

## 2024 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Caldwell United Methodist Church, 8 Academy Road, Caldwell, N. J. 07006

Rev. Kil Jae Park, Pastor

Jackie Han, Music Minister



**PRELUDE**

**“Sing We Now of Christmas”**

**Jackie Han**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: All people are welcome here tonight.

**P: We have gathered to hear the story of Jesus’ birth.**

L: All who walk in darkness,

**P: come see a great light.**

L: All who hope to see God,

**P: come see the glory of our savior, Jesus Christ.**

L: All who are simply waiting to see what’s next,

**P: come see the good news God brings.**

L: Rejoice before God in the light and glory of this night.

**P: We rejoice that God’s grace has appeared, bringing salvation to all.**

**PRAISE**

**“Away in a Manger”**

**CUMC Bell Choir**

### **PRAYER (Together)**

Holy God, help us pause in the midst of our busyness. Quiet our minds on this Christmas Eve, that we may hear the good news of your gift of Jesus Christ— your gift to a world so in need of peace, justice, and joy. If we walk in darkness and despair, help us see the great light of your presence. If we wait in hope for the coming of Christ, help us offer hope to those around us. Help us see your glory breaking into our lives as Mary, Joseph, and shepherds before us saw. In the quiet of this night, may we welcome your peace and favor, through Jesus Christ, our Messiah and Lord. Amen.

**LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

**The Waddington Family**

**Reader:**

Because injustice and despair threaten to overwhelm us, we pray for hope...

***(Light the First Purple candle in your Advent wreath.)***

**Reader:**

Because so many swords have not yet been beaten into ploughshares, we pray for peace...

***(Light the Second Purple candle in your Advent wreath.)***

**Reader:**

Because grief and loss weigh so heavily, we pray for joy...

***(Light the Pink candle in your Advent wreath.)***

**Reader:**

Because hatred is still so strong, and because people all over the world are suffering, we pray for love.

***(Light the Third Purple candle in your Advent wreath.)***

**Reader:**

God has come to us as a child, to dwell with us, and to walk with us.

***(Light the Christ(White) Candle in your Advent wreath.)***

**Reader:**

May the light and the fire from these candles burn away everything that is preventing the God of hope and peace and joy and love from being born among us.

**Reader:**

Brothers and sisters, be not afraid, even now — even now — the light of Christ is overwhelming the world, on earth as it is in heaven!

**OPENING HYMN**

**“O Come, All Ye Faithful”**

**UMH # 234**

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

**Refrain:**

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

2. True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal,  
lo, he shuns not the Virgin's womb;  
Son of the Father, begotten, not created;  
(Refrain)

3. **Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;  
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;  
(Refrain)**
4. **See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;  
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;  
(Refrain)**

**SCRIPTURE****Luke 2:1-20****Joyce Francavilla**

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup> (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup> And everyone went to their own town to register. <sup>4</sup> So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup> He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup> and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. <sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." <sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." <sup>16</sup> So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

The word of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**VOCAL SOLO****“A Child is Born”****Jill Land****MESSAGE****“Good News of Great Joy”****Pastor Park****CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS****Ushers**

*The Three Wisemen worshipped the new born King by offering their gifts. Let us also worship through the offering of our gifts.*

**OFFERTORY PRAYER****LITURGY OF LIGHT****READING 1:****Brandon Narine**

*In the beginning, God created a world of perfect harmony, a place where humanity walked in communion with Him and with one another. But through the disobedience of one man, sin entered the world, fracturing that perfect relationship. The darkness of sin spread, filling human hearts with brokenness, fear, and strife. As the prophet Isaiah declared, we became the people walking in darkness (Isaiah 9:2). In this darkness, humanity stumbled, separated from God and from each other, and searching for hope, for restoration, for light to pierce the shadows.*

**HYMN****“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”****UMH # 206****I want to walk as a child of the light****I want to follow Jesus****God sent the stars to give light to the world****The star of my life is Jesus****In Him, there is no darkness at all****The night and the day are both alike****The Lamb is the light of the city of God****Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus****I want to see the brightness of God****I want to look at Jesus****Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path****And show me the way to the Father****In Him, there is no darkness at all****The night and the day are both alike**

**The Lamb is the light of the city of God  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus**

**I'm looking for the coming of Christ  
I want to be with Jesus  
When we have run with patience the race  
We shall know the joy of Jesus**

**In Him, there is no darkness at all  
The night and the day are both alike  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus**

**READING 2:**

**Christine Waddington**

*Yet, God, in His infinite mercy and grace, did not leave us in darkness. He sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, into this world to be the Light that overcomes the darkness. Born in a humble manger, Jesus took on human form to save us from our sin and bring us back to God. As the Gospel of John proclaims, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:5). Jesus came to be the way, the truth, and the life, offering forgiveness, redemption, and the hope of eternal life. Through His death and resurrection, He defeated the power of sin and opened the way for all who believe in Him to walk in the light of God's love.*

**PIANO SOLO**

**"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"**

**Jackie Han**

**READING 3**

**Brandon Narine**

*Tonight, as we light our candles, we remember the significance of light in God's story of salvation. Light dispels darkness; it guides, warms, and reveals. From the pillar of fire that led Israel in the wilderness to the bright star over Bethlehem, light has been a sign of God's presence and His promise of redemption. Jesus Christ is the true Light of the world, and in Him, we find the fulfillment of all God's promises. As we hold our candles, may they remind us of the Light that has come, the Light that shines within us, and the Light we are called to carry into the world.*

**\* HYMN**

**"Silent Night, Holy Night"**

**All**

*(As we sing "Silent Night, Holy Night", lights will be dimmed and candles lit. Please do not extinguish the candles until after Benediction. Dispose the candles in the box in the back on your way out.)*

- 1. Silent night, holy night,  
all is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin**

mother and child.  
 Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
 sleep in heavenly peace,  
 sleep in heavenly peace.

2. Silent night, holy night,  
 shepherds quake at the sight;  
 glories stream from heaven afar,  
 heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!  
 Christ the Savior is born,  
 Christ the Savior is born!

3. Silent night, holy night,  
 Son of God, love's pure light;  
 radiant beams from thy holy face  
 with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
 Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,  
 Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

4. Silent night, holy night,  
 wondrous star, lend thy light;  
 with the angels let us sing,  
 Alleluia to our King;  
 Christ the Savior is born,  
 Christ the Savior is born!

L: The light from even a single flame can cut through thick darkness.

**P: Christ's flame reminds us that God is with us.**

L: May we live as people strengthened by God's hope.

**P: May we live as people encouraged by God's peace.**

L: May we live as people abiding in God's joy.

**P: May we live as people sharing in God's love.**

\* HYMN

**"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"**

**UMH # 240**

1. Hark! the herald angels sing,  
 "Glory to the new-born King;  
 peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
 God and sinners reconciled!"  
 Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
 join the triumph of the skies;  
 with th'angelic host proclaim,

**"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new born King!"**

**2. Christ, by highest heaven adored;  
Christ, the everlasting Lord;  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail th' incarnate Deity,  
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new-born King!"**

**3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new born King!"**

**\* BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

**"We Wish You a Merry Christmas"**

**CUMC Bell Choir**

**\*Stand as able**