

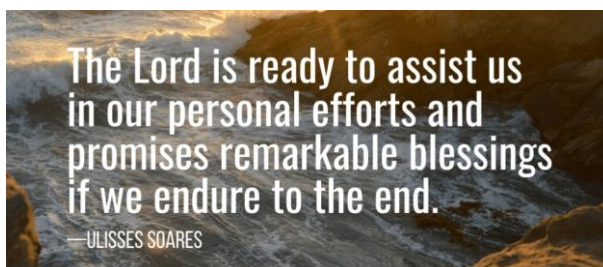
**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

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

**Rev. Kil Jae Park, Pastor**

**Jackie Han, Music Minister**



**PRELUDE**

**“We Three Kings”**

**Jackie Han**

**WELCOME AND INVOCATION**

**Pastor Park**

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Long ago, a voice cried out in the wilderness

**P: Prepare the way for the Lord; make straight the pathways.**

L: Something new was about to happen.

**P: God would visit God’s people in a new way!**

L: Lord, open our hearts to receive this good news!

**P: Prepare us to be people of great faith and compassion as we look forward to this wondrous event you have proclaimed to us. AMEN.**

**\* OPENING HYMN**

**“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”**

**UMH # 211**

**1 O come, O come, Immanuel, and ransom captive Israel  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.**

**Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

**2 O come, O Wisdom from on high, who ordered all things mightily;  
to us the path of knowledge show and teach us in its ways to go. Refrain**

**5 O come, O Key of David, come and open wide our heavenly home.  
Make safe for us the heavenward road and bar the way to death's abode. Refrain**

**6 O come, O Bright and Morning Star, and bring us comfort from afar!  
Dispel the shadows of the night and turn our darkness into light. Refrain**

**7 O come, O King of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind.  
Bid all our sad divisions cease and be yourself our King of Peace. Refrain**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**

Insert

The Elphinstone Family

**HYMN***“Light the Advent Candle” (stanzas 1& 2)*

TFWS # 2090

1 Light the Advent candle one Now the waiting has begun  
We have started on our way Time to think of Christmas day.

Chorus: Candle, candle burning bright Shining in the cold winter night  
Candle, candle burning bright Fill our hearts with Christmas light.

2 Light the Advent candle two Think of humble shepherds who  
Filled with wonder at the sight Of the child on Christmas night.

Chorus: Candle, candle burning bright Shining in the cold winter night  
Candle, candle burning bright Fill our hearts with Christmas light.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Together)**

As we gather once again to worship today, we confess that we need your guidance, for we are people who easily stray into selfish pathways. We seek first our own comfort; we gather our toys and trinkets and proclaim that all is right with the world. Forgive us for the many times when we have ignored the cries of those in need; when we have turned our backs on opportunities to help others. Forgive us, Lord. Touch our hearts and teach us to bring your bright light of hope and salvation to this struggling world through our words and ministries. Help us to hear the voice of one who cries in the wilderness, “Prepare the way of the Lord. Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.” In the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior, we offer this prayer. AMEN.

**CHURCH FAMILY NEWS AND PASSING OF THE PEACE****GATHERING SONG****“Thou Art Worthy”**

TFWS # 2041

Thou art worthy,  
Thou art worthy,  
Thou art worthy, O Lord,  
To receive glory,  
Glory and honor,  
Glory and honor and power  
For Thou hast created,  
hast all things created,  
Thou hast created all things;  
And for Thy pleasure  
they are created -  
Thou art worthy, O Lord.

**SCRIPTURE****2 Peter 3:8-15****Reader**

**8** But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. **9** The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. **10** But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. **11** Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives **12** as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. **13** But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells. **14** So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. **15** Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him.

The word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM****"Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"****CUMC Choir****MESSAGE****"Enduring Faith"****Pastor Park****RECEIVING THE MORNING'S OFFERINGS****\*DOXOLOGY #94**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise God all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Praise God the source of all our gifts!**

**Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts!**

**Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**\*DEDICATION****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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

**HANGING OF THE PRAYER DOVES**

**All**

**\* CLOSING HYMN**

**“Be Still, My Soul”**

**UMH # 534**

**1 Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side.  
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;  
leave to your God to order and provide;  
in every change God faithful will remain.  
Be still, my soul: your best, your heavenly friend  
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.**

**2 Be still, my soul: your God will undertake  
to guide the future, as in ages past.  
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;  
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.  
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know  
the Christ who ruled them while he dwelt below.**

**3 Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on  
when we shall be forever with the Lord,  
when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,  
sorrow forgot, love’s purest joys restored.  
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,  
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.**

**\* BENEDICTION**

**Pastor Park**

**POSTLUDE**

**“The First Noel”**

**Jackie Han**

**\*Stand as able**

**Advent Candle Lighting**

**2nd Sunday of Advent - December 10 - The Elphinstone Family**

**3rd Sunday of Advent- December 17 - The Matthew Family**

**4th Sunday of Advent - December 24 - The Ingra Family**

**Christmas Eve - December 24th - The D'Emilio Family**

**The refreshments for today’s coffee hour are hosted by Pastor Karen Gazzillo.**

**Altar Flowers today are given to the glory of God and in celebration of Hong Y Park (Mama Park) by the CUMC family.**

**Fun, Fellowship & Cookies! The Cookie Walk is scheduled for December 17th immediately following worship. Buy some delicious cookies, savor a hot chocolate and enjoy the spirit of the season.**

**Prayer & Chant Circle, a peace-filled service of prayer and music led by Rev. Frederick Boyle is held on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month at 10:00 am. All are welcome.**

**Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be at 8:00 pm. See the bulletin insert.**