feel the depth of your creative and redemptive power, that we might worship you in spirit and in truth. We pray in Jesus name, AMEN

GATHERING HYMN - #53 (BLUE) "WHAT CHILD IS THIS"

**1. What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!**

**2. Why lies He in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!**

**3. So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come, one and all, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!**

CALL TO CONFESSION: (1 JOHN 1:8)

“If we say we have no sin, the truth is not in us.”
And yet, we know that we need to begin again for we have fallen short of the glory of God. So, we come to the baptismal font seeking a fresh start. With confidence that God hears our prayers and has adopted us as beloved children, let us confess our sins.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (UNISON)

We confess we are easily drawn to the worship of things in this world and the worship of our own control of the circumstances of our life. Help us to surrender to you when life gets difficult that we might learn where true freedom is found. Deliver us from ourselves that we might find freedom in you. 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:

Inspire us by your Holy Spirit that the words we read on the page might become living words in our hearts and lives as we encounter the grace, love, and peace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: ROMANS 8: 14-17 & 22-27

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who

have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently. In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: MATTHEW 6: 5-15

“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. “This, then, is how you should pray:
“Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,
your will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
 as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from the evil one.'
For if you forgive other people when they sin
against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive
you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your
Father will not forgive your sins.

**MESSAGE: "THE INVITATION TO PRAY TO 'OUR
FATHER IN HEAVEN' "**

REV. DAVID WENKER'S

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:

Out of gratitude for all that God has provided and with hope in Christ, we bring our tithes and offerings for God's work among us in this time and place.

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

A blue rectangular graphic with the text "Birthdays & Anniversaries" in white, sans-serif font. The text is arranged in two lines: "Birthdays" on the top line and "& Anniversaries" on the bottom line.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES:

Bob Stiles ~ Jan. 3

Judy Beare ~ Jan. 9

Happy Anniversary:

Rev. Dave & Janet Wenker ~ Jan. 3

Announcements:

Session is having a **planning meeting** on **Sunday, January 11**, after worship. Any input from the congregation is appreciated.

Worship & Music Team Meeting - Tuesday, Jan. 13 at 9:45 am in Price Hall.

Deacons will be having a **meeting** on **Tuesday, Jan. 13 at 10:30 am** in Price Hall.

Session will have their monthly **meeting** on **Thursday, Jan. 15 at 5:00 pm** in Price Hall.

Sign up for an after worship luncheon in the narthex on the table. A few from worship will gather **at the Bella Vida restaurant in West Cape May**, for lunch following worship on **Sunday, January 25**. We will be using a private room in the back of the restaurant for our fellowship.

*****The Congregational Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday February 8, after worship. It will include a covered dish luncheon. Reports for the meeting should be given to the church office by February 1.**



To donate flowers in memory, or in honor, of a loved one, sign up in the narthex and/or contact Beverly Mate, 609-847-1530. (\$20/vase).

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: Praise and a prayer for the blessing of **seeing our families** during Christmas; **Kirsten's family**, victims of a house fire and in a temporary home, are feeling their loss greatly during this Christmas season; **the Adkisson family** in Denver, advise that **Dana's Mom** is in hospice care; Sue's **cousin Greg Smith**, is scheduled for heart surgery on Jan. 6, 2026; **Rev. Jim Shanley**, recuperating slowly; **Ariana Palmer**, 23 year old awaiting heart transplant;

Continual prayer requested for: **Eileen Stalford** in nursing care; **Pastor Bob Sheidly** friend of Bob Heinly, as he battles multiple maladies of aging; Anna Sheidly is now receiving hospice care.

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

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 Sasso, Roseann Crook, Christa, Jackie, Diane, Charlotte Holman, Joe Paulits, Gretchen, Ray, Carl, Robert, Patricia, Julie, and Richard Beare.

PASTORAL PRAYER

HYMN OF PREPARATION: #116 (RED), "*THOU DIDST LEAVE THY THRONE*", VERSES 1, 4, & 5

**1. Thou didst leave Thy throne
And Thy kingly crown
When Thou camest to earth for me;
But in Bethlehem's home
Was there found no room
For Thy holy nativity:
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus!
There is room in my heart for Thee.**

**4. Thou camest, O Lord, With the living word
That should set Thy people free;
But with mocking scorn,
And with crown of thorn,
They bore Thee to Calvary:
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus!
There is room in my heart for Thee.**

**5. When the heavens shall ring,
And the angels sing,
At Thy coming to victory,
Let Thy voice call me home,
Saying "Yet there is room,
There is room at My side for thee:"
My heart shall rejoice, Lord Jesus!
When Thou comest and callest for me.**

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: #30 (BLUE) "BORN IN THE NIGHT,
MARY'S CHILD"**

**1. Born in the night, Mary's child,
A long way from Your home;
Coming in need, Mary's child,
Born in a borrowed room.**

**2. Clear shining light, Mary's child,
Your face lights up our way;
Light of the world, Mary's child,
Dawn on our darkened day.**

**3. Truth of our life, Mary's child,
You tell us God is good;
Yes, it is true, Mary's child,
Shown on your cross of wood.**

**4. Hope of the world, Mary's child,
You're coming soon to reign;
King of the earth, Mary's child,
Walk in our streets again.**

BENEDICTION:

POSTLUDE:

REV. DAVID WENKER

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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License. OneLicense Limited Podcast / Streaming License #M-401274.

1. *God Welcomes All* - CCLI Song #5495557
2. *What Child is This:* William Chatterton Dix, English Ballad 16th C. ; CCLI Song #30983
3. *Gloria* Public Domain
4. *Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne:* Emily . S. Elliott, Timothy R. Matthews; CCLI Song #91977
5. *Doxology* - CCLI Song #4255578
6. *Born in the Night, Mary's Child:* Geoffrey Ainger, Richard D. Wetzel ; CCLI Song #2574505