

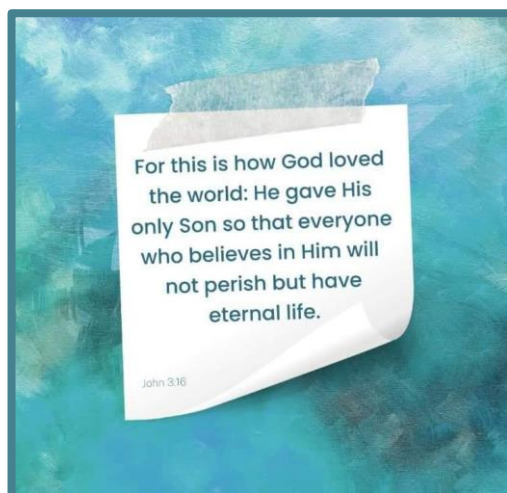
SUNDAY, March 5, 2023

2nd Sunday in Lent

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

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

### Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come?

**My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**

He will not let your foot be moves; he who keeps you will not slumber.

**He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep...**

The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

**The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in  
from this time on and forever more.**

### \*HYMN #126

### “Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above”

1. Sing praise to God who reigns above,  
the God of all creation,  
the God of power, the God of love,  
the God of our salvation.  
With healing balm my soul is filled  
and every faithless murmur stilled:  
To God all praise and glory.

2. The Lord is never far away,  
 but through all grief distressing,  
 an ever present help and stay,  
 our peace and joy and blessing.  
 As with a mother's tender hand,  
 God gently leads the chosen band:  
 To God all praise and glory.

3. Thus all my toilsome way along,  
 I sing aloud thy praises,  
 that earth may hear the grateful song  
 my voice unwearied raises.  
 Be joyful in the Lord, my heart,  
 both soul and body bear your part:  
 To God all praise and glory.

4. Let all who name Christ's holy name  
 give God all praise and glory;  
 let all who own his power proclaim  
 aloud the wondrous story!  
 Cast each false idol from its throne,  
 for Christ is Lord, and Christ alone:  
 To God all praise and glory.

**MISSION MOMENT**

**Stewardship**

**Ken Ingra, Finance Chair**

**STEWARDSHIP COLLECT**

**Thomas Merton (1915-1968)**

Almighty God, we thank you for all the gifts You have given us: our lives, our loved ones, all that we have and all that we are. Most of all, we thank You for Jesus, your Son and our Redeemer, who came among us to show us the way to eternal life. Jesus was the perfect steward of your gifts, showing that complete trust in You is necessary, and that giving of self is a most important part of following Him. May the offerings of our time, our talents, and our material resources be made in the same spirit of sacrifice that Jesus taught us by His life and death for us. Amen

**SCRIPTURE**

**John 3: 1-9, 16-17**

**Pastor Viv**

3 Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. 2 He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come

from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” 3 Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” 4 Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” 5 Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. 6 What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ 8 The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” 9 Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?”

16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. 17 “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.

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

### **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. Amen.**

#### **CHOIR**

#### **“It is Well With My Soul”**

based on Ville du Havre, by Phillip P. Bliss, setting by John Ness Beck

#### **THE MESSAGE**

**Ken Ingra**

### **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!

## THE LORD'S SUPPER

Sharing the Bread and Cup

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### \*HYMN #389

### "Freely, Freely"

1 God Forgave My Sin In Jesus' Name  
 I've Been Born Again In Jesus' Name  
 And In Jesus' Name I Come To You  
 To Share His Love As He Told Me To  
 He Said: 'Freely, Freely,  
 You Have Received Freely, Freely Give  
 Go In My Name, And Because You Believe  
 Others Will Know That I Live.'

2 All Power Is Given In Jesus' Name  
 In Earth And Heaven In Jesus' Name  
 And In Jesus' Name I Come To You  
 To Share His Power As He Told Me To  
 He Said: 'Freely, Freely, You Have  
 Received Freely, Freely Give  
 Go In My Name, And Because You Believe  
 Others Will Know That I Live.'

### \*BENEDICTION

Loving Creator and Giver of all good gifts, bless our parish, strengthen our faith and grant us the spirit of Christian stewardship so that we may give generously of our time, talent and treasure to spread Your kingdom here in our church and throughout the world. Amen.

### \* POSTLUDE

\*Stand as able.

### CALENDAR

Monday, March 6

10:00 AM

Prayer/Discussion Group

Tuesday, March 7

7:00 PM

Lenten Devotion on Zoom

Sunday, March 12

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS (Spring Ahead!)