

Let Us Worship God!

Sept 20, 2026—10:30 AM

Heritage Sunday

17 Sunday After Pentecost



A Hybrid Worship Experience In-Person and Online

Today's worship team—Music Director: Jayne McDonough;
Worship Leader: Jim Harveson; 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 brings the message "Such a Great Cloud of Witnesses"

After 312 years of serving the Lord here, we want to recognize God's faithfulness in maintaining a ministry at Cold Spring Presbyterian Church. God used a multitude of faithful followers of Jesus through the years to bring us to this place in history and will be counting on our faithfulness to pass this heritage on to the next generation.

Music Preview:

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past" is a classic Christian hymn written by Isaac Watts in 1719 as a poetic paraphrase of Psalm 90, reflecting on the eternity of God and the fleeting nature of human life. John Wesley changed the opening line from "Our God" to "O God" in his 1738 collection to emphasize that God's grace is open to all people, rather than a select few.

The contemporary Christian worship song "We Are Standing on Holy Ground" was written in 1983 by 19 year old Geron Davis. Davis's father, a

minister, asked him to write a special song for the dedication of their new church building. After struggling to find inspiration for a while, Davis went into the sanctuary late at night, sat down at the new grand piano, and began to ponder and hum. In roughly 15 to 25 minutes, the lyrics and melody flowed out of him as if divinely inspired. The core theme is drawn from the story of Moses and the burning bush, where God tells Moses, *"Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground."* The song reminds believers that holiness and a sense of God's presence are not limited to a physical building, but happen whenever people gather to worship and sense the presence of angels and peace.

"Find Us Faithful" was written by songwriter Jon Mohr and popularized by Christian artist Steve Green on his 1988 album of the same name. Mohr wrote the song out of a deep personal realization that maintaining faith is not just about succeeding when times are easy, but staying devoted in the middle of personal struggles and brokenness. Referencing Hebrews 12, the opening lines directly reference being surrounded by a "great cloud of witnesses", urging believers to run their spiritual race with perseverance. The text focuses on the concept of generational faith—how the example and devotion of one generation light the path and inspire belief in the next.

The hymn **"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"** was written as a simple, personal poem in 1923 by Thomas Chisholm, an ordinary life insurance agent and former Methodist minister from Kentucky. Chisholm was deeply inspired by the biblical passage in Lamentations 3:22–23, which talks about God's mercies being new every morning. Chisholm wrote the words to reflect a steady, daily walk of trust through ordinary ups and downs, health struggles, and financial uncertainties. He simply kept a journal recording God's faithful provision day by day. In 1923, Chisholm mailed his poem to his friend William M. Runyan, a musician working with the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago. was so moved by the deep message of the text that he prayed earnestly for a fitting melody, then composed the tune named "Faithfulness" to match the poem.

Prelude
Welcome:

Jayne McDonough
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 103:1-5)

One: Bless the Lord O my soul.

Many: And all that is within me, bless his holy name.

One: Bless the Lord O my soul.

Many: And forget not all his benefits.

One: Who forgives all your sins,

Many: And heals all your diseases.

One: Who redeems your life from the pit,

Many: And crowns you with love and compassion.

One: Who satisfies your desires with good things,

Many: so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Opening Prayer: (Unison)

O Lord our God, you alone are holy. May we worship you today with all our heart and soul and mind and strength. Teach us to love one another

as our Savior loves us. We are glad to be here today. We pray in Jesus name, AMEN

***Gathering Hymn - #48 (Red) "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"**

- 1. O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home!**
- 2. Under the shadow of Thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defense is sure.**
- 3. Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.**
- 4. A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night,
Before the rising sun.**
- 5. Our God our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last,
And our eternal home!**

Call to Confession:

God loves us and calls us by name. Too frequently, we stake our claim on that tenderness and use it as a weapon against others, forgetting that God's love does not build walls but knocks them down. Let us set down our burdens and our defenses as we confess our sins in front of God and one another.

Prayer of Confession: (Unison)

We admit we have failed to seek your will and your heart first in our life. Our praise can be half-hearted and our prayers filled with empty promises. We rush around so busy we can't find the time to sit quietly at your feet to listen to you. Forgive us, heal our compulsive ways and set us free to love and serve with sincerity. We pray in Jesus name. AMEN

(Silent Reflection)

Assurance of Pardon: (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:

Eternal God, you know our hearts and minds. Bless this time together that in reading, hearing and reflecting on your Word together, we may be changed. We surrender this time to you and ask for your blessing upon it. Amen.

First Scripture Reading: Psalm 78: 1-7

My people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth with a parable; I will utter hidden things, things from of old— things we have heard and known, things our ancestors have told us. We will not hide them from their descendants; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done. He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our ancestors to teach their children, so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands.

Second Scripture Reading: Hebrews 12: 1-3

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Message: "Such a Great Cloud of Witnesses"

Rev. David Wenker

Prayer and Silent Reflection

Hymn of Meditation: "We Are Standing on Holy Ground" - see insert

Holy Ground

arranged by Leonora Hardy

Music and Words by Geron Davis

1. As I walked through the door I sensed His pres-ence
2. In His pres-ence There is joy be - yond meas - ure

And I knew this was the place Where love a - bounds
And at His feet Peace of mind can still be found

For this is a tem-ple Je - ho - vah God a - bides here
If you have a need I know He has the an - swer

We are stand - ing in His pres - ence On ho - ly ground
Reach out and claim it child You're stand - ing on ho - ly ground

We are stand - ing on ho - ly ground

And I know that there Are an - gels all a - round

Let us praise Je - sus now

We are stand - ing in His pres-ence On ho - ly ground

ground

Offering of Our Gifts: (Responsive)

By the grace of God, we are saved — today and every day.
Let us embrace this gift and respond with generosity.
In gratitude, let us present our tithes and offerings.

