

SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2023

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

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, We yearn for a new way, a new perspective, and a clear path. Though we are full of trust and full of doubt, we are here. Speak to us, God! Continue creating us! Inspire our hearts. Enlighten our minds. Guide our actions. Amen.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

We gather together in a time of uncertainty and doubts.

Help us, God, to ask our questions and to open our hearts.

Even though we are stubborn and lost, we are searching.

Hear our prayers and help our unbelief.

May your grace shine on us and open our eyes.

***HYMN #145**

“Morning Has Broken”

**1 Morning has broken like the first morning
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning
Praise for them springing fresh from the world**

2 Sweet the rains new fall, sunlit from Heaven

**Like the first dewfall on the first grass
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden
Sprung in completeness where His feet pass**

**3 Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning
Born of the one light, Eden saw play
Praise with elation, praise every morning
God's recreation of the new day**

**4 Morning has broken like the first morning
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning
Praise for them springing fresh from the world**

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

God of love and compassion, there are times when we doubt that situations will improve in the world or in our personal lives. Help us, Lord, to be patient for your work to be done in us and around us. Let us witness your power, compassion, and faithfulness in ways we have not known before. Deepen our faith so that your light will grow in us as witnesses in the world. We thank you for your mercy and grace. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

John 20: 24-28

Joan Olszewski, Reader

24 But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. **25** So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

26 A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." **27** Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." **28** Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

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

CHOIR

“Song of Witness”

Donna Butler Douglas

Based on a text by St. Teresa of Avilla, 16th cent

THE MESSAGE FROM DOUBTING THOMAS TO TRUSTING THOMAS

DEDICATION OF OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

As we give you our offerings, help us, God, to remember those less fortunate. Like Thomas, help us see through our doubts and use our gifts as a token of grace, reaching out to help those in need. 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 & 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 #454**

“Open My Eyes”

1 Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;
Place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free.

REFRAIN

**Silently now I wait for Thee, Ready my God, Thy will to see,
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!**

**2 Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth Thou sendest clear;
And while the wave notes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear.
REFRAIN**

**3 Open my mouth, and let me bear, gladly the warm truth everywhere;
Open my heart and let me prepare love with Thy children thus to share.
REFRAIN**

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

***Stand as able.**

**Altar Flowers are given this morning by Joyce & Sal Francavilla to the glory of
God and in loving memory of our dear son Todd Francavilla.**

CALENDAR

Monday, April 24

10 AM

Zoom Prayer/Discussion Group

“HEADS UP” FOR MAY MEETINGS

Monday, May 1

7PM

Zoom NOW Meeting

Monday, May 8

7 and 8 PM

Zoom Finance and Trustees Meetings

Monday, May 15

7 PM

Zoom Council Meeting

FISH ‘N CHIPS TAKEOUT DINNER Purchase your tickets NOW on the church website,
caldwellchurch.org, for Sunday, April 30..