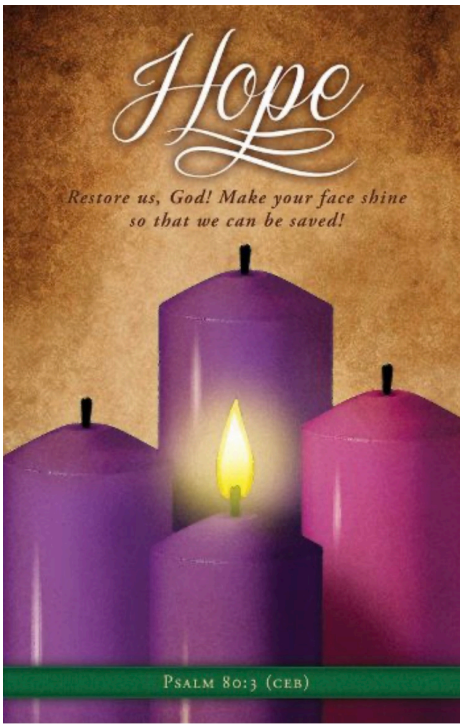
Let Us Worship God!

November 29, 2026—10:30 AM

First Sunday of Advent



A Hybrid Worship Experience In-Person and Online

Today's worship team—Music Director: Jayne McDonough;
Worship Leader: John Saalman;
Message: Rev. Dr. Merideth Mueller-Bolton, Pulpit Supply
Worship Production: Dee Sloan & Rick Dezmelyk

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

Volunteers needed to decorate the church & Price Hall! We will meet on Saturday, Nov. 28th at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary. See Beverly Mate to sign up or just come to help!



Message Preview:

Please welcome back Rev. Dr. Merideth Mueller-Bolton to Worship today. Her message for this First Sunday of Advent is *"From Doubt to Faith"*

Music Preview:

Our ***Cold Spring Singers*** will be singing "***When He Comes***", an advent anthem that asks, "Will we know he is the one? Will we know he is God's son?

Charles Wesley wrote "***Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus***" in 1744 and published it in Hymns for the Nativity of Our Lord. Originally written as

two eight-line stanzas, the hymn centers on Advent themes—anticipating both Christ's first coming and his return.
"***Watchman, Tell Us of the Night***" is an 1825 Advent and Christmas hymn written by English linguist, diplomat, and hymn writer Sir John Bowring (1792–1872). Inspired by a prophecy in Isaiah 21:11–12, it uses a call-and-response dialogue between a traveler in the dark and a watchman to explore themes of anxiety, hope, and coming light.

"***Arise, Your Light Is Come***" was written in 1974 by hymn writer Ruth C. Duck and first published in Because We Are One People by the Ecumenical Women's Center in Chicago. It was one of her earliest hymns. Duck wrote the lyrics in response to older hymns like "Rise Up, O Men of God" and "Lead On, O King Eternal," aiming to create a more inclusive text that spoke to everyone. Inclusion in Erik Routley's 1985 hymnal Rejoice in the Lord helped establish the hymn more broadly and encouraged Duck to keep writing.

Prelude: **Jayne McDonough**

Welcome: **Liturgist: John Saalman**

God Welcomes All (unison)

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

Lighting the Advent Wreath: *Candle of Hope*

Larry & Michelle Hume

The Call to Worship: (Responsive)

One: Christ is coming!
Many: We will keep awake!
One: Christ is coming!

Many: We will be ready!
One: Christ is coming! He will gather his people from the ends of the earth.
Many: Praise be to God! We will worship and prepare.

Opening Prayer: (Unison)

Faithful God, your promises stand unshaken through all generations. Renew us in hope that we may be awake and aware as we await the glorious return of Jesus Christ, our Judge and Savior, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*Gathering Hymn - #2 (Blue) "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

**1. Come, Thou long expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee,
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.**

**2. Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,**

Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious Kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Call to Confession:

Preparing for Christ's coming requires honest examination of our livesand our hearts. Let us turn to God in prayer to confess our sins.

Prayer of Confession: (Unison)

Merciful God, in a world of quick fixes and fast answers, we confess that we forget how to wait. Forgive us, Lord. Renew our hope and teach us to watch again for You, through Jesus Christ, our Coming Lord. Amen.

Silent Reflection)

Assurance of Pardon: (Responsive)

One: Even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing.
Many: Return to the LORD, for your God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

One: This love is made manifest to us in Jesus Christ, and it is through him that we receive forgiveness from God.
Many: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. 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:

Savior God, guide us by your word and Spirit, that we might hear your truth, heed your call and be prepared for Christ's coming this Christmas. Amen

First Scripture Reading: Isaiah 64: 1-5a

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence-- as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil-- to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you,

who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways.

Second Scripture Reading: John 3: 1-12

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not

believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?

Message: "From Doubt to Faith"

Rev. Dr. Merideth Mueller-Bolton

Prayer and Silent Reflection

Hymn of Meditation: #20 (Blue) "Watchman, Tell Us of the Night"

1. Watchman, tell us of the night,
What its signs of promise are,
Traveler, o'er yon mountain's height,
See that glory beaming star.
Watchman, does its beauteous ray
Aught of joy or hope foretell?
Traveler, yes; it brings the day,
Promised day of Israel.

