

SUNDAY, December 8, 2024

Caldwell United Methodist Church, 8 Academy Road, Caldwell, N. J. 07006
Rev. Kil Jae Park, Pastor

Second Sunday of Advent
Jackie Han, Music Minister



PRELUDE

“Sing We Now of Christmas”

Jackie Han

WELCOME & INVOCATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Welcome today to this time of preparation.

P: Although we have been preparing for celebrations, we come seeking to prepare our hearts to receive God's Good News.

L: Get ready! The Lord is bringing to us Hope and Peace.

P: How wonderful it is that the Lord is showering us with Peace.

L: Open your hearts and let your spirits be quieted. Be at peace with the Lord.

P: Lord, prepare our lives and bring us peace. AMEN.

*** OPENING HYMN**

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

UMH # 196

**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.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Insert

The Taylor Family

Reader:

"In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone

around them, and they were terrified. 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'" (Luke 2:8-10).

Reader:

Today we remember the shepherds, workers for the common good, steadfast watchmen isolated and alone, far from the warmth of home, doing the job no one wants. And yet God saw them, God valued them, and God declared the greatest news of all to them alone.

People:

Today we give thanks for the shepherds among us, back-breaking laborers on whom our economy stands, those we overlook or rarely see, yet rely on for our very survival, the ones who have much to teach us about watching for God in the darkness.

Reader:

On this second Sunday in Advent, we light the second candle as a symbol of the shepherds, agents of the gospel and redeemers of the world.

(Light two purple candles.)

HYMN

"Light the Advent Candle" (stanzas 1&2)

TFWS #2090

**1. Light the Advent candle one
Now the waiting has begun
We have started on our way
Time to think of Christmas day.**

**Chorus: Candle, candle burning bright
Shining in the cold winter night
Candle, candle burning bright
Fill our hearts with Christmas light.**

**2. Light the Advent candle two
Think of humble shepherds who
Filled with wonder at the sight
Of the child on Christmas night.**

**Chorus: Candle, candle burning bright
Shining in the cold winter night
Candle, candle burning bright
Fill our hearts with Christmas light.**

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

GATHERING SONG

“Thou Art Worthy”

TFWS # 2041

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:68-79

⁶⁸ “Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them.

⁶⁹ **He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David**

⁷⁰ (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago),

⁷¹ **salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us—**

⁷² to show mercy to our ancestors and to remember his holy covenant,

⁷³ **the oath he swore to our father Abraham:**

⁷⁴ to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear

⁷⁵ **in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.**

⁷⁶ And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him,

⁷⁷ **to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins,**

⁷⁸ because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven

⁷⁹ **to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace.”**

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God

All: Thanks be to God

ANTHEM

“There is a Song in the Air”

CUMC Choir

MESSAGE

“Saved for a Purpose”

Pastor Park

RECEIVING THE MORNING’S OFFERINGS

***DOXOLOGY # 95**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise Him all creatures here below

Praise Him above ye heavenly host

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*** DEDICATION**

HOLY COMMUNION**The Great Thanksgiving****UMH # 13**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.
By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
you gave birth to your Church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving

as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

Amen

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

**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 "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"**

UMH # 206

**1. I want to walk as a child of the light
I want to follow Jesus
God sent the stars to give light to the world
The star of my life is Jesus**

**Chorus: In Him, there is no darkness at all
The night and the day are both alike
The Lamb is the light of the city of God
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus**

2. I want to see the brightness of God
 I want to look at Jesus
 Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path
 And show me the way to the Father

Chorus: In Him, there is no darkness at all
 The night and the day are both alike
 The Lamb is the light of the city of God
 Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus

3. I'm looking for the coming of Christ
 I want to be with Jesus
 When we have run with patience the race
 We shall know the joy of Jesus

Chorus: In Him, there is no darkness at all
 The night and the day are both alike
 The Lamb is the light of the city of God
 Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus

* BENEDICTION

Pastor Park

POSTLUDE

“We Three Kings of Orient Are”

Jackie Han

*Stand as able

Announcements:

- Altar Flowers are given by Erin Redd to the Glory of God and in celebration of her church family.
- Special thanks to JeeYoung Park & Louise Woodcox for hosting the time of Fellowship today. Please join us for fellowship immediately following the worship service.
- The 2024 Stewardship campaign is in full swing. People can continue to send in their estimate of giving cards until December 22nd.

- Please see the bulletin inserts for our “Finish Strong” stewardship campaign and also an opportunity to help beautify the church for the Christmas season with wreaths, garlands and poinsettias.
- If you did not get a chance to hang your prayer dove on the Christmas tree in the sanctuary, please note that blank prayer doves are provided in the back of the church. Please feel free to write your prayers or hopes for this Advent season on it and hang it after worship service.
- The Advent Bible Study will be this Wednesday at 7:30 pm. We will be studying Joseph in the Nativity story. The Zoom link will be sent.
- The Women’s Christmas Dinner will be held on December 13th at 6:30 pm.
- Our Christmas Cantata will be next Sunday, December 15th. We will also have the Cookie Walk & Hot Chocolate Bar immediately after worship.
- Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be at 8:00 pm.



Coming Up This Week

Tuesday, December 10th @ 10am - Chant & Prayer Circle

Friday, December 13th @ 6:30pm – Women’s Christmas Dinner

December 10th-Happy Birthday, Greg Elphinstone