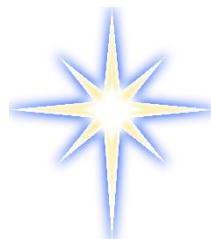


SUNDAY, December 22, 2024

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Jackie Han, Music Minister



PRELUDE

“What Child is This”

Jackie Han

WELCOME & INVOCATION

Pastor Park

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Through time and space, in the blink of the eye, the love of God stretched forth in the life of a young girl, asking that she be part of God's great plan of Salvation.

P: Her name was Mary. She was not of wealth or power. She was a person, just like you and me.

(Sing verse 1 of "Star-child" TFWS # 2095)

Star Child, earth Child, go between of God,
love Child, Christ Child, heaven's lighting rod,
This year, this year, let the day arrive
when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!

L: The Good News came first to the lowly.

P: Even today, we believe that good news often comes only to the mighty. How wrong we are!

(Sing verse 2 of "Star-Child" TFWS # 2095)

Street child, beat child, no place left to go,
hurt child, used child, no one wants to know,
This year, this year, let the day arrive
when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!

L: In a world where hatred and fear was commonplace, the Christ Child would be born.

P: Fear and Hatred are far too commonplace in our world. May the Christ Child come anew into our hearts this day.

(Sing verse 5 of "Star-Child" TFWS # 2095)

Hope-for-peace Child, God's stupendous sign,
down-to-earth Child, Star of stars that shine,
This year, this year, let the day arrive

when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!

* 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

**Zorina D’Emilio
& Brandon Narine**

Reader: "In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David" (Luke 2:1,3-4).

Reader: Today we remember Joseph, worn-out traveler and worried husband, doing what was necessary for the sake of his family, the burden of poverty stifling his hope in the promise of God. There was no room for him, yet he knows to whom he belongs.

Congregation:

Today we give thanks for the Josephs among us, migrating far from home when there is no choice, fiercely devoted to the ones they love, unwavering in their belief that there is room for all in the kin-dom of God.

Reader: On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we light this candle as a symbol of Joseph, who knocks at the door, ready to take his place among royalty.

HYMN

“Light the Advent Candle” (stanzas 1-4)

TFWS # 2090

Candle 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.

Candle 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.

Candle 3 Light the Advent candle three
Think of heavenly harmony
Angels singing "Peace on Earth"
At the Blessed Saviour's birth.

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

Candle 4 Light the Advent candle four
Think of Joy forever more
Christ child in a stable born
Gift of love that Christmas morn.

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

“Like a Child”

TFWS # 2092

1 like a child love would send
to reveal and to mend,
like a child and a friend,
Jesus comes
like a child we may find
claiming heart soul and mind,
like a child strong and kind,
Jesus comes

2 like a child we will meet,
ragged clothes, dirty feet,
like a child on the street,
Jesus comes
like a child we once knew
coming back into view,
like a child born anew,
Jesus comes

3 like a child born to pray
and to show us the way,
like a child here to stay,
Jesus comes
like a child we receive
all that love can conceive,
like a child we believe
Jesus comes

SCRIPTURE

Micah 5:2-5a

2 “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”

3 Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor bears a son, and the rest of his brothers return^[SEP] to join the Israelites.

4 He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth.

5 And he will be our peace.

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

All: Thanks be to God

ANTHEM "Mary, Did You Know" Joyce Francavilla

MESSAGE "The Irony of Advent" 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**

PRAYER Pastor Karen

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** "O Little Town of Bethlehem" **UMH # 230**

1. O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie;
above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

2. For Christ is born of Mary,
and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars together,
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to all on earth!

3. How silently, how silently,
 the wondrous gift is given;
 so God imparts to human hearts
 the blessings of his heaven.
 No ear may hear his coming,
 but in this world of sin,
 where meek souls will receive him, still
 the dear Christ enters in.

4. O holy Child of Bethlehem,
 descend to us, we pray;
 cast out our sin, and enter in,
 be born in us today.
 We hear the Christmas angels
 the great glad tidings tell;
 O come to us, abide with us,
 our Lord Emmanuel!

* BENEDICTION

Pastor Park

POSTLUDE

“The First Noel”

Jackie Han

*Stand as able

Announcements:

- Altar Flowers are given by Zorina D’Emilio to the Glory of God and in celebration of her daughter Chloe’s birthday.
- Altar Flowers are also given by Louise Woodcox to the Glory of God and in loving memory of her dear brother Jeff Rotter.
- Special thanks to Zorina D’Emilio 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 29th.

- Please see the bulletin insert for our “Finish Strong” stewardship campaign.
- 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.
- Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be at 8:00 pm.



Coming Up This Week

Tuesday, December 24th @ 8 pm – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
December 25th-Happy Birthday, Donald DeBruyne