

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2023

17th Sunday after Pentecost

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

Rev. Kil Jae Park, Pastor



PRELUDE

WELCOME AND INVOCATION

Pastor Park

As we come to worship you, O Lord, we remember the multitude of blessings you have given us. We are mindful of the ways in which you have lifted us when we have fallen low. Be with us this day as we gather to hear your word for our lives. Help us to listen closely for your word to us. Remind us that you are always with us, throughout all of our lives. Fill us with your love, pour upon us your grace and move in and through us in this time of worship with your Holy Spirit so that we may go into the world ready to live as witnesses of your presence and power in our life with others. In the name of Jesus we pray. AMEN.

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Come near to the Lord.

P: Lord, be with us this day.

L: Open your hearts to God's loving mercy.

P: Lord, come into our hearts this day.

L: Lift your sorrows and joys to the Lord.

P: Lord, hear the cries of our hearts.

L: Come, rest in the love and mercy of God.

P: Bless us, O Lord, that we may be blessings for others in your name. AMEN.

*** OPENING HYMN**

"Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty"

HYMN # 64

1. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.

Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,

God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

2. Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,

casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;

cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,

which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

3. Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in power, in love and purity.

4. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Together)

God of mercy and grace, we come before you today confessing once again that we have lived our lives in ways that fell short of your glory. Even though we claim to be people of faith, we often behaved in ways which run counter to your Word. While we worked hard to meet our own needs, we neglected the needs of others who are less fortunate than we are. Instead of considering your will for us in our lives, we were more focused on what we want and desire. Forgive us, O God, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Touch us with your love and truth that we may become more faithful followers of Jesus Christ in this world. In the name of Jesus we pray, 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

Matthew 20:1-16

Patty Sampson, Reader

1 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire men to work in his vineyard. 2 He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard. 3 "About the third hour he went out and saw others standing

in the marketplace doing nothing. 4 He told them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' 5 So they went. "He went out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour and did the same thing. 6 About the eleventh hour he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, 'Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?' 7 "Because no one has hired us,' they answered. "He said to them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard.' 8 "When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.' 9 "The workers who were hired about the eleventh hour came and each received a denarius. 10 So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. 11 When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. 12 'These men who were hired last worked only one hour,' they said, 'and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.' 13 "But he answered one of them, 'Friend, I am not being unfair to you. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius? 14 Take your pay and go. I want to give the man who was hired last the same as I gave you. 15 Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?' 16 "So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Noel Piercy

MESSAGE

"Beyond Fairness"

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**

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.

THE MORNING PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER

Pastor Karen

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****“Open My Eyes, That I May See”****UMH # 454**

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.
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 wavenotes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!
3. Open my mouth, and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere;
open my heart and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

***BENEDICTION**

Pastor Park

POSTLUDE***Stand as able**

Altar flowers are given by the **CUMC church family** to the **Glory of God** and to **Patty Sampson** for continued healing for her recent injuries from her fall at Ocean Grove.

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

Coffee hour hosts are needed for 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.

Scripture Readers are needed for the month of October. Please call the church **office** at **973-226-4410** or email caldwellumcnj@gmail.com if you can volunteer.