



December 19, 2021

**WELCOME TO THE
CALDWELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

8 Academy Road, Caldwell, New Jersey 07006

Rev. Vivian L. Rodeffer, Pastor

Ms. Maxine Alstrom, Director of Music

Rev. William Williams, III District Superintendent

Bishop John Schol, Greater New Jersey

DECEMBER 19, 2021



4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Caldwell United Methodist Church, 8 Academy Road, Caldwell, New Jersey

Rev. Vivian L. Rodeffer, Pastor

Maxine Alstrom, Music Director

PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Pete, Kim, Reagan, Quinn and Alexis Michelli

Prayer:

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.**

Sing:

"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.

WELCOME AND THE MORNING PRAYER

Pastor Viv

*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*

OFFERING OF OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

The offering plate will remain in the back of the church after the service for your gifts.

ACT OF PRAISE

THE BELL CHOIR

"Away in a Manger"

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.**



GLAD TIDINGS OF GOOD NEWS

Cantata Arranged and Directed by Maxine Alstrom Director of Music

Readings compiled by Vivian Rodeffer

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

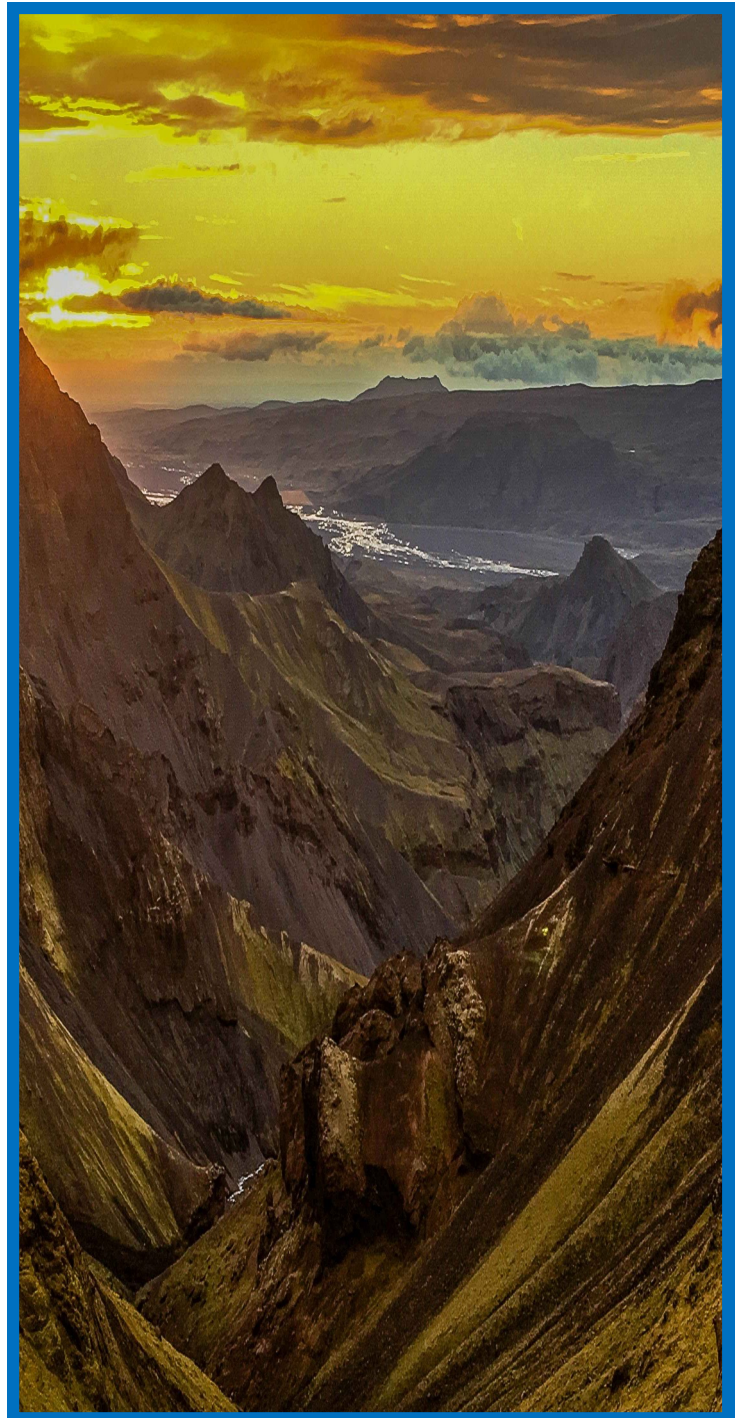
"We have entered the time of Advent, in preparation for Christmas. Advent reminds us that if God is to be born again in the most ordinary parts of our world and our lives that we need prepare for it. We need to make the space in our lives where love might be born. Welcome to this tiny corner of a harsh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

