

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2022

ASH WEDNESDAY

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

Rev. Vivian L. Rodeffer, Pastor

Ms. Maxine Alstrom, Music Director



PRELUDE

“Sunday’s Palms Are Wednesday’s Ashes”

The Choir

GATHERING AND WELCOME

Pastor Viv

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

God's mercy endures forever.

HYMN TFWS #2128

“Come, And Find the Quiet Center”

1. Come and find the quiet centre in the crowded life we lead
Find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed
Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes that we can see
All the things that really matter, is at peace and simply be
2. Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace
God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, touches base
Making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun
Raising courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.
3. In the Spirit let us travel open to each other's pain
Let our lives and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain
There's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care
In the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare

A PRAYER FOR UKRAINE

Pastor Karen

MUSICAL RESPONSE “Ukrainian National Anthem”

We can support refugees through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Just mark your check with this notation. We will collect donations these next three weeks and disperse them to UMCOR.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Joan Olzewski, Reader

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain!

Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near—

2 a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness!

Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes;

their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come.....

12 Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart,

with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;13 rend your hearts and not your clothing.

Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful,

slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.

14 Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him,

a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord, your God?

15 Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly;

16 gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged;

gather the children, even infants at the breast.

Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy.

17 Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep.

Let them say, “Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a mockery,

a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples ‘Where is their God?’”

A GUIDED MEDITATION

Pastor Viv

SUNG RESPONSE #420 “Breathe on Me Breath of God”

Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew,

That I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do. [2X]

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF LENTEN DISCIPLINE

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, so that we may remember that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. Repent, and believe the gospel.

Music during Imposition of Ashes: #357 Just as I Am, Without One Plea; #355 Depth of Mercy; #402 Lord, I Want to Be a Christian; # 382 Have Thine Own Way, Lord; # 354 I Surrender All; 488 Jesus, Remember Me. Please come forward to receive ashes on your forehead or your hand. Receive the communion elements as you return to your seats.

CHOIR **“Bread of Life From Heaven”** **Argentine Melody/ Marty Haugen**

THE LORD’S SUPPER—*We will share together the bread and cup at the pastor’s invitation..*

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING COMMUNION

O God, maker of everything and judge of all that you have made, from the dust of the earth you have formed us and from the dust of death you would raise us up. By the redemptive power of the cross, create in us clean hearts and put within us a new spirit, that we may repent of our sins and lead lives worthy of your calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***HYMN #357** **“Just As I Am Without One Plea”**

**1. Just as I am, without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bid’st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!**

**2. Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt;
Fightings within, and fears without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

**3. Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

**4. Just as I am, Thy love unknown
Has broken every barrier down;
Now, to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

***BENEDICTION**

Go as those marked as God’s beloved.

Look at those you meet and remember each one is also God’s beloved.

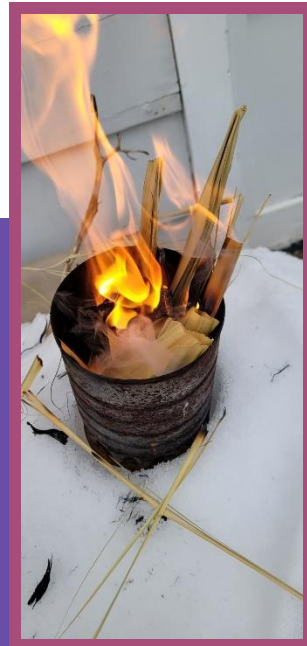
Go knowing your days on earth are numbered.

Make the most of each day you are given by showing kindness and fighting for justice.

Go to embark on this Lenten journey. Go where God sends you to do God’s work. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Please leave the church quietly in a meditative spirit
The Lenten Season begins. Go in peace!



TONIGHT'S USHER Tony Gazzillo
TONIGHT'S GREETER Jeannie Laureano