

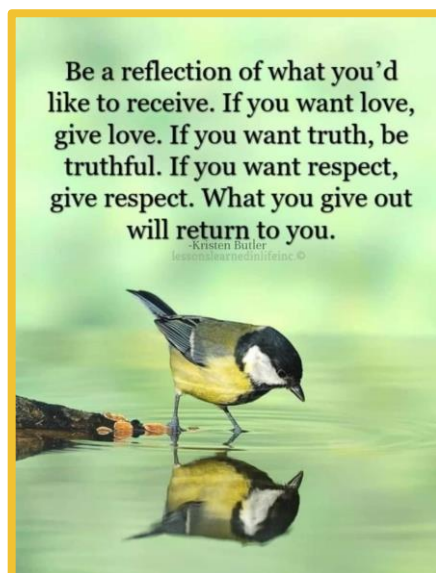
SUNDAY, March 26, 2023

5th 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

"Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole. Let inward love guide every deed; by this we worship and are freed." Amen. UMH # 408

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

God tells us to forgive others.

We wonder—why should we? Forgiveness is hard to extend when we are hurting.

Teach us, O God, how to forgive and to trust again.

May we be open to the lessons of giving and receiving forgiveness.

***HYMN #181**

"Ye Servants of God"

**1 You servants of God, your Master proclaim,
and publish abroad his wonderful name;
the name all-victorious of Jesus extol;
his kingdom is glorious and rules over all.**

**2 God rules in the height, almighty to save;
though hid from our sight, his presence we have;
the great congregation his triumph shall sing,
ascribing salvation to Jesus our King.**

**3 "Salvation to God, who sits on the throne!"
let all cry aloud, and honor the Son;
the praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,
fall down on their faces and worship the Lamb.**

**4 Then let us adore and give him his right:
all glory and power, all wisdom and might,
all honor and blessing with angels above
and thanks never ceasing for infinite love.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, Forgive us for not following the example Jesus sets, for we confess that we do not always seek your will to be done in our lives. Instead of graciously receiving our daily bread from you, we take more than we need at the expense of our neighbors. And we do not freely pass on the gift of forgiveness, holding onto our anger and bitterness. Free us from our prisons of hate, O Lord. Help us to truly be Jesus' disciples, learning his way of peace and reconciliation which leads us into life.

A time for silent confession.

Just as we are taught to pray for our daily bread, God's offer of forgiveness is a gift that is available to us every day and each moment. May we receive this gracious gift that is extended to us through Jesus Christ, so that we may share it freely with the world.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 6:9-15

Christie Pavlishin, Reader

9 "Pray, then, in this way:

Our Father in heaven, may your name be revered as holy.

10 May your kingdom come. May your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

11 Give us today our daily bread.

12 And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

13 And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one."

14 For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you,

15 but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

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

CHOIR

"O Lamb of God"

Dean B. McIntyre

MESSAGE

HOW AND WHY DO WE FORGIVE?

DEDICATION OF OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Lord, in the prayer you taught us, we ask for forgiveness, and we also pledge to forgive. We ask for your will to be done here on earth, in our lives and in us. May our gifts today also be our pledge to do your will with all that we have and are. In Jesus' holy name we pray. 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 #121*"There's A Wideness in God's Mercy"**

1 There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea.
 There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.

2 There is welcome for the sinner, and more graces for the good.
 There is mercy with the Savior, there is healing in his blood.

3 But we make God's love too narrow by false limits of our own,
 and we magnify its strictness with a zeal God will not own.

4 For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind,
 and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.

5 If our love were but more simple, we should rest upon God's word, and our lives would be illumined by the presence of our Lord.

***BENEDICTION**

*May the Lord our God make us into a community that is built upon love, forgiveness, and obedience. May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.
May the Lord lift up His countenance to you and give you peace. Amen.*

POSTLUDE

***Stand as able.**

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR this morning are given by Donald & Stephanie DeBruyne to the glory of God and in memory of Stephanie's father, Joseph Burger.

CALENDAR

Monday, March 27	10:00 AM Prayer/ Discussion Group
Tuesday, March 28	7:00 PM Lenten Zoom Devotions
Saturday, April 1	11:00 AM Palm Preparation
Sunday, April 2	10:00 AM PALM SUNDAY

TUESDAY EVENING LENTEN DEVOTIONS.

This week's special guest presenter is Rev. Phil Covert, a true son of this church, who grew up in our church. If you are following along in our study book, Toward the Cross: Heart-Shaping Lessons for Lent, read the meditations on "A Purposeful Heart", though you need not be reading the book to participate in the devotion. The zoom invitation is the same as the one you use for Sunday's church service. An email will be sent to you on Monday morning.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES. **Readers** are needed for Palm Sunday, and April 9. **"Strippers"** are needed this coming Saturday morning in the church kitchen at 11 AM to prepare the palms. *(Thought this would get your attention!)* **Communion Steward** is needed for Palm Sunday and for Holy Thursday. We have the prefilled cups. They need to be set out and empties removed.

HANOVER MANOR Reminder – "Get Together Luncheon" at Hanover Manor April 4th 11am – 3pm! Anyone still interested in attending must have their payment in by this Sunday.

FISH N CHIPS the Fish & Chips Dinner is being held on Sunday, April 30th from 5 to 7pm. This year we again offer dine in as well as curbside pickup. Ticket prices are \$20 for adults and \$14 for children 10 and under and must be prepaid by April 23rd. Pay on the church website caldwellchurch.org or call 973-226-4410.