SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2023

1st Sunday After Christmas Day
Caldwell United Methodist Church, 8 Academy Road, Caldwell, N. J. 07006
Rev. Kil Jae Park, Pastor

Jackie Han, Music Minister



PRELUDE "You are the King of Glory"

Jackie Han

WELCOME AND INVOCATION

Pastor Park

* CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We have come to the end of this year. What a year this has been!

P: So many things have happened. Some of them have been wonderful; others very sad.

L: In all of this our Lord has been with us, guiding, healing, comforting, and rejoicing.

P: Thanks be to God for God's continual presence with us.

L: Now we are on the threshold to a new tomorrow.

P: We don't know what it will hold for us.

L: In all of what is to come, our Lord will be with us.

P: Guiding, healing, comforting, and rejoicing with us.

ALL: Thank you, Lord, for your steadfast love and presence. AMEN.

* OPENING HYMN

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

UMH #140

1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with thee; thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not; as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be. Refrain:

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. Refrain

TFWS # 2041

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! Refrain

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Together)

Holy God, as we look back on our life this year, we confess that we have failed to live as people of faith in many ways. We often allowed ourselves to be swallowed up by worries and fear instead of seeking your help and guidance. We placed comfort of self before service to others. We were more concerned about what we want and our will rather than seeking your will in our lives. Forgive us for falling short of your glory. As we are ready to usher in the New Year, we want to recommit ourselves to your will and to living a life of faith. In your grace and mercy, cleanse us from all unrighteousness and fill us again with your Spirit of love, faith and hope. Renew our hearts and help us to start the New Year with you in the center of our lives. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

GATHERING SONG

"Thou Art Worthy"
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 Genesis 45:16 - 47:7 Christine Waddington, Reader

16 When the news reached Pharaoh's palace that Joseph's brothers had come, Pharaoh and all his officials were pleased. 17 Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Tell your brothers, 'Do this: Load your animals and return to the land of Canaan, 18 and bring your father and your families back to me. I will give you the best of the land of Egypt and you can enjoy the fat of the land.' 19 "You are also directed to tell them, 'Do this: Take some carts from Egypt for your children and your wives, and get your father and come. 20 Never mind about

your belongings, because the best of all Egypt will be yours." 21 So the sons of Israel did this. Joseph gave them carts, as Pharaoh had commanded, and he also gave them provisions for their journey. 22 To each of them he gave new clothing, but to Benjamin he gave three hundred shekels of silver and five sets of clothes. 23 And this is what he sent to his father: ten donkeys loaded with the best things of Egypt, and ten female donkeys loaded with grain and bread and other provisions for his journey. 24 Then he sent his brothers away, and as they were leaving he said to them, "Don't quarrel on the way!" 25 So they went up out of Egypt and came to their father Jacob in the land of Canaan. 26 They told him, "Joseph is still alive! In fact, he is ruler of all Egypt." Jacob was stunned; he did not believe them. 27 But when they told him everything Joseph had said to them, and when he saw the carts Joseph had sent to carry him back, the spirit of their father Jacob revived. 28 And Israel said, "I'm convinced! My son Joseph is still alive. I will go and see him before I die." 1 So Israel set out with all that was his, and when he reached Beersheba, he offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac. 2 And God spoke to Israel in a vision at night and said, "Jacob! Jacob!" "Here I am," he replied. 3 "I am God, the God of your father," he said. "Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make you into a great nation there. 4 I will go down to Egypt with you, and I will surely bring you back again. And Joseph's own hand will close your eyes." 5 Then Jacob left Beersheba, and Israel's sons took their father Jacob and their children and their wives in the carts that Pharaoh had sent to transport him. 6 They also took with them their livestock and the possessions they had acquired in Canaan, and Jacob and all his offspring went to Egypt. 7 He took with him to Egypt his sons and grandsons and his daughters and granddaughters—all his offspring.

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

ANTHEM "Mary Did You Know" Soloist, Joyce Francavilla

MESSAGE "Leave Them Behind" 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!

*DEDICATION

PRAYER Pastor Park

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.

* CLOSING HYMN

"Another Year is Dawning"

(Sing to the Tune of "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus" UMH # 514)

- Another year is dawning, dear Father, let it be In working or in waiting, another year with Thee.
 Another year of progress, another year of praise,
 Another year of proving Thy presence all the days.
- 2. Another year of mercies, of faithfulness and grace, Another year of gladness in the shining of Thy face; Another year of leaning upon Thy loving breast; Another year of trusting, of quiet, happy rest.
 - Another year of service, of witness for Thy love, Another year of training for holier work above.
 Another year is dawning, dear Father, let it be
 On earth, or else in Heaven, another year for Thee.

* BENEDICTION Pastor Park

POSTLUDE "I will Sing Unto the Lord" Jackie Han

*Stand as able

The poinsettias on the altar this morning are given to the glory of God.

We consider them a Christmas flower, and many people give them around Christmas time to symbolize good will and community spirit. In religious communities, the shape of the poinsettia flower is thought to symbolize the Star of Bethlehem, with the red leaves of the poinsettia symbolizing the blood of Christ.

How the poinsettia and Christmas became linked centers around a bit of Mexican folklore involving a poor girl named Pepita. In the legend, Pepita had no present to offer baby Jesus at the Christmas Eve service. As she walked to church, she noticed weeds growing alongside the road. She gathered a bouquet of weeds (some accounts say she did this at the urging of an angel). When Pepita laid her bouquet at the feet of the Christ Child, the weeds burst into bright red flowers. From that night on, the poinsettia was known as "Flores de Noche Buena," or "Flowers of the Holy Night." - from United Methodist Communications

Thank you to our Coffee Hour host today, Carol O'Donnell for providing refreshments.