SUNDAY, December 29, 2024 **First Sunday after Christmas**
Caldwell United Methodist Church, 8 Academy Road, Caldwell, N. J. 07006
Rev. Kil Jae Park, Pastor **Jackie Han, Music Minister**

PRELUDE **"Once in Royal David's City"** **Jackie Han**

WELCOME & INVOCATION **Pastor Park**

CALL TO WORSHIP
Children of God, Jesus Christ is born!
God has come to make a home among us!
Yet the story is not over. After birth comes the ordinary and mundane growing, maturing, and discovering, even for the Christ Child.
In the ordinary and mundane, God has come to make a home among us.
Children of God, let us worship the God who dwells with us in all things and all seasons.
We come to make our home with God who makes a home among us. Amen.

*** OPENING 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)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, though we are in awe of the dawn of your light in Jesus Christ, we remain self-centered and cling to the sin of the world. We celebrate the birth of our savior, yet we struggle in our commitment to follow him. We are called to pursue justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you; yet we are content to seek our own comfort and conveniently ignore the cries of those in need. By the light of the Christ child, lead us on a path of goodness and righteousness, as we seek to love all of your bountiful creation. In the name of Jesus our Savior we pray, Amen.

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

GATHERING SONG "The Snow Lay on the Ground" TFWS # 2093

1 The snow lay on the ground, the stars shone bright,
When Christ the Lord was born on Christmas night.
Venite, adoremus Dominum,
Venite, adoremus Dominum

Refrain:
Venite, adoremus Dominum,
Venite, adoremus Dominum.

2 'Twas Mary, Virgin pure of holy Anne,
That brought into this world the God made man.
She laid him in a stall at Bethlehem;
The ass and oxen shared the roof with them. [Refrain]

3 Saint Joseph, too was near to tend the child,
To guard him, and protect his mother mild:
The angels hover'd round, and sang this song:
Venite, adoremus Dominum. [Refrain]

4 And thus that manger poor became a throne;
For he whom Mary bore was God the Son.
O come, then, let us join the heav'nly host,
To praise the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. [Refrain]

SCRIPTURE **Luke 2:41-52**

41 Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover.
42 **When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom.**
43 After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it.
44 **Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends.**
45 When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him.
46 **After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.**
47 Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers.
48 **When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."**
49 "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?"
50 **But they did not understand what he was saying to them.**
51 Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart.
52 **And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.**

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God
All: Thanks be to God

ANTHEM **"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"** **Jackie Han**

MESSAGE **"Don't Forget Jesus"** **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 Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling UMH # 348**

1 Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
calling for you and for me;
see, on the portals he's waiting and watching,
watching for you and for me.

Refrain:
Come home, come home;
you who are weary come home;
earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, O sinner, come home!

2 Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,
pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies,
mercies for you and for me? [Refrain]

3 Time is now fleeting, the moments are passing,
passing from you and from me;
shadows are gathering, deathbeds are coming,
coming for you and for me. [Refrain]

*** BENEDICTION Pastor Park**

POSTLUDE "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" Jackie Han

***Stand as able**

Announcements:

- **Altar Flowers are given by Patty Sampson to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Suzanne Sampson.**

- **Special thanks to Erin Redd 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 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.