

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025

Caldwell United Methodist Church, 8 Academy Road, Caldwell, N. J. 07006

Rev. Kil Jae Park, Pastor

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Worship Music: Rosalyn McClore



PRELUDE

“What Child is This”

Rosalyn McClore

WELCOME AND INVOCATION

Pastor Park

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: This is the fourth Sunday of Advent, a time to rejoice in the wondrous things that God is doing.

P: Our hearts are filled with the hope that is coming into the world.

L: The time is fast approaching, not for parties or presence, but for the awareness of God’s loving gift to us--the gift of the Christ child.

P: Help slow us down, Lord, that we may realize that your gift of love is at the center of our lives and our celebrations.

L: Thanks be to God who again reminds us of God’s eternal love.

P: Open our hearts, O Lord, to receive your blessed gift. AMEN.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Insert

The Zajac Family

Reader: Today, we come face to face with the scandal of Advent: Mary, the unmarried mother; God Incarnate growing in Mary’s womb as a vulnerable baby; Joseph contemplating leaving Mary because of her pregnancy; God’s love at work in ways that society and propriety could not understand; God calling Mary and Joseph to faithfulness despite the fear of disgrace.

Congregation:

With Mary and Joseph, we choose to wait, watch, and listen for the way of Love instead of responding in fear to the world’s judgment.

Reader: We light this candle of love as a sign of our faithfulness as we seek, find, and follow Emmanuel, God with us.

(Light two purple candles, the rose candle, and the last purple candle.)

*** HYMN**

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

UMH # 238

**1 Angels we have heard on high
sweetly singing o’er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.**

Refrain:

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song? (Refrain)

3 Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. (Refrain)

4 See him in a manger laid,
whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
while our hearts in love we raise. (Refrain)

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

GATHERING SONG **“Go, Tell It on the Mountain” (verse 1)** **UMH # 251**

1 While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold throughout the heavens
there shown a holy light.

Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain,
that Jesus Christ is born.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 1:18-25

18 This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.

19 Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

23 “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.

25 But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

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

All: Thanks be to God

ANTHEM

“Let There Be Peace on Earth”

Rosalyn McClore

Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me
Let there be peace on earth
The peace that was meant to be

With God as our father
Brothers all are we
Let me walk with my brother
In perfect harmony

Let peace begin with me
Let this be the moment now
With every step I take
Let this be my solemn vow

To take each moment
And live each moment
In peace eternally
Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me

Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me
Let there be peace on earth
The peace that was meant to be

MESSAGE

“Two Josephs”

Pastor Park

WALK TO THE MANGER

“The First Noel”

UMH # 245

As we sing this hymn, please join us in our Walk to the Manger and place your “gifts” (Christmas offering) in the manger provided at the front

**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.**

Refrain:
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.
(Refrain)

3 And by the light of that same star
three Wise Men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. [Refrain]

4 This star drew nigh to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay. [Refrain]

5 Then entered in those Wise Men three,
full reverently upon the knee,
and offered there, in his presence,
their gold and myrrh and frankincense. [Refrain]

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

PRAYER

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**

"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

UMH # 240

1. Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new born King!"

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored;
 Christ, the everlasting Lord;
 late in time behold him come,
 offspring of a virgin's womb.
 Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
 hail th' incarnate Deity,
 pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
 Jesus, our Emmanuel.
 Hark! the herald angels sing,
 "Glory to the new-born King!"

3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
 Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
 Light and life to all he brings,
 risen with healing in his wings.
 Mild he lays his glory by,
 born that we no more may die,
 born to raise us from the earth,
 born to give us second birth.
 Hark! the herald angels sing,
 "Glory to the new born King!"

*** BENEDICTION**

Pastor Park

***Stand as able**

Announcements:

- We welcome all of you to our morning worship service on this fourth Sunday of Advent. We are glad that you are joining us this morning in person as well as online.
- Altar Flowers are given today by Louise Woodcox to the Glory of God and in memory of her dear brother Jack Rotter.
- Special thanks to Donna Pierce and Gail Plumstead for hosting the time of Fellowship today. Please join us for fellowship immediately following the worship service.
- Please join us for the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on December 24 at 8:00 pm.

- Fellowship Hour hosts are very much needed throughout the month of January. There is a signup sheet in the Guyn Room. Your ministry of welcome and hospitality is truly appreciated.
- We are continuing with our stewardship and Let's Finish Strong campaign. Please prayerfully consider making a special offering to meet our financial goal for 2025 through the Let's Finish Strong campaign.
- To those who write checks for their offering-our bank has requested that you write out the full name of the church i.e.: "Caldwell United Methodist Church" instead of using an abbreviation such as "CUMC".



If you wish to give electronically scan this QR code using the camera function on your smart phone. You will be taken directly to the donations page on our website.



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Coming Up This Week

Wednesday, December 24 @ 8:00 pm – Christmas Eve Service