

SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2023

SEVENTH 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

*Amazing God, we come together today grateful for this community of faith. We welcome old and new friends to this time of worship. May we celebrate the past that has set the foundation for today and step joyfully into this new season of learning and love in Jesus' name. **Amen.***

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Welcome to the community of faith, the family of God!

We come seeking God's love.

God's love is here for you.

Help us to understand how we are connected to God.

We abide in Christ Jesus, in love and compassion.

May our spirits be renewed and our connection to God be strengthened through our worship today.

***HYMN #318**

"Christ is Alive"

**1 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. His cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring. His love in death shall never die.**

**2 Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine,
he comes to claim the here and now, and conquer every place and time.**

**3 Not throned above, remotely high, untouched, unmoved by human pains
but daily, in the midst of life, our Savior, with the Father reigns.**

**4 In every insult, rift and war, where color, scorn or wealth divide,
he suffers still, yet loves the more, and lives, though ever crucified.**

**5 Christ is alive! His Spirit burns through this and every future age,
till all creation lives and learns his joy, his justice, love and praise.**

SCRIPTURE

Luke 24:13-32

Joan Olzewski, Reader

The Walk to Emmaus

13 Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, **14** and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. **15** While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, **16** but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. **17** And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. **18** Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" **19** He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, **20** and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. **21** But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. **22** Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, **23** and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. **24** Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him."

25 Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! **26** Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" **27** Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

28 As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. **29** But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. **30** When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. **31** Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight.

32 They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?”

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

MESSAGE

Waiting for Direction

RECEIVING THE MORNING’S OFFERINGS

***DEDICATION**

Everlasting God, every day you graciously provide what we need from your abundance. We are grateful that you bring healing and hope for our life as individuals and as a faith community. Accept our offerings to strengthen our church’s. May more people come to know you and your love through our ministries. We ask this in the precious name of Jesus, our Savior. 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

***HYMN #454**

“Open My Eyes, That I May See”

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 tidings of mercy everywhere;
Open my heart and let me prepare love with Thy children thus to share.**
Refrain

**4 Open my mind that I may read more of Thy love in word and deed;
What shall I fear while yet Thou dost lead? Only for light from Thee I plead.**
Refrain

***BENEDICTION**

May the risen Christ meet you on the road,
Lead you into all truth,
Guide you on your path.

May the risen Christ feed and sustain you,
Fill you with his presence,
Equip you by his Spirit.

May the Risen Christ go with you today,
Be with you through this week,
May you dwell with Christ forever. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

***Stand as able**

Altar Flowers today are given by the **CUMC church family** to the **glory of God** and in celebration of **Pastor Viv and Robb's 50th** wedding anniversary.

CALENDAR

Monday, May 22

10:00 AM No Prayer Group

9:00 AM Annual Conference, Wildwood

Friday, May 26

MOVING DAY for Robb and Pastor Viv

YOU ARE INVITED TO BRUNCH immediately after church today to help us celebrate our Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary. Also, just like at our original wedding reception a Black Forest Cherry Cake will be served! Please, be our guests.
Pastor Viv and Robb