CHOIR

"I Hear the Prophet Callin'"

Words & Music Pepper Choplin

I hear the prophet callin'
Prepare the way of the Lord
I hear the prophet callin'
Prepare the way of the Lord. *Refrain*
Come and make straight
The way in the desert
A highway for our God
Come and make straight
The way in the desert
Prepare the way of the Lord.
Prepare the way of the Lord.
I hear Isaiah callin'
"Fear not your God has come"
I hear Isaiah callin'
"Fear not your God has come"
Then will the eyes of the blind be opened
The ears of the deaf will hear
And then the mute will shout for joy
The mute will shout for joy
Shout for joy
They'll be shouting for joy.
They'll be shouting for joy.
And the desert will be joyful
And blossom as a rose
And the desert will be joyful and
blossom as a rose
We shall rejoice with joy and singing
And see the glory of God
We shall rejoice with joy and singing
And see the glory of God
And see the glory of God. *Refrain.*





SECOND READING

WE HAVE HOPE

Pastor Karen, Reader

“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 new born child!”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 Jeannie Laureano, Reader

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

ADVENT TRANSFORMS OUR LIVES

Jeannie Laureano

"My life is like a broken bowl, a broken bowl that cannot hold
One drop of water for my soul or cordial in the searching cold;
Cast in the fire the perished thing; melt and remould it, till it be
A royal cup for him, my King; O Jesus, drink of me."³

CHOIR

"Come Now Our King"

Chris August & Dave Barnes

Bethlehem turns in tonight, a town lit up by candlelight
All the children tucked in tight, Bethlehem turns in tonight.

Refrain:

They sing-Glory in the highest!
Come now our king, We're been waiting
Come now our king.

Angels start their whispering about the one they're welcoming
No one knows what's soon to be
As angels start their whispering. *Refrain.*

Silence falls yet once again, the shepherds leave for Bethlehem
A baby's cry soon welcomes them, silence falls yet once again. *Refrain.*

Now the night has turned to day, an empty manger, empty grave;
A Baby born so I could say now my night has turned to day.

Come now our king, we've been waiting. Come now our king, come thou long expected Jesus.
Glory, O glory! You came here to save. Lord, we've been waiting; Come-now-our- king!



FIFTH READING

MARY'S WORDS

Christie Pavlishin, Reader

"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." ⁴

CHOIR

"Breath of Heaven (Mary's Song)"

A. Grant & C. Eaton/ R. Emerson

I have traveled many moonless nights, cold and weary with a babe inside
And I wonder what I've done, Holy father you have come
And chosen me to carry your son, I am waiting in silent prayer
I am frightened by the load I bear, in a world as cold as stone
Must I walk this path alone?

Be with me now, be with me now, Breath of heaven, hold me together
Be forever near me, Breath of heaven, Breath of heaven.

Lighten my darkness, pour over me your holiness
For you are holy, Breath of heaven.
Do you wonder as you watch my face if a wiser one should have had my place?
But I offer all I am for the mercy of your plan.

Help me be strong, help me be, help me.
Breath of heaven, hold me together, be forever...



SIXTH READING

“Christmas Prayer”

Christie Pavlishin

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,
World without end. Amen.

