

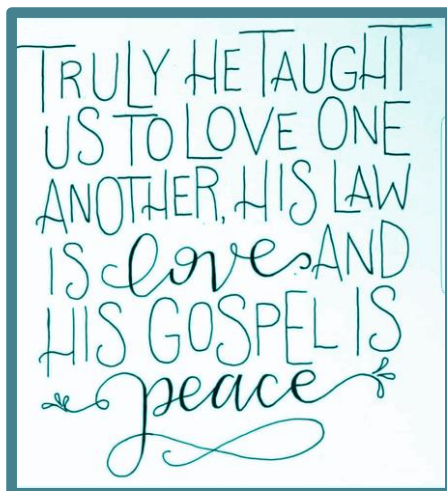
SUNDAY, January 8, 2023

1st Sunday After Epiphany

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

Rev. Vivian L. Rodeffer, Pastor

Ms. Maxine Alstrom, Music Director



WELCOME AND INVOCATION

Pastor Viv

Gracious God, You are ushering in another day, untouched and freshly new. So here we are to ask if You'll renew us too through this time of prayer and song and scripture. Amen.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

O God, you are our Creator and Redeemer.

You have called us, and we are here to listen.

You have sent us. We are ready and committed to give your message.

O God, send us where we should go.

O, Holy Spirit, open the hearts of those where you are sending us.

*HYMN #218

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

Joyce Francavilla, Song Leader

Robb McCombe, Guitar

1 It came upon a midnight clear

2 Still through the cloven skies they come

That glorious song of old

With peaceful wings unfurled

From angels bending near the earth

And still their heavenly music floats

To touch their harps of gold

O'er all the weary world

Peace on the earth, good will to all

Above its sad and lowly plains

From heaven's all gracious King

They bend on hovering wing

The world in solemn stillness lay

And ever o'er its Babel sounds

To hear the angels sing

The blessed angels sing

3 All 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
 And hear the angels sing

UNISON PRAYER

Almighty God, we are here today to obey your command to go and share your message. Give us wisdom and courage. Above all, empower us with your Holy Spirit for our labor. O God, open the spirits of those to whom you are sending us to give your message of redemption. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Mark 8: 27-38

27 Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi, and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" 28 And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." 29 He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." 30 And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

31 Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes and be killed and after three days rise again. 32 He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33 But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

34 He called the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 35 For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. 36 For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? 37 Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? 38 Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

MESSAGE

Are You Sure You're Up for This?

DEDICATION OF OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious God, you have given us so much. Here we share that abundance with your world in need. May these gifts –the ones on the plate and the

many other gifts of love we share everyday –be a visible sign of what we believe and why our faith matters. We give them in Jesus’ name. Amen.

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
 Praise God all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Praise God the source of all our gifts!
 Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts!
 Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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.

***HYMN TFWS #2130** “The Summons”

1 Will you come and follow me
 If I but call your name?
 Will you go where you don't know
 And never be the same?
 Will you let my love be shown,
 Will you let my name be known,
 Will you let my life be grown
 In you and you in me?

2 Will you leave yourself behind
 If I but call your name?
 Will you care for cruel and kind
 And never be the same?
 Will you risk the hostile stare
 Should your life attract or scare?
 Will you let me answer prayer
 In you and you in me?

3 Will you love the 'you' you hide
 If I but call your name?
 Will you quell the fear inside
 And never be the same?

**Will you use the faith you've found
To reshape the world around,
Through my sight and touch and sound
In you and you in me?**

**4 Lord, your summons echoes true
When you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
And never be the same.
In your company I'll go
Where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
In you and you in me.**

***BENEDICTION**

Learn from Christ, trust him, delight in him, give your whole daily affairs to him, and you will never walk alone or serve without that special happiness which cannot be taken from you. **Amen!**

The peace of God which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge of God and of his true Son, Christ Jesus our Lord; And the blessing of the fullness of God, Father, Son and Holy, Spirit, will be with you today and ever more. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

***Stand as Able**

Altar Flowers are given today **to the glory of God** and in loving memory of my beloved father, **John Rotter** by Louise Woodcox.

CALENDAR

Monday, January 9	10:00 AM Prayer/Discussion Group 6:30 PM Dist. Comm. on Ministry No NOW Meeting this evening
Sunday, January 15	10:00 AM Worship
Monday, January 16	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day OFFICE CLOSED No Prayer/ Discussion Group

Pastor Viv will be away Tuesday, January 10th through Saturday, January 14. In case of pastoral emergency, please call Rev. Donald Kirschner, 973-771-9511.

Church envelopes are on the way. Stay tuned!