

SUNDAY, MAY 14, 2023

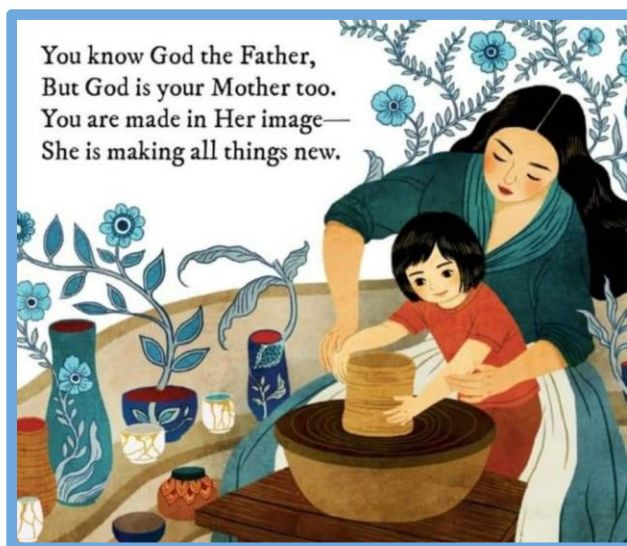
MOTHERS DAY

SIXTH 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 give you thanks for the gift of mothers and for the mother-like nurture that many people show to others in their lives. Amen.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah wrote that God is a mother to us, comforting and carrying us in her arms:

"As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you...." (Isa. 66:13)

Loving Lord, thank you for your tender care.

Isaiah also wrote that God would never ever forget us.

The Divine knows each of us, like a mother knows her own children:

"Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion

on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you!" (Isa. 49:15)

Loving Lord, thank you for your tender care.

David wrote that in God's presence, he was quiet and at peace,

Trusting his mother God like a child safe in loving arms:

"But I have stilled and quieted my soul; like a weaned child with its mother,

like a weaned child is my soul within me." (Ps. 131:2)

Loving Lord, thank you for your tender care.

Jesus spoke of himself as a mother, longing to wrap his arms around us,
like a mother hen gathers her chicks under her wings:

*“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem...how often I have longed to gather your children together,
as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing.” (Matt. 23:37)*

Loving Lord, thank you for your tender care.

Paul writes about his missionary ministry and likens his work to that of a nurse who
looks after those in her care: *“...but we were gentle among you,
like a mother caring for her little children.” (1 Thess. 2:7)*

Loving Lord, thank you for your tender care.

***HYMN #163 “Ask Ye What Great Thing I Know”**

**1 Ask ye what great thing I know
that delights and stirs me so?
What the high reward I win?
Whose the name I glory in?
Jesus Christ, the Crucified.**

**3 Who is life in life to me?
Who the death of death will be?
Who will place me on His right
with the countless hosts of light?
Jesus Christ, the Crucified.**

**2 Who defeats my fiercest foes?
Who consoles my saddest woes?
Who revives my waiting heart,
healing all its hidden smart?
Jesus Christ, the Crucified.**

**4 This is that great thing I know;
this delights and stirs me so:
faith in Him who died to save,
Him who triumphed o'er the grave,
Jesus Christ, the Crucified.**

SCRIPTURE

Psalms 23

Jayvyn Matthew, Reader

1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

**2 He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;**

3 he restores my soul.

**He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.**

**4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.**

**5 You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.**

**6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.**

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

ANTHEM Two Hymn Medley Celebrating Love

MESSAGE LOVE LETTERS

"...And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long." Psalm 23: 6b

RECEIVING THE MORNING'S OFFERINGS

***DEDICATION**

**Good Shepherd, you keep us safe in your Word through day and
night. You never lead us astray. Your goodness and mercy overflow
in our lives. May these gifts with which you have blessed us support
ministries that bring others into your heavenly fold. In the name of
Jesus, we pray. Amen.**

***DOXOLOGY #94**

**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 TFWS #2212**

“My Life Flows On”

1 My life flows on in endless song, above earth's lamentation.

I hear the clear, though far off hymn that hails a new creation.

(Refrain)

No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.

Since love is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

2 Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing.

It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from singing?

(Refrain)

3 What though my joys and comforts die? I know my Savior liveth.

What though the darkness gather round? Songs in the night he giveth.

(Refrain)

4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!

All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing?

(Refrain)

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

***Stand as able**

Altar Flowers today are given by Louise Woodcox to the **glory of God** and in loving memory of her dear mother **Rachel Rotter**.

CALENDAR

Monday, May 15

10:00 AM PRAYER/DISCUSSION GROUP

7:00 PM CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Sunday, May 21

ANNUAL CONFERENCE begins

