

DECEMBER 24, 2022

CHRISTMAS EVE

Rev. Vivian L. Rodeffer, Pastor

Ms. Maxine Alstrom, Music Director

Caldwell United Methodist Church, 8 Academy Road, Caldwell, New Jersey 07006



PRELUDE

“Some Children See Him”

Jill Land, Solo

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Viv

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

On this holiest of nights,

We come, joining the shepherds who are stunned by wonder.

On this most silent night,

We come, our hopes and dreams joining those of Mary and Joseph.

On this night of carols and candlelight,

We come, our glad songs joining with the choirs of angels over us.

***HYMN #234**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

O come all ye faithful joyful and triumphant

Oh come ye O come ye to Bethlehem;

come and behold him born the King of angels;

Oh come let us adore Him,

Oh come let us adore Him,

O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Sing choirs of angels sing in exultation

Sing all ye citizens of heaven above;

**Glory to God in the highest:
 Oh come let us adore Him,
 Oh come let us adore Him,
 O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord**

UNISON PRAYER

Pastor Karen

O God of love, you have brought us together tonight and blessed us with your very self. Open our eyes to the light of Christ which glows in the darkness of a world engulfed in apathy, pain and loss; a world separated from you. Speak to us now that we may hear the good news of your salvation. Bring us into the wonder of your presence. Fill us with that light and carry it out with us into our lives. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2: 1-14

Pastor Karen

2 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. **2** This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. **3** All went to their own towns to be registered. **4** Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. **5** He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. **6** While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. **7** And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

8 Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. **10** But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: **11** to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. **12** This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." **13** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, **14** "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

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

MESSAGE

The Impossible Made Possible

Pastor Viv

RECEIVING THE EVENING'S OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"The First Noel"

***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**

Glory to God in the highest heaven! We praise your name with our offerings and tithes. And we give these gifts in recognition of Jesus, who from humble birth was created great in your light. Thank you, Gracious God, for pure, unbounded love lying in a manger. Let the joy we feel in our hearts overflow in unending praise. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC**“O Holy Night”****Aisha Lettsome, Soloist****LITURGY OF LIGHT****Pastor Viv**

After counting the weeks of Advent, we have come to Christmas Eve.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
 those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. *Isaiah 9:2*

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. *John 1:9*

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory,
 the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. *John 1:14*

At this time the Christ Candle is lighted in the center of the Advent Wreath.

Glory to God in the highest! We give thanks for the birth of Jesus Christ, God with us.

SERVICE OF CANDLE LIGHTING

The ushers, will then light the candles of the first person on each aisle. Light will then be passed from worshiper to worshiper. Remember that the lighted candle remains upright and the unlighted candle is tipped to the lighted candle. Those of you worshipping on zoom are invited to light your candles at this time as well. After all candles are lighted we will sing “Silent Night.”

HYMN #239*“Silent Night, Holy Night”**

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.

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.”

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.

***UNISON PRAYER**

Gracious God, In the excitement of this night, quiet our hearts
 that we may know the peace and fullness of this holy time.
 Shine, O Light, in the darkness of our world.
 Sing, O angels, in the stillness of our hearts,
 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those God favors."
 This we pray in the name of the Child of Bethlehem. Amen.

HYMN #246*“Joy To The World”**

Joy to the World , the Lord is come!
 Let earth receive her King;
 Let every heart prepare Him room,
 And Heaven and nature sing,
 And Heaven and nature sing,
 And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the World, the Savior reigns!
 Let all their songs employ;
 While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
 Repeat the sounding joy,
 Repeat the sounding joy,
 Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
 Nor thorns infest the ground;
 He comes to make His blessings flow
 Far as the curse is found,
 Far as the curse is found,
 Far as, far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
 And makes the nations prove
 The glories of His righteousness,
 And wonders of His love,
 And wonders of His love,
 And wonders, wonders, of His love.

You may extinguish your candles

***BENEDICTION**

May joy be your companion,
 whether you are with others or alone.
 May love be your strength,
 and may the gift of community dwell in your heart,
 for here, in this place, you will be welcome always,
 whenever you choose, whenever you need. Go in Peace. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE **“It Came Upon A Midnight Clear”**

***Stand as able**

May you have a blessed Christmas Day!

TOMORROW the joy of Christmas continues! Join us at 10 am for Christmas morning worship. Come just as you are to worship the Newborn King. See you then!

POINSETTIAS may be taken home this evening by those who donated them.