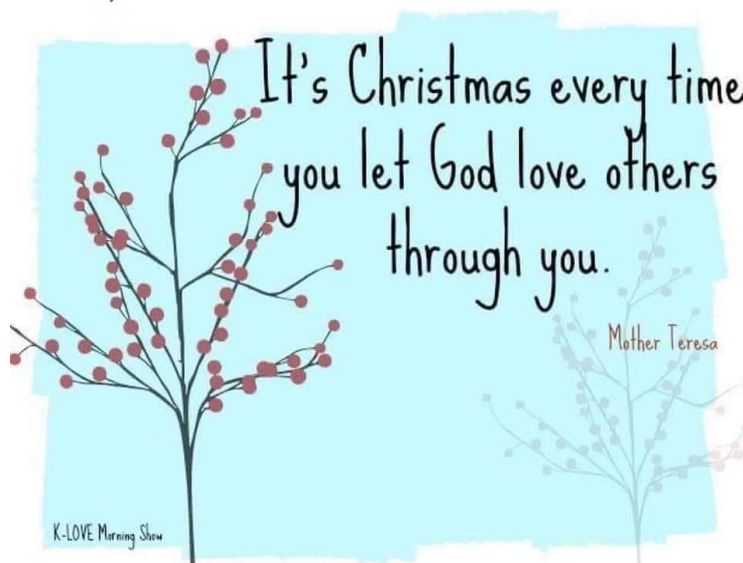


DECEMBER 18, 2022

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Caldwell United Methodist Church, 8 Academy Road, Caldwell, New Jersey
Rev. Vivian L. Rodeffer, Pastor

Maxine Alstrom, Music Director



PRELUDE

“Mary Did You Know?”

Piano and Violin

WELCOME AND INVOCATION

Pastor Viv

Eternal God, By the birth of Jesus Christ you gave yourself to the world. Grant *that, being born in our hearts, He may save us from all our sins, And restore within us the image and likeness of our Creator, To whom be everlasting praise and glory, Amen.*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

L. Paige Moeller and Lois Ayim

Gracious God, thank you for your generous love to us. Thank you that you see the abundance in our lives rather than all the shortfalls. Help us to offer that same gracious love to those we mingle with this Christmas season. Pour your love into our hearts so we can give it away. May they know we are followers of Jesus by our love. Amen. *Light the fourth candle.*

“Candles of Advent”

**Light one candle in the night,
Light one candle of love;
Love that will teach the world to care,
Love that surrounds us everywhere,
Love in a child who will help us share.
Light one candle of love.**

Advent candles warm and bright,
fill the world with radiant light.
Help us find the Promised One,
guide us to the child who will come.

***HYMN #245**

“The First Noel”

1 The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter’s night that was so deep.

Chorus

**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel!**

2 They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the East beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.

Chorus

**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel!**

THE MORNING PRAYER, SILENT PRAYERS, THE LORD’S PRAYER Pastor Karen
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.

OFFERING OF OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

The offering plates will be passed for your gifts.

THE BELL CHOIR “Silent Night” & “Away in a Manger”

***ADVENT DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God for gifts of hope and peace
Praise God for gifts of joy and love. Alleluia, Alleluia!
Praise God for sending Christ to dwell,
On earth for us – Emmanuel. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

GLAD TIDINGS OF GOOD NEWS

Cantata Arranged and Directed by Maxine Alstrom, Music director

Readings compiled by Pastor Viv

INTRODUCTION

Pastor Viv

“It doesn’t matter whether or not you can have faith; whether or not you are cynical or despairing, hope-filled or hope-less: what matters to God is simply that you are here.” We pray that there is something in today’s cantata that will touch your heart, restore your faith and deepen your desire to be a source of promise and hope to someone who needs to be reminded that they too are a beloved child of God.

CHOIR

“In The Bleak Midwinter”

arr. Kyle Pederson

“Into the pall of winter’s day when dark descends and daylight fades into the cold of wint’ry night
When breath will hang as heavy ice into the bleak December land where
earth is fixed -and frozen stands Into a world of dark and gloom a child will come in
manger soon.

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron, water like a
stone Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow. In the bleak midwinter long ago.

Come quickly, come, Oh Spirit breath and all creation may you bless
Our mangers wait-just wood and dust. Oh Spirit breath—enliven us Even the heav’ns
cannot contain the hope and joy which has a name Into our manger hearts we gaze
where God in flesh has now been laid. In the bleak midwinter, Christ, Emmanuel.”

