

SUNDAY, January 29, 2023

4th 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

Gracious God, Today, let us not keep Your blessings to ourselves. Let us say yes to Your Fresh Start and give what we can to make our community a more loving and just place. Amen.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

O God, teach us and empower us to be courageous when we share your message -the same way Jesus was and did.

**Send us to those who are rejected and to those who are in need -
to know there is hope of love and acceptance by God and by us.**

God, empower us to embrace and love the rejected, those in need, those who have hurt us, and the oppressed.

God, anoint us to go into the highways of the world to share your message of hope.

*HYMN #400

“Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing”

1 Come thou fount of every blessing

Tune my heart to sing thy grace
 Streams of mercy never ceasing
 Call for songs of loudest praise
 Teach me some melodious sonnet
 Sung by flaming tongues above
 I'll praise the mount I'm fixed upon it
 Mount of thy redeeming love

2 Here I raise my Ebenezer
 Hither by thy help I come
 And I hope by thy good pleasure
 Safely to arrive at home
 Jesus sought me when a stranger
 Wondering from the fold of God
 He, to rescue me from danger
 Interposed His precious blood

3 O to grace how great a debtor
 daily I'm constrained to be!
 Let thy goodness like a fetter,
 bind my wandering heart to thee
 Prone to wander Lord I feel it,
 prone to leave the God I love
 Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
 seal it for thy courts above

UNISON PRAYER

Almighty God, we confess we have fallen short of our call to go into the world and share your message. We have kept your word inside our temples and homes instead of taking it out to those who are oppressed and to those who are oppressors. We have not consoled the grieving. We have not supported those who are suffering. Help us, O Jesus, to regain our commitment to your share your message the way you did. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 19: 1-10

Joan Olszewski, Reader

[Jesus] entered Jericho and was passing through it. 2 A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. 3 He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that

way. 5 When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.” 6 So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. 7 All who saw it began to grumble and said, “He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner.” 8 Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, “Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.” 9 Then Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.”

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

SPECIAL MUSIC **“God Help The Outcasts” [see insert]**

FRESH START MESSAGE #4 **“An Invitation to Include”**

A fresh start requires being open to Jesus’ invitation to us as well as to those who are not valued in our community – the outcasts or the marginalized.

DEDICATION OF OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Jesus, you came to seek out and save the lost. We thank you for seeking us out and saving us. Help us use these resources to seek out others, that we might share the love with them that you have shared with us. Help us to remember that your love does not see the same lines and divisions that we do. Rather, it breaks down barriers, making a way for reconciliation. 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 #575*“Onward Christian Soldiers”**

**1 Onward, Christian soldiers! Marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus going on before.
Christ, the royal Master, leads against the foe;
Forward into battle, see his banners go! [Chorus]
Onward, Christian soldiers! Marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus going on before.**

**2 At the sign of triumph Satan’s host doth flee;
On, then, Christian soldiers, on to victory.
Hell’s foundations quiver at the shout of praise;
Good folks, lift your voices, loud your anthems raise. [Chorus]**

**3 Like a mighty army moves the Church of God;
Brothers, we are treading where the Saints have trod.
We are not divided; all one body we:
One in hope and doctrine, one in charity.**

***BENEDICTION**

*You can heal, Christ has touched you. You can love, Christ has sought you.
You can give yourself away. Christ has called you. You can break the barriers
from which others suffer. Christ has visited your house. Christ is in you and
around you. Christ will set you free. Amen.*

POSTLUDE***Stand as able.****CALENDAR**

Monday, January 30	10:00 AM Prayer/ Discussion Group
Tuesday, January 31	6:30 PM All GNJUMC Boards Mtg.
Sunday, February 5	10:00 AM Worship and Communion 11:00 AM Souper Bowl and Bake Sale 2:00 PM Ken Bechtold Memorial Service Sparta UMC and Facebook Live

“God Help the Outcasts”

Music by Alan Menken, Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz

I don't know if you can hear me, or if you're even there.
I don't know if you will listen to a humble prayer.
They tell me I am just an outcast, I shouldn't speak to you...
Still I see your face, and wonder, were you once an outcast too?

God help the outcasts, hungry from birth.
Show them the mercy they don't find on Earth.
The lost and forgotten, they look to you still.
God help the outcasts, or nobody will.

I ask for nothing, I can get by.
But I know so many less lucky than I.
God help the outcasts, the poor and downtrod.
I thought we all were the children of God.

I don't know if there's a reason;
why some are blessed, some not.
Why the few you seem to favor --
they fear us, flee us, try not to see us.

God help the outcasts, the tattered, the torn.
Seeking an answer to why they were born.
Winds of misfortune have blown them about.
You made the outcasts, don't cast them out.

The poor and unlucky, the weak and the odd.
I thought we all were the children of God.