

**SUNDAY, November 13, 2022**  
**Caldwell United Methodist Church, 8 Academy Road, Caldwell, N. J. 07006**  
**Rev. Vivian L. Rodeffer, Pastor**

**23rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**Ms. Maxine Alstrom, Music Director**



## **PRELUDE**

### **WELCOME AND INVOCATION**

**Pastor Viv**

*Gracious God, Each day offers newness of hope and faith. Let us open our hearts and spirits to Your creative word for us that we may learn, grow, and serve as effective witnesses to Your love and power. Amen.*

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

The Lord is continually creating something new

**We are part of that creation, renewed, redeemed, beloved.**

Through all this change, God is with us.

**Though we struggle and doubt, yet God is faithful**

Praise be to God who continually blesses us.

**Let our hearts, our voices, and our spirits sing God's praises.**

### **\*HYMN #126 "Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above"**

**1 Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all creation,  
 the God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation.**

**With healing balm my soul is filled and every faithless murmur stilled:  
 To God all praise and glory.**

**2 The Lord is never far away, but through all grief distressing,  
 an ever present help and stay, our peace and joy and blessing.**

**As with a mother's tender hand, God gently leads the chosen band:  
 To God all praise and glory.**

**3 Thus all my toilsome way along, I sing aloud thy praises,  
that earth may hear the grateful song my voice unwearied raises.  
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart, both soul and body bear your part:  
To God all praise and glory.**

**4 Let all who name Christ's holy name give God all praise and glory;  
let all who own his power proclaim aloud the wondrous story!  
Cast each false idol from its throne, for Christ is Lord, and Christ alone:  
To God all praise and glory.**

### **PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS**

**Merciful God, we come before you this day as those who are often afraid to confess all the many ways in which we have disappointed and betrayed You. You have given us continual opportunities to serve and love others, but we have withdrawn into lives of selfishness and greed. Your voice calls to us to come home, to come to you unafraid, to receive forgiveness and healing. Open our hearts this day to receive these blessings. Help us understand the many ways in which you love us, and help us share that love with all those whom we meet. For we ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### **Words of Assurance**

Even though we have turned away from God, yet God is faithful to us. We are beloved of God and recipients of God's love and blessings. Rejoice, children of God! For God's mercies are ever before us. **AMEN.**

### **SCRIPTURE**

**2 Thessalonians 3:6-13**

**Robb McCombe, Reader**

6 Now we command you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from every brother or sister living irresponsibly and not according to the tradition that they[a] received from us. 7 For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not irresponsible when we were with you, 8 and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day so that we might not burden any of you. 9 This was not because we do not have that right but in order to give you an example to imitate. 10 For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: anyone unwilling to work should not eat. 11 For we hear that some of

you are living irresponsibly, mere busybodies, not doing any work. 12 Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. 13 Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

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

**CHOIR ANTHEM**                      **Deep Deep Love**                      **by Terry Butler arr. by Mark Hayes**

**THE MESSAGE**                      **“When Imitation Is Best”**

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

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**For the wondrous gift of life, we are thankful, O God. Your generous outpouring of grace reminds us of the fruitful life we are called to bear. May these gifts of time and labour, therefore, embody our desire to share and contribute to your coming reign among us. 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!**

**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.**

**\*HYMN #438**                      **“Forth in Thy Name, O Lord”**

**1 Forth in your name, O Lord, I go, my daily labor to pursue,  
determined only you to know in all I think or speak or do.**

**2 The task your wisdom has assigned, O let me cheerfully fulfill;  
in all my works your presence find, and prove your good and perfect will.**

**3 May I find you at my right hand; your eyes see truly what I do.  
I labor on at your command and offer all my works to you.**

**4 Give me to bear your easy yoke and ev'ry moment watch and pray  
and still to things eternal look, and hasten to your glorious day.**

**5 For you I joyously employ whate'er you in grace have giv'n:  
I run my daily course with joy and closely walk with you to heav'n.**

**\*BENEDICTION**

We go from this place rejoicing in God's love. We commit our lives to serving God by serving others. God's love has made us new. God's peace goes with us in all that we say and do. **Amen.**

**\* POSTLUDE**

**\*Stand as able.**

**CALENDAR**

<b>Sunday, November 13</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>AA's 75th Anniversary Dinner</b>
<b>Monday, November 14</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Finance and Trustee Mtgs</b>
<b>Tuesday, November 15</b>	<b>10:00 AM 4:30 PM</b>	<b>Prayer/Discussion Group Bell Choir Practice</b>
<b>Friday, November 18</b>	<b>5:30 PM</b>	<b>Messy Church Thanksgiving</b>

**Please join us for Messy Church Thanksgiving  
Friday evening November 18 at 5:30 PM.**



**Share a complete turkey and fixin's meal around a huge table, enjoy messy crafts for all ages, pack boxes for a mission project of sharing food, and hear the MESS-age of God's love. RSVP [caldwellumcnj@gmail.com](mailto:caldwellumcnj@gmail.com)**