

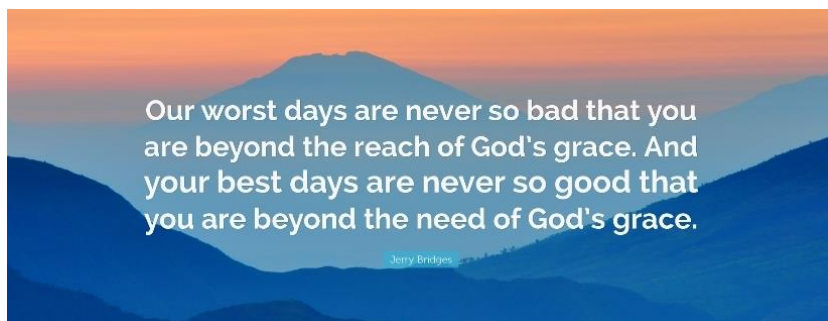
SUNDAY, JULY 23, 2023

8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

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

Rev. Kil Jae Park, Pastor

Ms. Maxine Alstrom, Music Director



## PRELUDE

### WELCOME AND INVOCATION

Pastor Park

*Caretaker of our souls, you search us and know us; you are acquainted with all of our ways. Your Spirit hems us in, behind and before. You discern our thoughts from afar. If we take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead us, and your might shall hold us fast. How can we bear such wonder? How can we fathom such awe and splendor? Breathe your Spirit upon us, and claim us as children of light, that we might be found worthy of your love and care. Amen.*

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Genesis 28, Psalm 139

This is none other than the house of God.

This is nothing less than the gate of heaven.

**Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.**

God hems us in, behind and before,  
and lays hands of blessing upon us.

**Such knowledge is too wonderful for us.**

**It is so high we cannot attain it.**

Rest in the majesty of our God.

Give thanks and sing of God's glory.

**Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.**

### \*HYMN # 334

**“Sweet, Sweet Spirit” (2X)**

**There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,  
And I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;  
There are sweet expressions on each face,  
And I know they feel the presence of the Lord.**

**Refrain:**

**Sweet Holy Spirit, Sweet heavenly Dove,  
 Stay right here with us, filling us with Your love.  
 And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;  
 Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived,  
 When we shall leave this place.**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Together)**

***Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your judgment. For our sake, and the sake of your son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways that lead to glory. Amen.***

**CHURCH FAMILY NEWS AND PASSING OF THE PEACE****SCRIPTURE****Genesis 28:10-19A****Jeannie Laureano, Reader**

**10** Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Harran. **11** When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. **12** He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. **13** There above it stood the Lord, and he said: "I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. **14** Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. **15** I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." **16** When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it." **17** He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven." **18** Early the next morning Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. **19** He called that place Bethel, though the city used to be called Luz.

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

**SPECIAL MUSIC****"You Raise Me Up"****Rolf Lovland & Brendan Graham****MESSAGE****A Surprising Truth****Pastor Park****RECEIVING THE MORNING'S OFFERINGS**

**\*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!

**\*DEDICATION**

Gracious and loving God, we offer you our gifts this day in gratitude and praise for all of the ways that you are present in our lives to bless us and care for us, even when we fail to recognize your presence in our lives. As we enjoy your many blessings and unfailing care in our lives, we desire to be a blessing to others and extend our care to those who may be in need. May this offering be a sign of our commitment to be a blessing to all the peoples of the earth. Amen

**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.

**\*Closing Hymn****"Grace Greater than Our Sin"****UMH # 365**

**1** Marvelous grace of our loving Lord,  
 Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt!  
 yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured,  
 there where the blood of the Lamb was spilt.

Refrain:

Grace, grace, God's grace,  
 Grace that will pardon and cleanse within.  
 Grace, grace, God's grace,  
 grace that is greater than all our sin!

**2** Sin and despair, like the sea waves cold,  
 threaten the soul with infinite loss;  
 grace that is greater, yes, grace untold,  
 points to the refuge, the mighty cross.

Refrain

**3** Dark is the stain that we cannot hide.  
 What can avail to wash it away?

**Look! There is flowing a crimson tide,  
brighter than snow you may be today.**

**Refrain**

**4 Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace,  
freely bestowed on all who believe!  
You that are longing to see his face,  
will you this moment this grace receive?**

**Refrain**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

**\*Stand as able**

**Altar Flowers** today are given to the glory of **God**.

If you wish to have flowers at the altar in memory or celebration of a loved one or event, please contact Louise Woodcox at 973-227-2924. The cost for flowers is \$20 and must be paid in advance.

Please join us for Coffee Hour after worship. All are welcome.