

SUNDAY, December 12, 2021

3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Caldwell United Methodist Church, 8 Academy Rd., Caldwell, NJ 07006

Rev. Vivian L. Rodeffer, Pastor

Ms. Maxine Alstrom, Music Director



PRELUDE

THE ADVENT WREATH

Joan Olszewski and Kristina Olszewski

Welcome to our celebration for the third week of Advent. The theme for this third week of Advent is joy. The candle for the third week of Advent is pink. Pink is the color of joy. We are joyful because we are now more than half way through our Advent season of waiting to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Song:

“Candles of Advent”

**Light one candle in the night,
Light one candle of joy.
Joy for the song the angels sing.
Joy for the news they bring.
Joy in the child who is born a king.**

Prayer:

God our Father, we thank you for the joy of this third week of Advent. Open our hearts to praise you now with all the angels and saints, as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, your Son. We make this prayer to you in His name.
Amen

The candle of JOY is lighted at this time.

WELCOME AND INVOCATION

Pastor Viv

*Gracious God, The coming of our Lord is near, and we wait in joyful expectation,
Draw close, Lord Jesus Christ, shed your light on all that is filled with darkness. Amen.*

HYMN #224*“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”**

1. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ was born today.
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

2. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

3. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

RESPONSIVE READING**Isaiah 12: 2-6****Christie Pavlishin, Reader****R. #213 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold the King of glory waits.**

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,
For the LORD GOD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.

³With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

R. Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold the King of glory waits.

⁴And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name;

**Make known his deeds among the nations;
proclaim that his name is exalted.**

⁵Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.

⁶**Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.**

R. Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold the King of glory waits.**SCRIPTURE****Philippians 4: 4-7**

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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

ANTHEM

“O Come, Emmanuel”
Choir and Noelle Gizzi, Flute

N. Price & D. Besig

MESSAGE

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING

“With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.” Isaiah 12: 3

***DEDICATION OF OURSELVES AND OUR OFFERINGS**

***DOXOLOGY**

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, YOUR SILENT PRAYERS & 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

***HYMN #126**

“Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above”

1. Sing praise to God who reigns above,
 the God of all creation,
 the God of power, the God of love,
 the God of our salvation.
 With healing balm my soul is filled
 and every faithless murmur stilled:
 To God all praise and glory.

2. The Lord is never far away,
 but through all grief distressing,
 an ever present help and stay,
 our peace and joy and blessing.
 As with a mother's tender hand,
 God gently leads the chosen band:
 To God all praise and glory.

3. Thus all my toilsome way along,
 I sing aloud thy praises,
 that earth may hear the grateful song
 my voice unwearied raises.

Be joyful in the Lord, my heart,
both soul and body bear your part:
To God all praise and glory.

4. Let all who name Christ's holy name
give God all praise and glory;
let all who own his power proclaim
aloud the wondrous story!
Cast each false idol from its throne,
for Christ is Lord, and Christ alone:
To God all praise and glory.

***BENEDICTION**

Be people of joy.
Let joy live in your heart and share the joy of Christ with all you meet.
Share joy by seeing the good in each other.
Share joy by remembering good times and hoping for good times to come.
Share joy by praying for our world.
In this Advent season, we need to see, feel, and share joy.
As you go out into the wonder of God's creations,
share joy, peace, and hope with those you meet. **Amen.**

***POSTLUDE**

*** Stand as able.**

CALENDAR

Monday, December 13	10 AM Prayer/ Discussion Group
Tuesday, December 14	4 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7 PM Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, December 19	10 AM Worship: The Christmas Cantata

Friday, December 24 5:30 PM
CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHTING SERVICE

