

**SUNDAY, JUNE 18, 2023**

**3rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**Caldwell United Methodist Church, 8 Academy Road, Caldwell, N. J. 07006**

**Rev. Vivian L. Rodeffer, Pastor**

**Ms. Maxine Alstrom, Music Director**

## **FATHERS DAY**



### **PRELUDE**

### **WELCOME AND INVOCATION**

**Pastor Viv**

*Good and Gracious God, It has been thirty nine years since I arrived to pastor my first church. I give you thanks and praise for being with me, guiding and guarding me, lifting my spirits, inspiring my ministry, and watching over my family down through the years. Be with me this morning as I finish this ministry and step into the future You have in store for me. Amen.*

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Our relationships with our fathers are complicated.

**For some of us, our father's love was like God's love. For others of us, our fathers were not loving and caring.**

For some of us, God's love fills in the empty spaces our fathers left behind.

**All of us are shaped by the relationship or lack of relationship with our fathers.**

On this day when we remember what it means to have a father or be a father, and we recognize the importance of fathers in our communities.

**We pledge as a congregation to love and nurture the fathers among us so that they will manifest the love of God in all that they do.**

**\*HYMN #144****“This Is My Father’s World”**

1 This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears  
all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.  
This is my Father's world: I rest me in the thought  
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the wonders wrought.

2 This is my Father's world, the birds their carols raise,  
the morning light, the lily white, declare their maker's praise.  
This is my Father's world: he shines in all that's fair;  
in the rustling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me everywhere.

3 This is my Father's world. O let me ne'er forget  
that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.  
This is my Father's world: why should my heart be sad?  
The Lord is King; let the heavens ring! God reigns; let the earth be glad!

**CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER**

Loving God, you who are our father and our mother, we thank you that you have shown us how important it is to follow your example as we grow in faith. Teach us to be obedient to your will, respecting you as children ought. Thank you for your mercy despite our disobedience. Strengthen us to stand up against the challenges of this world, honoring your name and trusting your grace. In the Name of your Son, we pray. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE****Romans 5: 1-8****Christie Pavlishin, Reader**

5 Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we [c] boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. 3 And not only that, but we [d] also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

6 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. 8 But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

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

**CHOIR                                    “There’s A Spirit of Love in This Place”                                    Mark Miller**

**THE MESSAGE                                    “Lessons I’ve Learned”                                    Pastor Viv**

# **DEDICATION OF OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD**

## **\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**As we offer our treasure and hearts to you, O God, may they be used to pass on the promise of hope, of peace, of life, of community to all in need of your gifts and presence in their lives. 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.**

## **AN ORDER OF FAREWELL TO A PASTOR**

**UMC Book of Worship**

**I thank you, the members and friends of Caldwell United Methodist Church,  
for the love and support you have shown me while I have ministered among you.**

**I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been accepted.  
I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made.  
As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.**

**We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness,  
and accept that you now leave to minister elsewhere/retire.  
We express our gratitude for your time among us.  
We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes.  
Your influence on our faith and faithfulness  
will not leave with your departure.**

**I accept your gratitude and forgiveness, and I forgive you,  
trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God.**

I release you from turning to me and depending on me.  
 I encourage your continuing ministry here  
 and will pray for you and for your new pastor.

Let us pray. **Eternal God, whose steadfast love for us is from everlasting to everlasting, we give you thanks for cherished memories and commend one another into your care as we move in new directions. Keep us one in your love forever, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**\*HYMN #664                      “Sent Forth By God’s Blessing”**

**1 Sent forth by God’s blessing, our true faith confessing,  
 the people of God from his dwelling take leave.  
 The service is ended; oh, now be extended  
 the fruits of our worship in all who believe.  
 The seed of his teaching, receptive souls reaching,  
 Shall blossom in action for God and for all.  
 His grace did invite us; his love shall unite us  
 to work for God’s kingdom and answer his call.**

**2 With praise and thanksgiving to you ever living,  
 The tasks of our ev’ry day life we will face,  
 Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,  
 Embracing your children of each tribe and race.  
 With your feast you feed us; with your light now lead us.  
 Unite us as one in this life that we share.  
 Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving  
 Give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

**“Forever Blessed”**

**Maxine and Ed Alstrom**

**\*Stand as able.**

**Altar Flowers today are given** Altar flowers are given by **Don & Stephanie DeBruyne** and to the **Glory of God** in loving memory of **Anna Druyne**.

A “ROSE” given by **Louise Woodcox** and to the **Glory of God** in loving memory of her dear Father **John Rotter**.

Flowering Plant at the altar is given by the **CUMC family** and to the **Glory of God** with Grateful Hearts for **Pastor Viv’s** ministry and retirement from CUMC.

**CALENDAR**

<b>Monday, June 19</b>	10 AM	Zoom Prayer/Discussion Group
<b>Tuesday, June 20</b>	6 PM	Pastor Viv Retirement Dinner
<b>Sunday, June 28</b>	10 AM	Special Musical Worship