FIRST READING:

ADVENT SUMMONS US ALL

Christie Pavlishin

“We have entered the time of Advent, in preparation for Christmas. Advent reminds us that if God is to be born again in the most ordinary parts of our world and our lives that we need prepare for it. We need to make the space in our lives where love might be born. Welcome to this tiny corner of a harsh and dark world. Together, let us practice being ready in the faith that Christ will come.” *[Footnote 1]*

CHOIR

“Once Upon A Night”

Pepper Choplin

“Once upon a night,” begins the story told for two thousand years,
But still it fills the soul and brings new wonder to everyone who hears.
Once upon a night there came a baby like so many ones before.
But angels of the heavens came to crown him Messiah, Christ the Lord.

He is Lord. For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given.
 The promise comes alive through the birth of his child, this Holy One from
 heaven, from heaven, from heaven He comes.

So we come to tell the blessed story, how the holy Savior came.
 For once upon a night was born a baby, and forever we will praise His name
 And forever we will praise His name.

SECOND READING **WE HAVE HOPE** **Christie Pavlishin**
 “How shall the heart, bearing its burden of loneliness and shame and grief, sing the songs
 of Christmas gladness? The truth is, we need Christmas. We need it so deeply, so
 desperately, that we will continue to celebrate it though our hearts wear sackcloth and
 ashes. We will celebrate ‘something’ in it that the world and all its fury cannot dim or
 obliterate. We will keep it as a ‘sign,’ a sign that we believe in a world of ‘peace on earth,
 good will to men,’ though all the appearances are against it and earth itself seems to have
 turned into something more like hell. Fundamentally and ultimately, we believe that God
 will not forsake us, even at our worst. We have hope-a star over the newborn child!”

[Footnote 2]

CHOIR **“Will We Know Him?”** **D. Besig & N. Price**

Are we ready for the Babe of Bethlehem to be born in a lowly stall?
 Are we ready to greet the tiny little king who will come to save us all?

Are we ready for the star of Bethlehem to appear in the winter sky?
 Are we ready to follow anywhere it leads, and let its light fill all our lives?

Prepare ye the way for the King of Glory, once again proclaim the wondrous
 story. God will send His own true Son, but will we know Him when He comes?

Are we ready for the song of Bethlehem to declare our Savior’s birth?
 Are we ready to join the angles as they sing, and spread their news to all the
 earth?

Prepare ye the way for the King of Glory, once again proclaim the wondrous
 story. God will send His own true Son, but will we know Him when He comes?

Are we ready for the Babe of Bethlehem, God’s true and promised Son?

Are we ready to greet the tiny little King and will we know Him when He comes?
Will we know Him when he comes?

THIRD READING

Angel Gabriel Brings Good News

Pastor Karen

Luke 1: 5-19

“In the days when Herod was King of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah. He had a wife named Elizabeth. Both were good people in God’s eyes. They observed all the commandments and laws of the Lord. The couple had no children because Elizabeth was unable. And now they were too old to conceive a child.”

“One day, Zechariah was chosen to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and burn incense. While the people gathered outside to pray, Zechariah prayed inside and burned the incense. Then, an angel of the Lord appeared to him. At first, Zechariah was afraid of what he saw.”

“The angel spoke to Zechariah, ‘Do not be afraid, Zechariah. Your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth is going to give birth to a son and you will name him John. His birth will bring joy and gladness to you and many others. Your child will be great in God’s eyes. He will help others. Your child will be filled with the Spirit. He will help others to love God.’ Then Zechariah spoke to the angel, ‘How can this be true? My wife and I are much too old to have children.’ The angel replied, ‘I am Gabriel. I was sent to announce to you this good news.’”

CHOIR

“Angels Are Making Their Rounds”

Pepper Choplin

Angels are making their rounds, O what a beautiful sound,
Angels are making their rounds, angels are making their rounds.
Fear not, Zechariah, for the Lord has heard your prayer.
Elizabeth will bear a son. Hail O blessed one,
you have found favor with God.
O blessed one, you have found favor with God.
Hail, O blessed one, you have found favor with God.
O blessed one, you have found favor with God.
Angels are making their rounds, O my, what a beautiful sound. Heaven’s glory
comes down when angels are making their rounds, angels are making their
rounds.

Fear not, Joseph, go and take Mary to be your wife,
for she carries a holy Child.

