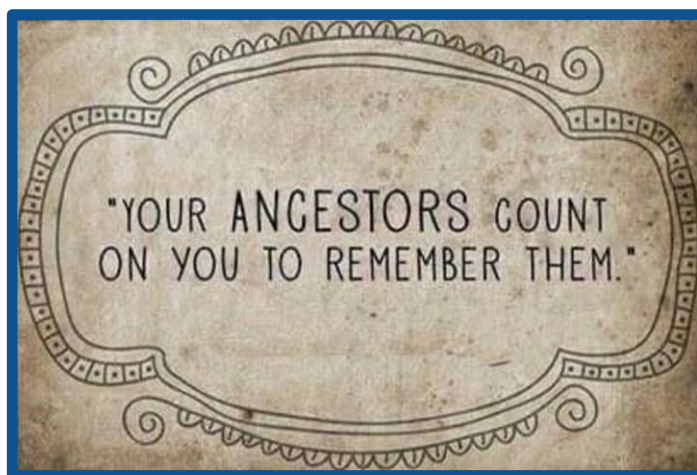


SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2023
Caldwell United Methodist Church, 8 Academy Road, Caldwell, N. J. 07006
Rev. Vivian L. Rodeffer, Pastor

TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY
Ms. Maxine Alstrom, Music Director



WELCOME AND INVOCATION

Pastor Viv

Lord, at Jesus' baptism You reminded us that he is your beloved Son with whom you are well pleased. Again today we hear this same invitation to listen to him. Open our hearts to hear the words of Jesus, to follow in his footsteps, and to serve You. For we ask this in Christ's Name. Amen.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Lord, you have called us to the mountaintop.
Help us to look forward to where you would have us go.
 Help us to listen carefully to the words of your healing love.
Open our hearts and spirits to receive your glorious directions.
 Place your trust in the Lord in all your ways.
Lord, we have come here to give our lives to you.

***HYMN #173**

"Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies"

**1 Christ, whose glory fills the skies
 Christ, the true, the only Light,
 Sun of Righteousness, arise,
 Triumph o'er the shades of night;
 Dayspring from on high, be near,
 Daystar, in my heart appear.**

**2 Dark and cheerless is the morn
 Unaccompanied by Thee;
 Joyless is the day's return,
 Till Thy mercy's beams I see,
 Till Thou inward light impart,
 Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.**

**3 Visit then this soul of mine,
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
Fill me, Radiancy divine,
Scatter all my unbelief;
More and more Thyself display,
Shining to the perfect day.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We confess to you and to one another the many ways we fail to live the lives you want for us. We make ourselves busy with many things, and neglect to listen to your voice. All too often we see the worst in the world around us, and look past your signs of hope. We are quick to voice our dissent with one another, and refuse to see your face in the persons with whom we disagree. We focus on our own hurts, anger, and disappointments, and close our hearts to your transforming grace.

O Holy Light of the world, forgive us. Open our eyes to your endless possibilities, Give us courage to listen for your call to us, Take our hearts of stone, and make them new again with your holy love.

Time for silent confession

Do not be afraid. God's light has come into the world and has scattered the darkness; the morning star rises in our hearts. Rejoice! For God does not hold our sins against us, but embraces us as God's own beloved. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 17: 1-9

Robb McCombe, Reader

1 Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. 2 And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light. 3 Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. 4 Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." 5 While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" 6 When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. 7 But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." 8 And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

9 As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

THE MESSAGE THROUGH JESUS' EYES: SEEING THE ANCESTORS

"Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him." v.30

DEDICATION OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Gracious God, upon this bright mountain you bless us with your presence and shower us with the gift of your grace. May this money be used to reflect that bright grace in a world in desperate need of it. 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!

THE 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.

***HYMN TFWS #2102 "Swiftly Pass the Clouds of Glory"**

1 Swiftly pass the clouds of glory,
 Heaven's voice, the dazzling light;
 Moses and Elijah vanish;
 Christ alone commands the height!
 Peter, James, and John fall silent,
 Turning from the summit's rise
 Downward toward the shadowed valley
 Where their Lord has fixed His eyes.

2 Glimpsed and gone the revelation,
 They shall gain and keep its truth,
 Not by building on the mountain
 Any shrine or sacred booth,
 But by following the Savior
 Through the valley to the cross
 And by testing faith's resilience
 Through betrayal, pain, and loss.

**3 Lord, transfigure our perception
With the purest light that shines,
And recast our life's intentions
To the shape of Your designs,
Till we seek no other glory
Than what lies past Calv'ry's hill
And our living and our dying
And our rising by Your will.**

***BENEDICTION**

May God shine the light of glory into your hearts.
May Christ be with you and never leave you.
And may the Spirit renew the image of God within you.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Amen.**

CALENDAR

Monday, February 20

**PRESIDENTS' DAY Office Closed
NO Prayer/ Discussion Group**

Tuesday, February 21

5:30 PM Messy Mardi Gras

Wednesday, February 22

**ASH WEDNESDAY
7:00 PM In Person and Zoom Worship**

Sunday, February 26

SCOUT SUNDAY

SEARCHING FOR READERS: Ash Wednesday, February 26, March 5, March 12, March 19. Let the pastor or the office know of your availability. Thank you!

LENTEN ZOOM STUDY "Toward The Cross" BEGINS TUESDAY February 28 at 7:00 PM. Books are now available on the lobby table [cost \$14]. Join us every Tuesday for during Lent for music, prayer and discussion on the chapter of the week. You can also obtain the book to study on your own. Jesus told his followers to count the cost. The readings help us do that by developing a disciple's perspective on ourselves, others and things.

SUPER BOWL FOOD COLLECTION. Last Sunday we joined with Methodist churches throughout the Greater New Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania Conferences and collected **74,044 pounds of food!** Thanks to all who contributed! Special thanks to Adrian and Tracy Voca who transported our collection of 199 pounds to the Caldwell Food Pantry.