

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2021

2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

CALDWELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 8 Academy Rd., Caldwell, NJ 07006

Rev. Vivian L. Rodeffer, Pastor

Maxine Alstrom, Music Director



PRELUDE

THE ADVENT WREATH

The Land Family

Song: "Candles of Advent"

**Light one candle in the night, light one candle of peace.
Peace that will free the world from war,
Peace that will last evermore,
Peace for the child we are waiting for.
Light one candle of peace.**

Prayer:

Dear God,
As we journey down this Advent road,
grant us the courage to make peace.
Peace in our hearts, peace in our homes,
Peace in our communities. Amen.

The candle of PEACE is lighted at this time.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Viv

Please take time during the service to write a heartfelt prayer on your dove. At the end of the service you will be invited to bring them forward and decorate the sanctuary tree with them.

***HYMN #196**

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

- 1. Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in Thee.**

Israel's Strength and Consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear Desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

2. Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, We confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will. We have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love We have not loved our neighbors, and We have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *All pray in silence.*

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we receive forgiveness! **Amen.**

THE PSALTER

Psalm 126

Robb McCombe, Reader

**R. # 230 "How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given.
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven."**

¹ When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.

² **Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;**

then it was said among the nations,
"The Lord has done great things for them."

³ **The Lord has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced.**

**R. "How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given.
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven."**

⁴ Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like the watercourses in the Negeb.

⁵ **May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy.**

⁶ Those who go out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
**shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves.**

**R. "How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given.
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven."**

SCRIPTURE**Paul's Prayer for the Philippians****Philippians 1: 3-11**

³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

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

ANTHEM**"Advent Celebration"****Words & Music J. Paige****MESSAGE****St. Paul's Prayer for Us***"I thank my God every time I remember you..." Phil. 1: 3a***OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD**

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

THE MORNING PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER & 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.****HOLY COMMUNION****PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING COMMUNION**

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, To give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN #384*“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”**

1. Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of Heav’n to earth come down;
Fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, Thou art all compassion, pure unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.

2. **Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast!**
Let us all in Thee inherit; let us find that second rest.
Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

3. **Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all Thy life receive;**
Suddenly return, and never, nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing, glory in Thy perfect love.

4. **Finish, then, Thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be;**
Let us see Thy great salvation perfectly restored in Thee;
Changed from glory into glory, till in Heav’n we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

***BENEDICTION**

May God, who has begun a good work within you,
 continue that work until the day when Christ Jesus returns.
 May your love overflow more and more;
 may you continue to grow in knowledge and understanding,
 so that you can clearly discern what really matters,
 and so that you may stand pure and blameless before God
 on the day of Christ’s return. Go in peace.

POSTLUDE*“Medley of Advent and Christmas Carols”**

*During the Postlude music, please bring your dove with its prayer to the front.
 Helpers will hang it on the tree.*

*Stand as able

CALENDAR

Tuesday, December 7	4 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7 PM Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, December 9	9 AM-Noon Bishop Meets with District Clergy via Zoom
Friday, December 10	6:30 PM Women’s Fellowship Christmas Party at church

TODAY IS THE LAST DAY TO ORDER POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS