

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 2023**

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

**Rev. Kil Jae Park, Pastor**

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

**Ms. Maxine Alstrom, Music Director**

Jacob wrestled with God for the blessing. He wrestled with Esau for the blessing. He wrestled with Isaac for the blessing, with Laban for the blessing, and in each case he eventually prevailed. He wrestled because he recognized that the blessings were worth the struggle. He knew that you only get to keep what you refuse to let go of.

Jonathan Delmar Toon

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND INVOCATION

**Pastor Park**

In the darkness of night and the brightness of day, you, O Lord, are present to us. As we wrestle with situations which seem to drain us of our energy; as we struggle to find out who you call us to be, you reach out to us with reassurance of your strength and presence for the days ahead. Calm our spirits and prepare our hearts so that we may receive your awesome grace. Fill us again with your Holy Spirit and your peace. It is in Jesus' name that we pray. AMEN.

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 105

L: Welcome to worship this day.

**P: We're glad to be here. We thank the Lord for this time of worship.**

L: This is a place where all of us can seek God's presence and share our deepest inmost concerns with God.

**P: Lord, be with each one of us today. Feed our hearts and souls with your transforming love.**

L: God is truly with you all today, guiding, lifting, feeding, restoring your souls.

**P: Praise be to God who continually abides with us. AMEN.**

## \* OPENING HYMN

**"How Great Thou Art"**

**HYMN # 77**

**1 O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder  
consider all the works thy hands hath made,  
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,  
thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;**

**Refrain:**

**Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to thee:  
How great thou art! How great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to thee:  
How great thou art! How great thou art!**

**2 When through the woods and forest glades I wander,  
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;  
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur  
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; [Refrain]**

**3 And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,  
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,  
that on the cross my burden gladly bearing  
he bled and died to take away my sin; [Refrain]**

**4 When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration  
and there proclaim: "My God, how great thou art!" [Refrain]**

#### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Together)**

**Lord of mercy and hope, we come before you confessing that we have fallen short of being the kind of disciples that you have called us to be. We have turned our backs on people in need; we have closed our ears to the cries of the voiceless. Remind us again that you are merciful and your love transforms and changes our lives. When we falter and slide off the path of faith you place before us, help us to turn to you and place our trust in your unfailing love and grace. In your mercy, forgive us our weakness. Strengthen us and give us courage; help us to be bearers of your good news of peace. We pray this in Christ's name. 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 32:22-31****Joyce Francavilla, Reader**

**22** That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two maidservants and his eleven sons and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. **23** After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions. **24** So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. **25** When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. **26** Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak." But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." **27** The man asked him, "What is your name?" "Jacob," he answered. **28** Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with men and have overcome." **29** Jacob said, "Please tell me your name." But he replied, "Why do you ask my name?" Then he blessed him there. **30** So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared." **31** The sun rose above him as he passed Peniel, and he was limping because of his hip.

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

"How Can It Be Salt and Light" by Lauren Daigle, Leslie Jordan & Paul Mabury

**Maxine Alstrom, piano Joyce Francavilla, soloist**

**MESSAGE****The Wrestling 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**

God of Compassion and Generosity, you meet our needs.

May our gifts become loaves and fish for those who hunger.

May our offerings become love and light for those who feel lost and afraid.

Bless our lives and our ministries, that we may be a people who share our abundance with those who live in want. In our living and in our giving, may the world be fed and made whole again. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

**HOLY COMMUNION*****The Great Thanksgiving (Insert)*****UMH # 13**

## THE MORNING PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER

\* Closing Hymn                      “O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go”                      UMH # 480

1 O Love that will not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in thee.  
I give thee back the life I owe,  
that in thine ocean depths its flow  
may richer, fuller be.

2 O Light that follows all my way,  
I yield my flick'ring torch to thee.  
My heart restores its borrowed ray,  
that in thy sunshine's blaze its day  
may brighter, fairer be.

3 O Joy that seekest me through pain,  
I cannot close my heart to thee.  
I trace the rainbow through the rain,  
and feel the promise is not vain,  
that morn shall tearless be.

4 O Cross that liftest up my head,  
I dare not ask to fly from thee.  
I lay in dust, life's glory dead,  
and from the ground there blossoms red,  
life that shall endless be.

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

\*Stand as able

The altar flowers are given by **Stephanie & Don Debruyne** to the **Glory of God** and in loving memory of her baby sister **Marguerite**.

**Scripture Readers for August:**

Aug. 6 – **Joyce Francavilla**

Aug. 13 – **Michele Sauer**

Aug. 20 – **Greg Elphinstone**

Aug. 27 – **Pastor Karen Gazzillo**

## The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,  
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,  
Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.  
By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection  
you gave birth to your Church,  
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,  
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,  
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:  
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup,  
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:  
"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,  
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,  
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving  
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,  
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,  
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,  
until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,  
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

**Amen**

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

**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.**