

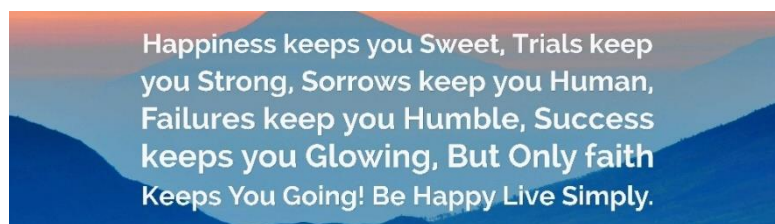
SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 2023

Caldwell United Methodist Church, 8 Academy Road, Caldwell, NJ 07006

Rev. Kil Jae Park, Pastor

1st Sunday after the Epiphany

Jackie Han, Music Minister



PRELUDE

“Spirit Song”

Jackie Han

WELCOME AND INVOCATION

Pastor Park

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Come, come into the presence of the Lord today!

P: We come, with all the joys and sorrows, all our hopes, dreams, and cares.

L: You have been fashioned by God’s love. You are called across the waters of creation to be a blessing.

P: We have been called to be people of hope and light.

L: You have been offered nourishment and cleansing by creations waters

P: Help us to receive again the blessing of adoption by God.

ALL: AMEN.

*** OPENING HYMN**

“We Gather Together”

UMH # 131

1. We gather together
to ask the Lord's blessing;
he chastens and hastens
his will to make known.
The wicked oppressing
now cease from distressing.
Sing praises to his name;
he forgets not his own.

2. Beside us to guide us,
our God with us joining,
ordaining, maintaining
his kingdom divine;
so from the beginning
the fight we were winning;

thou, Lord, wast at our side,
all glory be thine!

3. We all do extol thee,
thou leader triumphant,
and pray that thou still
our defender wilt be.
Let thy congregation
escape tribulation;
thy name be ever praised!
O Lord, make us free!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Together)

Gracious and loving God, we come this day confessing that we are people in need of your grace. Pour upon us your Holy Spirit and help us to open our hearts so that we are able to admit to you the fullness of our lives – that which is beautiful and good, and that which is hurtful and hateful. We confess that we do not follow Jesus in all that we do. We love with condition. We judge and condemn. We do not turn to You as the source of our healing. Forgive us, we pray. Forgive our sin, and empower us to be imitators of Christ in love and service. 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.

TFWS # 2041

SCRIPTURE

Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

Reader

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:
2 a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot,

3 a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build,
 4 a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance,
 5 a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
 6 a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away,
 7 a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak,
 8 a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.
 9 What do workers gain from their toil? 10 I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. 11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. 12 I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. 13 That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God. 14 I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God does it so that people will fear him. 15 Whatever is has already been, and what will be has been before; and God will call the past to account.

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM **“Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty”** **Jackie Han**

MESSAGE **“The Seasons of Life”** **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**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Insert

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****“Trust and Obey”****UMH # 467**

**1 When we walk with the Lord
in the light of his word,
what a glory he sheds on our way!
While we do his good will,
he abides with us still,
and with all who will trust and obey.**

Refrain:

**Trust and obey, for there's no other way
to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.**

**2 Not a burden we bear,
not a sorrow we share,
but our toil he doth richly repay;
not a grief or a loss,
not a frown or a cross,
but is blest if we trust and obey. [Refrain]**

**3 But we never can prove
the delights of his love
until all on the altar we lay;
for the favor he shows,
for the joy he bestows,
are for them who will trust and obey. [Refrain]**

**4 Then in fellowship sweet
we will sit at his feet,
or we'll walk by his side in the way;
what he says we will do,
where he sends we will go;
never fear, only trust and obey. [Refrain]**

*** BENEDICTION****Pastor Park****POSTLUDE****“Great is thy Faithfulness”****Jackie Han*****Stand as able**

Altar Flowers this morning are given to the **glory of God** and in memory of her dear friend, **Michele Sauer** by **Jeannie Laureano**.

Flowers on the baptismal font are given by **Louise Woodcox** in memory of her beloved father, **John Rotter** and her dear brother, **Jack Rotter**.

Fellowship Ministry after worship today is hosted by **Pastor Park and family**. Stay after worship to enjoy some amazing Korean food.

If you would like to have flowers placed on the altar in memory or celebration of a person or event please contact **Louise Woodcox at 973-227-2924**. Cost is \$20 and checks should be made payable to Louise Woodcox.

Would you be kind enough to host **Fellowship Ministry** (Coffee Hour) after worship with the purchase of refreshments? Contact **Louise Woodcox at 973-227-2924**.

GREAT THANKSGIVING (Genesis 1, Psalm 29)

God of beginnings, you are always creating.
 At the very beginning, you sent your Spirit to bring order out of chaos.
 You spoke and there was light.
 You named the light day, and the darkness you called light.
 It was the first morning, a new beginning.
 You continued your active presence in our world,
 over and over calling forth newness.
 With power and might, you spoke through the wind and storm,
 washing away past sorrow as you cleaned the world and began anew.
 When we followed our own desires, ignoring the promises of your word,
 you sent prophets to speak of life and peace.
 You never gave up on us, but kept on reaching out to us
 through the power of your Spirit.

And so, we join the great chorus of heaven and earth, praising you forever.

Holy, holy, holy, God of glory and strength!
Holy, holy, holy, God of power and majesty!
Heaven and earth are filled with your splendor.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is Jesus, who comes in your name.
Hosanna in the highest.

You spoke through the prophet, John the baptizer.
 In the wilderness, John spoke your word,
 calling people to repentance
 and declaring that one who is more powerful is coming.
 That one was Jesus. And as he emerged
 from the waters of the Jordan, you proclaimed,
 “You are my son, the Beloved. With you I am well pleased.”
 Jesus continued to live as your word in the world.
 He built a community of God’s beloved persons, welcoming everyone.
 He offered a word of hope and encouragement to the discouraged.
 He challenged the powerful to work for justice.
 In the life and ministry of Jesus, there was a new beginning for creation.

As Jesus faced condemnation and death,
 he gathered his friends for a meal.
 He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it,
 and gave it to his friends, saying:
 “This is my life, offered for you.
 When you eat this, remember me.”
 When the meal was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you
 and offered it to his friends, saying:

“This is the cup of forgiveness, poured out in abundance.
 When you drink it, remember me.”

And so, as we remember Jesus and his ministry of love and forgiveness,

we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ was. Christ is. Christ will be.

It looked like the end of Jesus ministry,
yet he offered a new beginning with this meal—
a meal that binds us together as a holy, beloved community.

God of glory, send your Spirit upon these gifts of bread and cup.
May they become a new beginning for our lives,
by feeding us for your work in the world.
Send your Spirit upon us, gathered at this table.
May we become the living body of Christ,
expressing your love in word and deed.
Through your child Jesus,
and by the power of your Holy Spirit in your Church,
all glory and strength, power and majesty
are yours, now and forevermore.

Amen.