

2025 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

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

Rev. Kil Jae Park, Pastor

Music: Rosalyn McClore



PRELUDE

"I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"

Rosalyn McClore

OPENING VIDEO

Multimedia

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: The people who once lived in darkness have been given a great light!

P: Praise be to God who has heard our cries.

L: Our souls sing out God's praise!

P: God has brought us a light of Hope and Peace.

L: Tonight, in this place, the Light of God's Love is given to us!

P: And we shall see that light and let it shine through our lives. AMEN.

PRAISE

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

CUMC Bell Choir

PRAYER (Together)

God of Everlasting Love and Hope, we come this evening to the manger, gazing lovingly on the Child born to bring hope to the world. Open our hearts tonight as we hear the story anew. Help us to be guided by the Light of Jesus Christ, that we may truly feel the power of your love and bring that love, with joy, to all we meet. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Insert

The Davidson Family

* **OPENING HYMN**

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

UMH # 234

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

2. True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal,
 lo, he shuns not the Virgin's womb;
 Son of the Father, begotten, not created;
 (Refrain)

3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
 O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
 Glory to God, all glory in the highest;
 (Refrain)

4. See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
 leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
 we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;
 (Refrain)

5. Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,
 we would embrace thee with love and awe.
 Who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?
 (Refrain)

6. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
 Jesus, to thee be all glory given.
 Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
 (Refrain)

SCRIPTURE

John 1:1-14

Pastor Karen

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. ⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. ¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

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

VOCAL SOLO

“Hallelujah”

Rosalyn McClore
(Violin: Yoon Be Kim)

MESSAGE

“The Greatest Gift”

Pastor Park

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Ushers

The Three Wisemen worshipped the new born King by offering their gifts. Let us also worship through the offering of our gifts.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Pastor Park

THE LITURGY OF LIGHT

READING 1:

“The Light Before the Night”

Christine Waddington

HYMN

“It Came upon the Midnight Clear” (Verses 1 & 3)

UMH # 218

1. It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,
from heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay,
to hear the angels sing.

3. And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow,
look now! for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road,
and hear the angels sing!

READING 2:

“The Light That Came Near”

Jon Waddington

VIOLIN SOLO

“Ave Maria”

Yoon Be Kim

READING 3

"The Light That Dwells Among Us"

Tracy Voca

* HYMN

"Silent Night, Holy Night"

UMH # 239

(As we sing "Silent Night, Holy Night", lights will be dimmed and candles lit. Please do not extinguish the candles until after Benediction. Dispose the candles in the box in the back on your way out. Thank you.)

- 1. Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin
mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.**
- 2. Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!**
- 3. Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light;
radiant beams from thy holy face
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**
- 4. Silent night, holy night,
wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!**

L: The light from even a single flame can cut through thick darkness.

P: Christ's flame reminds us that God is with us no matter how dark things may be.

L: May we live as people strengthened by God's hope.

P: May live as people encouraged by God's peace.

L: May we live as people abiding in God's joy.

P: May we live as people sharing in God's love.

* HYMN

“Joy to the World”

UMH # 246

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 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, repeat the sounding joy.

3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,
 nor thorns infest the ground;
 he comes to make his blessings flow
 far as the curse is found,
 far as the curse is found,
 far as, far as the curse is found.

4. He rules the world with truth and grace,
 and makes the nations prove
 the glories of his righteousness,
 and wonders of his love,
 and wonders of his love,
 and wonders, wonders of his love.

* BENEDICTION

Pastor Park

POSTLUDE

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Trumpet Solo: Zachary Lefurge

*Stand as able

Announcements:

- We welcome all of you to our candlelight worship service on this Christmas Eve. We are glad that you are joining us this evening in person as well as online.
- We especially thank the musicians who are sharing their talent with us this evening: Rosalyn McClore, Yoon Be Kim, violin; Zach LeFurge, trumpet and our bell choir - JeeYoung Park, Kathy Zajac, Paige Moeller, Erin Redd and Zachery LeFurge.
- Please join us for Sunday worship on December 28 at 10 am.
- 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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