

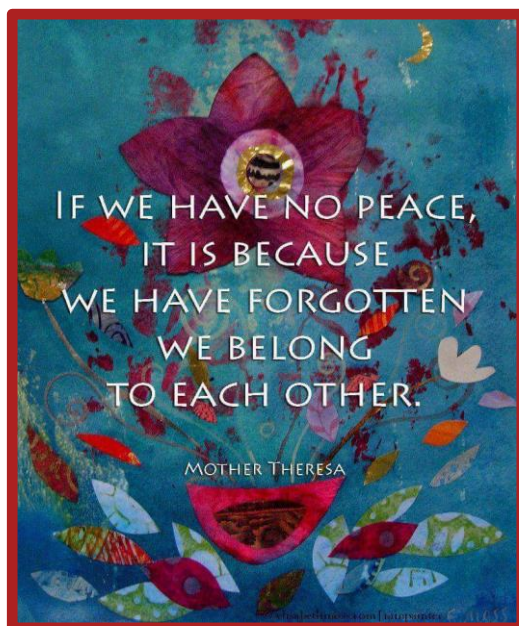
SUNDAY, MAY 7, 2023

FIFTH 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

*"Lord, We pray not for tranquility, nor that our tribulations may cease; we pray for thy spirit and thy love, that thou grant us strength and grace to overcome adversity; through Jesus Christ. **Amen**"*

Girolamo Savonarola, Italy 15th Century

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

We come today seeking teaching about peacemaking during conflict.

Help us to address our fears and listen to each other.

We pray for resolving disagreements and opening ourselves to see both sides.

Help us to bring about change and welcome new ideas.

God, grant us peace in always seeking and finding unity which will strengthen us.

***HYMN #384**

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

**1 Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heav'n, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.**

Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art.

Visit us with thy salvation; enter ev'ry trembling heart.

2 Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into ev'ry troubled breast.

Let us all in thee inherit, let us find the promised rest.

**Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be.
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.**

**3 Finish, then, thy new creation; true and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee.
Changed from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love and praise.**

PRAYER

Lord of all, we long for unity and peace in our communities, in your houses of worship and among our neighbors. Help us to let go of fears and live in your grace for your perfect love casts out fear. Remind us Holy One of the power within us to be gentle, have patience, be open, and to be understanding and forgiving. Let Your word and Your love prevail. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Acts 15: 1-11

Jeannie Laureano, Reader

The Council at Jerusalem

15 Then certain individuals came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." 2 And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to discuss this question with the apostles and the elders. 3 So they were sent on their way by the church, and as they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, they reported the conversion of the gentiles and brought great joy to all the brothers and sisters.

the human heart, testified to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us, 9 and in cleansing their hearts by faith he has made no distinction between them and us. 10 Now, therefore, why are you putting God to the test by placing on the neck of the disciples a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear? 11 On the contrary, we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will." 4 When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them. 5 But some believers who belonged to the sect of the Pharisees stood up and said, "It is necessary for them to be circumcised and ordered to keep the law of Moses."

6 The apostles and the elders met together to consider this matter. 7 After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, “My brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that I should be the one through whom the gentiles would hear the message of the good news and become believers. 8 And God, who knows

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

THE CHOIR Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

Fred Kaan, Arr. by John Leavitt Tune-Jamaican Folk Song adapted by Doreen Potter

THE MESSAGE Dissention & Debate or Grace & Gratitude?

DEDICATION OF OURSELVES AND OUR OFFERINGS TO THE LORD

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Gracious God, as we offer our gifts, help us to remember the many blessings we have received from your love and how we can share them with others. Let us praise God with our service, our financial gifts, and our love. 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. Amen.

***HYMN #640 “Take Our Bread”**

Refrain

Take our bread,

We ask You, take our hearts,
 We love You, take our lives,
 Oh Father, we are Yours,
 We are Yours.

1 Yours as we stand at the table we set,
 Yours as we eat the bread our hearts can't forget.
 We are the sign of Your life with us yet,
 We are Yours,
 We are Yours..
 Refrain

2 Your holy people stand washed in Your blood,
 Spirit filled, yet hungry, we await Your food.
 Poor though we are, we have brought ourselves to You,
 We are Yours,
 We are Yours....
 Refrain

THE LORD'S SUPPER

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING 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.

DEDICATION OF A PAINTING

We will adjourn to the hallway.

Dedicated May 2023 Caldwell United Methodist Church

"My Place Series: Sunny Faces" Louise Woodcox, Artist

"The heavens declare the glory of God;

the skies proclaim the work of His hands." Psalm 19:1

*BENEDICTION

***Stand as able.**

The Altar Flowers today are given by Louise Woodcox to the **glory of God** and in loving memory to her dear father, **John Rotter**.

CALENDAR

Monday, May 8

10 AM Zoom Prayer/Discussion Group

7 PM Finance and Trustees Meeting