

SUNDAY, January 15, 2023

2nd Sunday After Epiphany

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

Rev. Vivian L. Rodeffer, Pastor

Ms. Maxine Alstrom, Music Director



PRELUDE

WELCOME AND INVOCATION

Pastor Viv

Almighty God, we are here today to learn to obey your command to go and share your message. Give us wisdom and courage. Above all, empower us with your Holy Spirit so that we might live out our beliefs in our lives. Amen.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Open your hearts to God's love today.

In the midst of winter darkness, we seek the brightness of God's love.

Don't be afraid. God is with you.

With the Lord's help, we can overcome the darkness.

The Lord is your light and your salvation.

Though everything around us is disturbing, God's love is constant. Thanks be to God.

***HYMN #451**

"Be Thou My Vision"

**1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

**2 Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word;
I ever with thee, and thou with me, Lord.
Born of thy love, thy child may I be,
thou in me dwelling and I one with thee.**

**3 Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise;
thou mine inheritance, now and always.**

**Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
Ruler of heaven, my treasure thou art.**

**4 True Light of heaven, when vict'ry is won
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!
Heart of my heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

There is a certain winter in our spirits today, O Lord. We feel that the journey on which we have embarked will demand too much of us. There are so many other things in our lives which claim our spirits, our energy, our hopes and fears. It is easy to be like Jerusalem, turning our backs on those whom you send. Forgive us for the many times in which we have strayed from your pathway of life; when we have chosen not to hear the cries of those in need; when we have belittled the gifts and skills you have given us in order to avoid serving others. Heal us, O Lord. Place us back on your path to Jerusalem.

Time for silent meditation.

When God called your name, God called you to a journey of faith. Do not be afraid to look inside to see those things which are holding you back from being whom God created you to be. Place your trust in God who is always with you, loving you into wholeness.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 13: 31-35

The Lament over Jerusalem

31 At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." 32 He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. 33 Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' 34 Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were

not willing! 35 See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

FRESH START MESSAGE #2

UNDER THE WINGS

Pastor Viv

DEDICATION OF OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

As we offer our treasure and hearts to you, O God, may they be used to pass on the promise of hope, of peace, of life, of community to all in need of your gifts and presence in their lives. 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 #2129**

"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

**1 I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
No turning back, no turning back.**

**2 Tho' none go with me, I still will follow,
Tho' none go with me I still will follow,**

**Tho' none go with me, I still will follow;
No turning back, no turning back.**

**3 The world behind me, the cross before me,
The world behind me, the cross before me;
The world behind me, the cross before me;
No turning back, no turning back.**

***BENEDICTION**

Be strong in the Lord. You can walk in God's ways, for God is with you, offering you peace, hope, courage, and joy. God's love abides with you always. Go in peace. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

***Stand as Able**

Altar Flowers this Sunday are given to the glory of God and for **Myrtle & John Connell** as they celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary by their daughter, Natalie Conklin and her family.

CALENDAR

Monday, January 16

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
OFFICE CLOSED
No Prayer/ Discussion Group**