2. Watchman, tell us of the night,
Higher yet that star ascends.
Traveler, blessedness and light,
Peace and truth its course portends.
Watchman, will its beams alone
Gild the spot that gave them birth?
Traveler, ages are its own;
See, it bursts o'er all the earth.

3. Watchman, tell us of the night,
For the morning seems to dawn.
Traveler, darkness takes its flight,
Doubt and terror are withdrawn.
Watchman, let thy wanderings cease;
Hasten to your quiet home.
Traveler, lo, the Prince of Peace,
Lo, the Son of God is come!

Offering of Our Gifts: (2 Peter 3:8-15)

"All things in heaven and earth belong to God, who is coming in glory to reveal a new creation." Let us present our tithes and offerings to the Lord.

Offertory - "When He Comes"

Cold Spring Singers

The Doxology

Praise God from whom all 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 & 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).

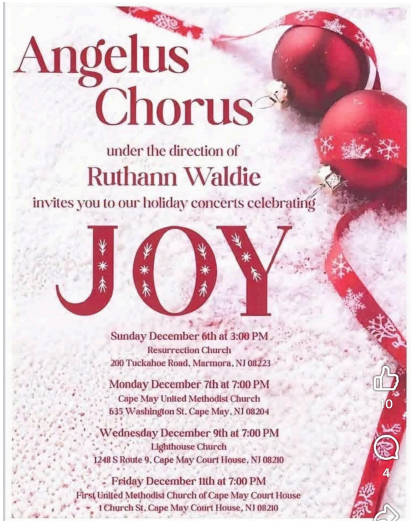
Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday Blessings to:
Lenore McGann ~ Dec. 3
Barbara Keister ~ Dec. 6



A limited number of poinsettias will be available for purchase and dedication for $20.00. Order forms are available in the narthex. All orders, with payment are due by Sunday, December 6 to Beverly Mate or Carol in the church office.

The Deacons are sponsoring a Reverse Advent Calendar project to help local food banks. Items can be brought in when collected, to the church or Price Hall. Pick up the Reverse Advent calendar list in the narthex.



The Angelus Chorus is presenting their holiday concerts "*Celebrating Joy*", beginning Dec. 6, 7, 9 & 11. Flyers with times & locations are available in the narthex.



Please join us after Worship on December 13 for our annual Advent Luncheon, held in Price Hall. A sign up sheet is in the narthex.



Cold Spring Community Handbell Choir Concert, "Angels and Shepherds and Kings" on Wednesday, December 16, 7:00 p.m. Calvary Chapel, 596 Seashore Road, Cape May



An abbreviated concert will be played during our Sunday Worship on December 20 at 10:30 a.m.



Wreaths Across America: **ceremony on Sat. Dec. 19 at 12:00 p.m. Forms to purchase a wreath for a veteran's grave are available in the narthex.**

The Community Christmas Day Dinner meetings are held in Price Hall, Wednesday's Dec. 2, 9, 16, & 23 at 5:00 p.m.



Plan to join us for our beautiful Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Thursday, Dec. 24 at 6:00 p.m.

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: Carrie Love with Breast cancer; **Merryn Hawthorne** had successful surgery and is recovering at home; **Tracy Madden** praises of joy for God helping her **niece** through her cancer, and continued prayers for family members receiving treatments; Comfort to the **Beare** family in the passing of **Rick**, son of Judy and Brother of Kevin; **Janet Strauss** with lung issues; **Pat Harris' son** recovering from surgery; Praise that **Warren Nuessle was with us in church last Sunday; Ruth Rich** & her family on the passing of her 31 year old **great nephew,** a Penna. state trooper and father of 2, to a pulmonary embolism; **Terri Sigrist**, who suffered a major heart attack this week, best friend of Carolyn Meldrum; **Ariana Palmer**, 23 year old awaiting heart transplant.

Continual prayer requested for: **Eileen Stalford** in nursing care; **Roberta McCaughey** with an inoperable brain tumor; **Baby Eleanor Mills** is facing more heart surgery
Those on hospice care: **Marty, John Stalford, Gertrude Hess, Ted Lewis.**

Those undergoing cancer treatment: **Vince Stacy, Joan Rikki, Todd Aspell, Norma Sasso, Joe Paulits, Greg Myers, Ray Gulden, Karen Bachman, Carrie Love, Madden family members.**
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: #441 (Blue) "Arise, Your Light Has Come"

**1. Arise, your light has come!
The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God,
which shines on you today.**

**2. Arise, your light has come!
Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captive's liberty,**

good tidings to the poor.

3. Arise, your light has come!
All you in sorrow born,
bind up the brokenhearted ones
and comfort those who mourn.

4. Arise, your light has come!
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing,
God's pow'r will make us strong.

Benediction: **Rev. Dr. Merideth Mueller-Bolton**

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. Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus: Charles Wesley, Rowland Hugh Pritchard; CCLI Song #31999
3. *Gloria*: Public Domaine
4. *Watchman, Tell us of the Night: John Bowring, Lowell Mason, Joseph Parry ; CCLI Song #528787*
5. *When He Comes*: J. Paul Williams, Lloyd Larson; Triune Music, a div. of Lorenz Music.
6. *Doxology* - CCLI Song #18204
7. Arise, Your Light Has Come"*: Ruth Duck, William H. Walter*; GIA Publication Licensed through One License Song #07293