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*



SEVENTH READING

THE ONE FOR WHOM WE WAIT

Jeannie Laureano, Reader

Isaiah 25: 6, 8-9

⁶On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well aged wines strained clear. He will swallow up death forever.
⁸Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. ⁹It will be said on that day, Lo, this is the Lord; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

Glory is a coming, glory is a coming our way.

"Glory to God and peace on earth" do you know what the angels say?

Though hate is strong and wars drag on, peace will have its day!

Glory is a coming, glory is a coming our way.

We wait for the day when peace will reign, when the lion lies down with the lamb.

And all will live in the kingdom of our God, the great I AM.

Now hate is strong and the wars drag on but peace will have its day

When I read the Word, I believe the Word that peace is coming our way.

Peace is a coming, peace is a coming, peace is a coming our way.

"Glory to God and peace on earth" do you know what the angels say?

Though hate is strong and wars drag on, peace will have its day!

Peace is a coming, peace is a coming, peace is a coming our way.

Wait for a day when the Lord will reign and love will fill the earth.

For when he comes and his work is done, the world will see a new birth.

Now anger runs hot and hearts run cold, love is hiding and hate is cold.

But still we have reason to celebrate cause love is coming our way!

Love is a coming, love is a coming, love is a coming our way.

"Glory to God and peace on earth!" Do you hear what the angels say?

Though hate is strong and wars drag on, love will have its day!

Love is a coming, love is a coming, love is a coming our way.

Joy is a coming, joy is a coming, joy is a coming our way.

We'll have joy and peace on earth. Do you hear what the angels say?

Though hate is strong and wars drag on, joy will have its day!

Joy is a coming, joy is a coming.

Peace and love and joy is a coming.

And we have hope today cause glory is coming, is a coming, is a coming

Glory is a coming! Glory is a coming our way.



FINALE

Angels Over Bethlehem

Pastor Karen

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

"Christmas Night"

What will you give this Christmas night? Will it be carols and candlelight?
Maybe something tht 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.



A TIME OF GIVING THANKS

"Glad Tidings of Great Joy"



Director of Music: Maxine Alstrom

Readers: Pastor Karen, Christie Pavlishin and Jeannie Laureano

Choir

Aisha Lettsome, Cynthia Maiullo, Joyce Francavilla, Jill Land, Joan Olszewski,
Paige Moeller, Michele Sauer, Myrtle Connell, Robb McCombe, Ruth Carrara

Bell Choir

Amy Hansen, Kathy Zajac, Pastor Viv, Ruth Carrara, Paige Moeller, Substitute Cynthia Maiullo

Musicians

Robb McCombe, Guitar

Noelle Gizzi, Flute

John Albert Dubinski, Cello

Zoom Technician

Walter Hartmann

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

"Joy to the World"

The Congregation

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.

***Stand as able.**

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. Eerdman's Book of Christian Poetry, "A Better Resurrection," verse 3, Christina Rossetti.
4. Faces at The Manger, J.Barrie Shepherd, p. 21.

TODAY'S FLOWERS

Flowers are given to the glory of God and in celebration of **Pastor Viv's birthday** from our Church Family.

Flowers are also given to the glory of God and in loving memory of my dear brother, **Jack Rotter**, by Louise Woodcox.

The Covid-19 Protocols here at Caldwell United Methodist Church

The Church Council adopted a Protocol Policy that requires masks and social distancing during worship whether you are vaccinated or not. Likewise, our choir observes this as well. Speakers may remove their masks while at a microphone. In addition, we require everyone to sign in with their telephone number in case tracing is necessary after worship or a church event. We observe these protocols out of our Christian love and caring for one another. Lest, you think the pandemic is over, A Pleasant Day Nursery School was forced to close this week because of covid. Covid is alive and well!!! Please be careful, dear friends.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR CANDLELIGHTING CHRISTMAS EVE AT 5:30 PM

Zoom in (use the QR code)
or come in person.

Through liturgy, prayer, music
and message we hope to
touch your heart,
deepen your faith,
and inspire discipleship!