FOURTH READING

MARY'S WORDS

Jeannie Laureano

“God is sharing in and bearing through my child the passing laughter and the tears that we call life. God is giving himself to us in this child he gives to me; and if this grace, this purity, this innocence, this love I hold right now is God, then I know blessing far beyond any fear, any hope, any dream I might have dreamed. Don't ask me to explain. Just kneel, my friend, beside these shepherds. Worship him in silence and be blessed.”

[Footnote 3]

SOLO

“When Love Was Born”

Joyce Francavilla

FIFTH READING

Jeannie Laureano

This Christmas season as we wait in hope, we remember that Jesus has come. The righteous Branch of David has come. The one who brings peace and justice has come. We no longer have to wait for a savior. We are now called to walk in our King's footsteps. “From the manger bed, what a path has led, what a perfect holy way” to walk with God.

CHOIR

“Birthday of a King”

In the little village of Bethlehem, There lay a Child one day,

Refrain:

Alleluia! O how the angels sang.

Alleluia! How it rang!

'Twas a humble birth-place, but O how much

God gave to us that day,

From the manger bed what a path has led,

What a perfect, holy way. *Refrain*

FINAL READING

Angels Over Bethlehem

Jayvyn Matthew

Luke 2: 8-14

8 In that 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!”

CHOIR**“Baby Born in Bethlehem”**

Run, run, run to the manger.

Run, run, run to the manger.

Run, run, run to the manger,

There’s a baby born in Bethlehem.

See amid the winter snow.

Baby born in Bethlehem.

Born for us on earth below.

Baby born in Bethlehem.

Run, run, run to the manger.

Run, run, run to the manger.

There’s a baby born in Bethlehem.

Wise men traveled from afar.

They were guided by a brilliant star.

Baby born in Bethlehem.

Oh, go tell it on the mountain,

Over the hills and everywhere.

Oh, go, and tell it on the mountain

that there’s a baby born in

Bethlehem.

O won’t you run to the manger,

Come and see the baby.

Run to the manger, come and see the baby.

Run to the manger, come and see the baby

...Baby born in Bethlehem.

There’s a baby born in Bethlehem.

A TIME OF GIVING THANKS**“Glad Tidings of Great Joy” Participants**

Director: Maxine Alstrom **Readers:** Christie Pavlishin, Jeannie Laureano, Javyn Matthew, Pastor Karen. **Choir:** Aisha Lettsome, Cynthia Maiullo, Joyce Francavilla, Jill Land, Joan Olszewski, Ken Ingra, Paige Moeller, Michele Sauer, Myrtle Connell, Robb McCombe **Bell Choir:** Amy Hansen, Kathy Zajac, Paige Moeller, Christie Pavlisin. Substitute, Pastor Viv **Musicians:** Noelle Gizzi, Flute, John Albert Dubinski, Cello, Andrew Johnson, Violin **Zoom Technician:** Walter Hartmann

HYMN*“Joy to the World”**

1 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 nature sing.

2 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 the sounding joy.

THE CHOIR**BENEDICTION IN SONG**

What will you give this Christmas night? Will it be carols and candlelight?
 Maybe something that you feel inside. A prayer from a grateful heart.
 So many gifts will be shared this night. But greatest is one by far.
 As long as we live, we all can give the gift of who we are.
 Loo, loo, loo, loo, loo, loo, loo, loo,

Maybe something that you feel inside.
 A prayer from a grateful heart.
 So many gifts will be shared this night. But greatest is one by far.
 As long as we live, we all can give the gift of who we are.

**This Christmas Eve we will give ourselves to the Newborn King.
 And now we leave with the peace and hope, love and joy of this advent in
 our hearts. Amen**

POSTLUDE

***Stand as able.**

Altar Flowers today:

To the glory of God, and to **Myrtle Connell, Tracy Voca, Amy Hansen, and Barbara Ingra**,
 thanking each of you for bringing JOY to all of us at the Christmas Party. Given by Joan
 Olszewski

To the Glory of God, and in loving memory of my dear brother **Jack Rotter**. Given by Louise
 Woodcox

FOOTNOTES

1 Cheryl Lawrie posted on <http://holdthisspace.org.au/all-of-who-we-are/>

2 What Child is This? Samuel H. Miller, p.20.

3 Faces at The Manger, J.Barrie Shepherd, p. 21.



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE will be held at 5:30 PM this Saturday night.

CHRISTMAS SUNDAY WORSHIP at 10 AM here in the sanctuary! Join us for a
 service of carols and sharing “The True Meaning of Christmas”

NEW YEAR’S SUNDAY WORSHIP at 10 AM in the Guyn Room with coffee and
 refreshments as we watch Bishop Schol’s video message for the holidays.