

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2023**

**17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

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

**Rev. Kil Jae Park, Pastor**



## **PRELUDE**

### **WELCOME AND INVOCATION**

**Rev. Frederick Boyle**

**Holy God, we thank you for your promise us that where two or three are gathered you are there in the midst. Lord we welcome You amongst us today and celebrate the gift of life that you have lavished upon each of us. We ask that You would open our ears so that we may hear your voice. Open our minds so that we may receive Your eternal wisdom. Open our spirits so that we may know Your leading and guidance. And open our hearts so that we may receive Your wonderful love. We ask all this in the glorious name of Jesus. Amen.**

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

**A kind word opens a closed flower.  
A soul-deep prayer lifts the clouds.  
A generous gift loosens hardened hearts.  
A quiet deed catches another's attention.  
A heartfelt forgiveness releases new possibilities.  
Each act of love, each measure of care,  
Weaves another strand in God's kingdom  
And causes the heart to sing.**

### **\* OPENING HYMN**

**"We Gather Together"**

**HYMN # 131**

**1. We gather together  
to ask the Lord's blessing;  
he chastens and hastens  
his will to make known.  
The wicked oppressing  
now cease from distressing.**

**Sing praises to his name;  
he forgets not his own.**

**2. Beside us to guide us,  
our God with us joining,  
ordaining, maintaining  
his kingdom divine;  
so from the beginning  
the fight we were winning;  
thou, Lord, wast at our side,  
all glory be thine!**

**3. We all do extol thee,  
thou leader triumphant,  
and pray that thou still  
our defender wilt be.  
Let thy congregation  
escape tribulation;  
thy name be ever praised!  
O Lord, make us free!**

**\*APOSTLES' CREED (Together)**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy universal church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. 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

#### Epistle: Romans 8:9-17

Tracy Voca, Reader

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

L: The word of God for the people of God.

**P: Thanks be to God.**

#### Gospel: Matthew 13:1-9

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: “Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they

sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!”

L: The word of God for the people of God.

**P: Thanks be to God.**

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

**Noel Piercy**

## **MESSAGE**

**“Alone Together”**

**Pastor Frederick**

## **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**

Loving God, you are the giver of life and every good and perfect gift that we enjoy in life. Thank you for caring for us and always providing for our needs in more ways than we can ever know. We honor you and thank you through the offering of these tangible gifts. We also thank you for all those who continue to support the work of your church through the faithful giving of their time, talent and treasure. Bless these gifts and all those who give to support your church. Help us to use these gifts for ministries to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to this world. In Jesus’ name, we pray. AMEN.

## **RESPONSE HYMN**

**“They’ll Know We Are Christians”**

**TFWS # 2223**

**We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;**

**we are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;**

**and we pray that all unity will one day be restored.**

**And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,**

**yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.**

**We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;**

**we will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;**

**and together we’ll spread the news that God is in our land.**

**And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,**

**yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.**

**We Will work with each other, we will work side by side;**

We will work with each other, we will work side by side;  
 And we'll guard each man's dignity and save each man's pride.  
 And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,  
 yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come;  
 and all praise to Christ Jesus, His only Son.  
 And all praise to the Spirit who makes us one.  
 And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,  
 yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

**THE MORNING PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER**

**Pastor Karen Gazzillo**

**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**

**"God Be With You 'til We Meet Again"**

**UHM #673**

1. God be with you till we meet again;  
 by his counsels guide, uphold you;  
 with his sheep securely fold you.  
 God be with you till we meet again.

2. God be with you till we meet again;  
 when life's perils thick confound you,  
 put his arms unfailing round you.  
 God be with you till we meet again.

3. God be with you till we meet again;  
 Keep love's banner floating o'er you;  
 smite death's threat'ning wave before you.  
 God be with you till we meet again.

**\*BENEDICTION**

**Pastor Frederick**

**POSTLUDE**

**\*Stand as able**

**Altar flowers** are given by the **Greg Elphinstone** to the **Glory of God** and in loving  
 memory of his wife, **Julie** on what would have been their 8<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**We welcome Rev. Frederick Boyle as our guest preacher today.**

**Thank you to Noel Piercy, our substitute musician for sharing his talents with us today.**

**Girls' Night Out – September 19**, 6:00 pm at Tavern 292. Come to enjoy a night of fun, friendship, and fellowship. Separate checks will be provided. Please contact Myrtle by Sunday, **September 17** to reserve your space. Phone: call or text **973-214-3437** Email: [myrtm3@yahoo.com](mailto:myrtm3@yahoo.com)

**The Caldwell United Methodist 18th Annual Golf Outing is September 26th. To register as a golfer or for information on sponsorship opportunities contact Ken Ingra at 201-410-1940 or [keningra@optonline.net](mailto:keningra@optonline.net) or scan the code below.**



Coffee hour hosts are needed for the week of Sept 24, the month of Oct, Nov, and Dec. There is a sign up sheet in the Guyn Room. Please consider offering your help (purchase or bake some goodies and have ready to serve) to continue this time of fellowship.

#### **Readers for September**

Sept. 3 **Stephanie DeBryune**

Sept. 10 **Jeannie Lauriano**

Sept. 17 **Tracy Voca**

Sept. 24 **Patty Sampson**