

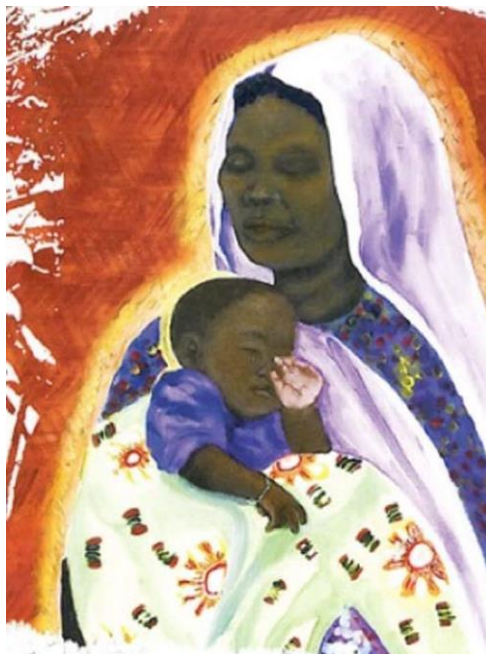
December 25, 2022

CHRISTMAS DAY

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

Rev. Vivian L. Rodeffer, Pastor

Ms. Maxine Alstrom, Music Director



PRELUDE

WELCOME AND INVOCATION

Pastor Viv

Father of Light, Father of Hope, give us the grace to make every day another Christmas— a moment when Christ is born again in our lives, in our hearts, and in our world. May we continue to stand together beyond this day, beyond this season—caring for one another as your son taught us, by loving our neighbors as ourselves. We ask all this through the one whose birth we acclaim today: Emmanuel, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather to worship God, who became human in Jesus.

Thank you, God, for this amazing gift.

The Christ child came into the world to give us forgiveness, salvation, wholeness.

Thank you, God, for this amazing gift.

The Christmas story invites us to share what we've been given.

Thank you, God, for your gifts of peace, hope, joy, and love! Fill us with these gifts. Let us shine!

HYMN #251*“Go, Tell It On the Mountain”***Refrain***Go, tell it on the mountain over the hills and everywhere****Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born****1 While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a Holy light. *Refrain*****2 The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo! Above the Earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain*****3 Down in a lowly manger our humble Christ was born
And brought us all salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*****GATHERED PRAYER**

O Holy God, the one who is, who was and who is to come, thank you. Thank you for sending us Jesus, the one who is incarnate, the one who is with us in all things. Thank you for the peace that you give to us, the hope you instill in us, the joy that dwells in us, and the love that surpasses all things. Thank you for making the impossible possible and breathing new life into us. We pray in the name of Jesus the Christ, Emmanuel, God with us. Amen.

SCRIPTURE**The Escape to Egypt**

13 Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” 14 Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt 15 and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

The Massacre of the Infants

16 When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. 17 Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: 18 “A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

The Return from Egypt

19 When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 20 “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” 21 Then Joseph[d] got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. 22 But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. 23 There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazarene.”

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

Joyce Francavilla, Soloist

THE MESSAGE

Finding God in “Impossible” Places

DEDICATION OF OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

***DOXOLOGY**

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!

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

God of goodness and kindness, whose mercy is from everlasting to everlasting, all that we have are gifts of your grace. As the heavenly host sang of your glory, accept what we bring as offerings of praise. Amen

MORNING PRAYER, SILENT 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.

***HYMN #238**

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

1 Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o’er the plains

And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains

Refrain

Gloria, in excelsis Deo. Gloria, in excelsis Deo

**2 Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song? *Refrain***

**3 Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing,
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King. *Refrain***

***BENEDICTION**

Almighty God, who has poured upon us the new light of your Incarnate Word;
Grant that the same light enkindled in our hearts may shine forth in our lives
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*** POSTLUDE**

***Stand as able.**

CALENDAR

Monday, December 26

**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
NO PRAYER GROUP**

Tuesday, December 27

7PM

VISITING HARP PRAYER CIRCLE

Sunday, January 1

10AM

WORSHIP–Bishop Schol on Video

NEW YEAR'S DAY SUNDAY we will have a simple worship in the Guyn Room and watch a special video prepared by Bishop John Schol. The link for the video will be shared with you worshipping at home as well. We sincerely hope you can join us in person for this intimate worship service and refreshments.