

SUNDAY, MARCH 27, 2022 **4TH SUNDAY IN LENT**
Caldwell United Methodist Church, 8 Academy Road, Caldwell, N. J. 07006
Rev. Vivian L. Rodeffer, Pastor **Ms. Maxine Alstrom, Music Director**



CHORAL INTROIT

"Psalm 32"

E. Alstrom, Arr.

WELCOME AND INVOCATION

Pastor Viv

Loving God, thank you for the many ways you pull us up from the valleys. Thank you for over and over offering us your forgiveness. Thank you for the ways your love surrounds us today and every day. Receive our joy in this time of worship. Amen.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Inspired by Psalm 32

Deep within us, we know God yearns for us to be whole and healthy,

Yet we all have broken places in us.

When we try to smother them, we do not fool God.

When we acknowledge our brokenness, and ask God to re-make us, God forgives!

So we're preserved, surrounded by God's love, and delivered from our sin.

Be glad in the Lord! Rejoice! Shout for joy, for God is able to make all whole!

***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 will be
 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**

**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**

**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 10, 000 beside
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**

LENTEN BLESSING FOR OTHERS

The four prayer shawls on the communion railing this morning were made by a dear friend, Mariana Eckhart. You are invited to come forward during this time of prayer if there is someone you know in need of God's comfort and you are willing to take this shawl to them.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 15:11-32

Jeanie Laureano, Reader

11 Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. 13 A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. 14 When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. 16 He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything.

17 But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! 18 I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' 20 So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. 21 Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' 22 But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; 24 for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

25 "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. 27 He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' 28 Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began

to plead with him. 29 But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. 30 But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ 31 Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. 32 But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

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

CHOIR **“It Is Well With My Soul”** **Ville duHavre, setting by John Nash Beck**

THE MESSAGE **THE KINGDOM OF GOD: Like A Parent**

“...we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.” v.32

DEDICATION OF OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

***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!**

THE 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.

***HYMN #138** **“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”**

1 The King of love my Shepherd is, Whose goodness faileth never; I nothing lack if I am his And he is mine forever.	3 In death's dark vale I fear no ill With thee, dear Lord, beside me; Thy rod and staff my comfort still, Thy cross before to guide me.
2 Where streams of living water flow My ransomed soul he leadeth, And where the verdant pastures grow With food celestial feedeth.	4 And so through all the length of days Thy goodness faileth never; Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise Within thy house for ever.

***BENEDICTION**

Be strong in the Lord. You can walk in God's ways, for God is with you, offering you peace, hope, courage, and joy. God's love abides with you always. Go in peace. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE**CALENDAR**

Monday, March 28	10 AM	Zoom Prayer/Discussion Group
Tuesday, March 29	9-11 AM 4 PM 7 PM	Ethnic Church Pilot Program, Pastor Viv, Bell Choir Rehearsal Lenten Zoom Devotions, Rev. Phil Covert
Wednesday, March 29	9 AM-4 PM	Bowen Family Systems C. E. – Pastor Viv
Thursday, March 31	7 PM 9 AM-4 PM	Choir Rehearsal Bowen Family Systems C. E. – Pastor Viv
Sunday, March 27	10 AM	Worship
Friday, April 1	5:30 PM	Messy Church

TUESDAY EVENING LENTEN DEVOTIONS are being shared by Rev. Phil Covert this Tuesday night at 7 PM on zoom. Use the same zoom invite as Sunday worship.

MESSY CHURCH next Friday, April 1 at 5:30 PM. **A Meal, A Message, Some Messy Crafts.** All ages are invited to our first Friday back since the pandemic! Volunteers appreciated! Donations of salads for the ham dinner also appreciated! Talk to Tracy Voca or Amy Hansen.

FISH N CHIP TAKEOUT DINNER ticket sales have begun on the church website, caldwellchurch.org The take out is Saturday, May 14.

ORDER YOUR EASTER FLOWERS NOW! Attached to this emailed bulletin is an order form or visit the church website to order and to pay. caldwellchurch.org.

