

SUNDAY, JULY 30, 2023

9th 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

Loving God, your Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words. When all seems lost, you heal our hearts and give us strength to carry on. When we stray away from you, you draw us back to your love and truth with grace and mercy. When we falter and make poor choices in life, you do not abandon us but continue to work in our lives to redeem us and bring all things to work for our good. As we come to worship you today, set our hearts and minds on you, Holy Spirit, that we may know your abiding presence and your never-failing love. Amen.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalms 105

O Give thanks to the Lord. Sing to him, sing praises to him.

Give thanks to the Lord above.

Seek the Lord and trust God's strength.

Proclaim God's wonderful works.

Live in the Spirit of love and grace.

Give thanks for Christ's marvelous love.

*HYMN # 140

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

1 Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not,
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see;

All I have needed Thy hand hath provided,
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

2 Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness,
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. [Refrain]

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! [Refrain]

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Together)

Merciful God, as we gather once again as your people, we confess that we have allowed a host of worries and frustrations to crowd out your word for us. As you give us peace and your transforming love, also forgive all those times when we have been less than faithful disciples. Gently visit us again with your healing powers. Restore our hope and courage and joy for all the times ahead. We ask this in the name of the Master Healer, Jesus Christ. AMEN.

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

GATHERING SONG

“THOU ART WORTHY”

TFWS # 2041

Thou art worthy,
Thou art worthy,
Thou art worthy, O Lord,
To receive glory,
Glory and honor,
Glory and honor and power
For Thou hast created,
hast all things created,
Thou hast created all things;
And for Thy pleasure
they are created -
Thou art worthy, O Lord.

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 29:15-28

Christie Pavlishin, Reader

15 Laban said to him, “Just because you are a relative of mine, should you work for me for nothing? Tell me what your wages should be.” **16** Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. **17** Leah had weak eyes, but Rachel had a lovely figure and was beautiful. **18** Jacob was in love with

Rachel and said, "I'll work for you seven years in return for your younger daughter Rachel." **19** Laban said, "It's better that I give her to you than to some other man. Stay here with me." **20** So Jacob served seven years to get Rachel, but they seemed like only a few days to him because of his love for her. **21** Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife. My time is completed, and I want to make love to her." **22** So Laban brought together all the people of the place and gave a feast. **23** But when evening came, he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and Jacob made love to her. **24** And Laban gave his servant Zilpah to his daughter as her attendant. **25** When morning came, there was Leah! So Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? I served you for Rachel, didn't I? Why have you deceived me?" **26** Laban replied, "It is not our custom here to give the younger daughter in marriage before the older one. **27** Finish this daughter's bridal week; then we will give you the younger one also, in return for another seven years of work." **28** And Jacob did so. He finished the week with Leah, and then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel to be his wife.

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

SPECIAL MUSIC "Shepherd of My Heart" by Mark Baldwin and Dick Tunney
Maxine Alstrom, piano Joyce Francavilla, soloist

MESSAGE **Hidden Grace of God** **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

Holy God, for this earth and its bounty, we give you our thanks. We also thank you for our lives and for the opportunity to share them with those we love. We confess that you are the giver of every good and perfect gift and that all that we have and enjoy came from you. We now bring a small portion of what you have given us and we lay them before you as our expression of love for you. Lord, receive our gifts and our lives. Cause all of these blessings to work for you in this world which you have loaned to us for safekeeping. In Christ's Name, we pray. AMEN.

THE MORNING PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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

“Trust and Obey”

UMH # 467

1 When we walk with the Lord
in the light of his word,
what a glory he sheds on our way!
While we do his good will,
he abides with us still,
and with all who will trust and obey.

Refrain:

Trust and obey, for there's no other way
to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

2 Not a burden we bear,
not a sorrow we share,
but our toil he doth richly repay;
not a grief or a loss,
not a frown or a cross,
but is blest if we trust and obey. [Refrain]

3 But we never can prove
the delights of his love
until all on the altar we lay;
for the favor he shows,
for the joy he bestows,
are for them who will trust and obey. [Refrain]

4 Then in fellowship sweet
we will sit at his feet,
or we'll walk by his side in the way;
what he says we will do,
where he sends we will go;
never fear, only trust and obey. [Refrain]

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Stand as able

Altar flowers are given by **Jeeyoung Park** to the Glory of God and in celebration of her birthday. Wishing you a HAPPY BIRTHDAY from CUMC church family.

Flowers on the Baptismal Font are given by **Louise Woodcox** to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of her Dear Mother **Rachel Rotter**.