Offertory - "Find Us Faithful"

soloist - Rev. David Wenker

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

**Bob Lambert sharing a story from our history -
"Carrying Our History Forward"**

Community News & Announcements

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).

**Birthdays
& Anniversaries**

Happy Birthday Blessings to:

Tom Imperato ~ Sept. 23

Norris Clark ~ Sept. 24

Tara Garton ~ Sept. 28

Happy Anniversary to:

Dale & Jonna Myers ~ Sept. 22

Add your name to our weekly e mail newsletter -

Visitors or elders can add people to our e-newsletter list

by going to addchurchemail.com and entering their first / last name & email address.

Cold Spring Suppers "Book Club"



Why: Good food for your heart, mind, body, and soul!

How: Participants will select, read, and discuss contemporary and classic books that stimulate the heart and mind, and enjoy

a free dinner (pizza, salad, and drink). The **Next Book** selection is "**Uncommon Ground: Living Faithfully in a World of Difference**" by Timothy Keller and John Inazu

When: Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2026, **6:00 pm - new time**

Where: Located here at Price Hall on 780 Seashore Road in Cold Spring.



Cold Spring Church & Cemetery tour final date for 2026 - Meets at **10:00 AM** in front of the Red Brick Church, approx 60 minutes.

Saturday mom- September - 26



A Message from our Deacons - Our food closet in Price Hall is in need of replenishment for our food banks. Please think of bringing in a few items to help those in need in our community!

Pastor Wenker will be offering a **new members class** for anyone interested in joining Cold Spring Presbyterian Church. **Please see Pastor Dave** so the class can be scheduled at your convenience.

Pastor Wenker will be offering a **Bible Study class** from the book of Philippians, on **Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m., starting September 30 to November 12. (The final class is on a Thursday to accommodate Veterans Day).** Please sign up in the Narthex.

Cold Spring Community Handbell Choir rehearses each **Thursday at 1:30 p.m.** They welcome new members, anyone interested should attend the rehearsals on Thursday, no experience necessary.

Cold Spring Singers Choir will hold **rehearsal, this week only, Sept 23, Wednesday at 12:00 p.m.** We will rehearse regularly at 1:30 pm each Wednesday from Sept. 30 on. **All are welcome** to join us. Just bring your voice!

Our Church Picnic will be held on **Sunday, September 27, following Worship! Sign up sheet in the narthex.**

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: Rev. Jim Shanley's Son living in Costa Rica experiencing severe drought conditions; Pat

Harris' Sister Cherie McKinney recovering from brain surgery & facing radiation treatments, praise for God's blessings clearly shown in the series of events leading to the surgery & guiding her recovery; **Baby Eleanor Jean Mills** is awaiting additional heart surgery. Her parents are Diane & Steve; Bonnie's daughter, **Sabrina** is receiving radiation therapy to treat throat cancer; Praise that **Anne & Fred Ferrari** were able to attend our service today despite their transportation difficulties; Jim McCaughey's relative, **Roberta McCaughey** has inoperable brain tumors; **Bob's** friend has leukemia and is only 36 years old; **Pam** is grateful that a lengthy battle toward fair rental costs within her summer community has been resolved with favorable outcomes; for the **Dodd family** experiencing difficulties; Jayne's Brother, **Edward McCue** passed away on August 31, prayers for his children & McCue family; **Ariana Palmer**, 23 year old awaiting heart transplant.

Continual prayer requested for: Mary Everett; Eileen Stalford in nursing care; **Pastor Bob Sheidly** friend of Bob Heinly, as he battles multiple maladies of aging.

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

Those undergoing cancer treatment: Kiley Fulford; Karen R., Todd, Brian, Gerri Mills, Robin B, Kim, Steve, Rickey, Lorraine, Candy, Donna, Liz, Joe, Jennifer, Lori, Debbie, Norma Sasso, Roseann Crook, Christa, Jackie, Diane, Joe Paulits, Gretchen, Ray, Carl, Robert, Richard Beare and Michael Minor, Ashley, John Cervo, Madden family members, Mary King, Greg Myers.
[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: #276 (Blue) "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

**1. Great is Thy faithfulness, O God our Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not,
Thy compassions they fail not;
As Thou hast been Thou forever will 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.

1. *God Welcomes All:* CCLI Song #549555
2. *O God, Our Help in Ages Past:* Isaac Watts, William Croft; CCLi Song #43152
3. *Gloria:* Public Domain
4. *We Are Standing on Holy Ground:* Geron Davis; CCLI Song #21198
5. *Find Us Faithful:* Jon Mohr; CCLI Song #18259
6. *Doxology* - CCLI Song #18204
7. *Great Is Thy Faithfulness:* Thomas Obediah Chisholm, William Marion Runyan; CCLI Song #7172437