

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2020**

**Caldwell United Methodist Church, 8 Academy Rd., Caldwell, NJ 07006**

**Rev. Vivian L. Rodeffer, Pastor**

**1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**

**Ms. Maxine Alstrom, Musician**



**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

**Pastor Viv**

*A warm welcome to the Park UMC, Weehawken for worshipping together with us this morning; and also to all the family and friends of the Harriman's whose daughters are being baptized this morning.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Glory to God in the highest!  
**And hope to every discouraged heart.**  
 Glory to God in the highest!  
**And peace to every conflicted soul.**  
 Glory to God in the highest!  
**And joy to every downcast spirit.**  
 Glory to God in the highest!  
**And love to everyone.**

**CENTERING PRAYER**

**Holy God of Love,  
 There is light in our lives  
 because of the abundance of your steadfast love.  
 A love so vast, so deep, so real,  
 that you became one of us.  
 May we live within the power of this love.  
 And may we share its light with a world  
 where too many dwell in darkness. Amen.**

**HYMN #240****“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”**

1. Hark! The herald angels sing,  
 “Glory to the newborn 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 newborn King!”

2. Christ by highest heav'n adored,  
 Christ the everlasting Lord!  
 Late in time behold Him come,  
 Offspring of a Virgin's womb.  
 Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,  
 Hail the incarnate Deity,  
 Pleas'd as man with man to dwell,  
 Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
 Hark! The herald angels sing,  
 “Glory to the newborn King!”

3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!  
 Hail the Son of Righteousness!  
 Light and life to all He brings,  
 Ris'n with healing in His wings.  
 Mild He lays His glory by,  
 Born that man no more may die,  
 Born to raise the sons of earth,  
 Born to give them second birth.  
 Hark! The herald angels sing,  
 “Glory to the newborn King!”

**THE CHILDREN’S MESSAGE****THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

Receiving the sacrament of baptism today are **Natalie Lynne** (8/28/2017) and **Everly Lynne** (8/8/2020), daughters of **Mason and Michelle Harriman**, 451 Beeber Dr., Muncy, PA 17756.

Natalie’s Godmothers are **Elena Krupa**, Northampton, PA and **Noelle Harriman**, Forkville, PA.  
 Her Godfather is **Andrew Hiller**, Pembroke, MA.

*Everly's Godmothers are Elizabeth Lawrey, Bethel, PA and Kaitlyn Roberts, Columbia, SC. Her Godfather is Shawn Lawrey, Bethel, PA.*

Congregation's Response: **With God's help, we will so order our lives after the example of Christ, that both children and parents are surrounded by steadfast love, that they may be established in the faith and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal.**

**SCRIPTURE**

**Luke 2: 22-40**

**Robb McCombe, Reader**

<sup>22</sup> When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), <sup>24</sup> and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

<sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup> Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law,

<sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

<sup>29</sup> "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;

<sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation,

<sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel."

<sup>33</sup> And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup> so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

<sup>36</sup> There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup> then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup> At that moment

she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

The Return to Nazareth

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

## **ACT OF PRAISE**

**Maxine Alstrom**

## **MESSAGE**

### **THE CHRISTMAS STORY CONTINUES...**

**Pastor Viv**

## **THE MORNING PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Pastor Karen**

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

## **GIVING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD**

Lord of Peace and Hope, we thankfully give ourselves and our gifts as an expression of all that you have given us. Especially your gift of the baby in the manger that first Christmas Eve. In His name, we pray. Amen.

## **HYMN #224**

### **"Good Christian Friends Rejoice!"**

1. Good Christian friends, rejoice,  
With heart and soul and voice;  
Give ye heed to what we say:  
Jesus Christ is born today;  
Ox and ass before Him bow;  
And He is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today!  
Christ is born today!

2. Good Christian friends, rejoice,  
With heart and soul and voice;  
Now ye hear of endless bliss:  
Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He has opened heaven's door,  
And we are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born for this!

3. Good Christian friends, rejoice,  
With heart and soul and voice;

**Now ye need not fear the grave:  
 Jesus Christ was born to save!  
 Calls you one and calls you all,  
 To gain His everlasting hall.  
 Christ was born to save!  
 Christ was born to save!**

### **BENEDICTION**

Loving God, now your servants may go in peace,  
 just as your word has promised;  
 for our own eyes have seen your salvation  
 made ready with everyone looking on,  
 a revealing light for outsiders,  
 and a glory for all your faithful people.

Grace mercy and peace,  
 from the Creator, Savior and Counsellor,  
will be with you now and ever more. **Amen!**

### **POSTLUDE**

## **VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **CALENDAR**

**Monday, December 29**

**NO ZOOM PRAYER GROUP**

**Monday, December 29-Sunday, January 3 PASTOR RENEWAL LEAVE**

Our Staff Parish Committee at Bishop John Schol's request has granted a two week covid-19 renewal leave to our pastor as he has asked all churches to do for their pastors. This will be from Monday, December 28 through Sunday, January 10. On Sundays, January 3 and 10, Bishop Schol, who will preach the message both Sundays, is providing complete worship services for all the churches to utilize. On January 3 he will be conducting communion during the service as well. We will be sharing the links for those services. During these two weeks you may still reach Pastor Viv by phone or text for emergencies or if you need pastoral care.