

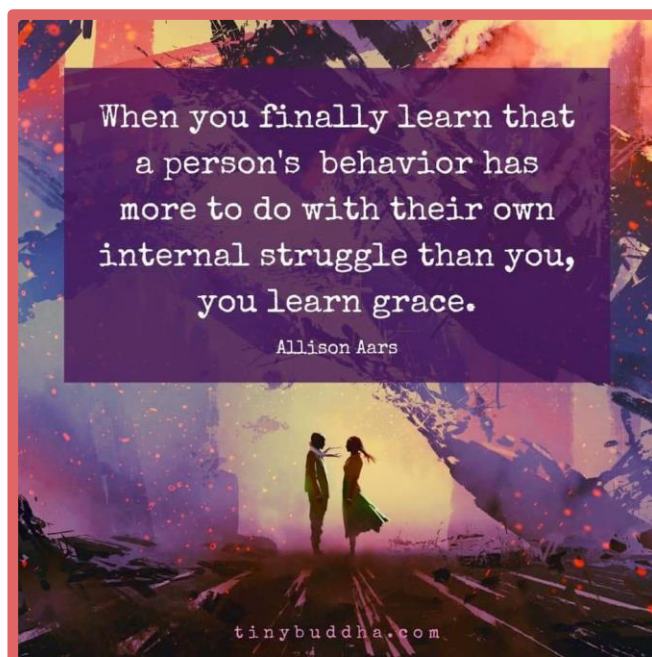
SUNDAY, February 12, 2023

6th 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, as we worship this morning may each of us walk in the light of Your ways, that our hearts may be vessels of Your love. Amen.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

From Psalm 119

Happy are those who walk in God's ways.

Blessed are those who observe God's commandments.

Faithful are those whose eyes are fixed on righteousness.

Joyful are those whose hearts are filled with praise.

Come, let us love the Lord our God.

We come to worship the One who leads us in the ways of life.

*HYMN #601

"Thy Word Is a Lamp"

**Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path**

**1 When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way
Still you're there right beside me**

**And nothing will I fear as long as you are near
Please be near me to the end**

**Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path**

**2 I will not forget your love for me and yet
My heart forever is wandering
Jesus be my guide and hold me to your side
I will love you to the end**

**Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, you call us into community, teach us your ways, and bless us with abundant life. Yet we turn aside to follow other paths: we take the easy way out, listening to the world's call rather than your call to commitment; we quarrel with one another, letting differences divide us; we cherish our resentments, shutting off our hearts from forgiveness and reconciliation; we cling to petty jealousies, feeling we deserve more than we have. Forgive us when we wander from your love.

A time for silent reflection.

God is at work, nurturing our growth and showing us the ways that lead to life.
God is at work, reconciling us to one another and teaching us the paths of love.
God is at work, hearing our confessions, forgiving our disobedience,
and blessing us in love.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

SCRIPTURE

I Corinthians 3: 1-9

And so, brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people but rather as fleshly, as infants in Christ. 2 I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, 3 for you are still fleshly. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not fleshly and behaving according to human inclinations? 4 For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not all too human?

5 What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. 6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. 7 So

neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. 8 The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and each will receive wages according to their own labor. 9 For we are God's coworkers, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

MESSAGE

What's Next??

"So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth" 1 Cor. 3:7

DEDICATION OF OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

For the wondrous gift of life, we are thankful, O God. Your generous outpouring of grace reminds us of the fruitful life we are called to bear. May these gifts of time and labor, therefore, embody our desire to share and contribute to your coming reign among us. 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 # 2241 "The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve"**

**1 The Spirit sends us forth to serve;
We go in Jesus' name
To bring glad tidings to the poor,
God's favor to proclaim.**

2 We go to comfort those who mourn
 And set the burdened free;
 Where hope is dim, to share a dream
 And help the blind to see.

3 We go to be the hands of Christ,
 To scatter joy like seed
 And, all our days, to cherish life,
 To do the loving deed.

4 Then let us go to serve in peace,
 The gospel to proclaim.
 God's Spirit has empowered us;
 We go in Jesus' name.

***BENEDICTION**

Romans 15: 13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

***Stand as able.**

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR this morning are given to the glory of God and in honor of St. Valentine's Day by Joan Coleman. Everyone here this morning is invited to take a rose after the service to remind you of God's love for you!

CALENDAR

Monday, February 13

**10:00 AM Prayer/ Discussion Group
 7:00 PM Finance and Trustees**

MESSY MARDI GRAS-Tuesday, February 21 at 5:30 PM. Join in an evening of pancakes, games for all ages, a Lenten message, burning of the palms, and the imposition of ashes before you go home!

ASH WEDNESDAY-Wednesday, February 22 at 7:00 PM. A Service of Communion and Ashes.