

HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY

SUNDAY, APRIL 11, 2021

Caldwell United Methodist Church, 8 Academy Rd., Caldwell, NJ 07006

Rev. Vivian L. Rodeffer, Pastor

Ms. Maxine Alstrom, Music Director



PRELUDE

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO "HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY"

Pastor Viv

CALL TO WORSHIP

Giving thanks to God is a good and a joyful task,

to be done with smiles on our faces and laughter in our hearts;

For it is God who created us creatures of mirth and joy...

The God who helped us overcome the gloominess in our own lives.

Let us worship God!

HYMN #304

"Easter People Raise Your Voices"

1. Easter people, raise your voices, sounds of heaven in earth should ring.
Christ has brought us heaven's choices; heavenly music, let it ring:
"Alleluia! Alleluia!" Easter people, let us sing.

2. Fear of death can no more stop us from our pressing here below.

**For our Risen Lord empowers us to triumph over every foe.
Alleluia! Alleluia! On to victory now we go.**

**3. Every day to us is Easter, with its resurrection song.
When the cares of life o'erwhelm us,
Easter people, sing this song: "Alleluia! Alleluia!" Everlasting triumph song.**

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Megan Mead-Bracknell, Park UMC, Weehawkin

SCRIPTURE

1 Peter 1: 3-9

Christie Pavlishin, Reader

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

⁶**In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials,** ⁷so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Practicing for Heaven"

Archangel Frederick

MESSAGE

THE LAST LAUGH

Pastor Viv

"...rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy..." 1 Peter 1: 8

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Holy One, we do not doubt that Jesus, the Messiah, lives again. Yet, only one short week from Easter, instead of remaining focused on the abundance of divine transformation, we return to a pessimistic mindset of scarcity. Refocus our attention on the joy of Easter, so that we may recognize all that we have received and be led to give cheerfully. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE MORNING PRAYER, OUR SILENT PRAYERS AND 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 #98

“To God Be The Glory”

1. To God be the glory, great things He hath done,
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life gate that all may go in.

Refrain:

2. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
Oh, come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory, great things He hath done.

3. Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. (Refrain)

BENEDICTION

(based on Romans 15:12-14, *The Message*)

May the God of hope fill you up with joy,
fill you up with peace, so that your lives,
filled with the life-giving energy of the Holy Spirit,
will brim over with hope! **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

**VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR
Calendar**

Monday, April 12

10 AM Zoom Prayer/ Discussion Group
7 PM Zoom Finance Meeting
8 PM Zoom Trustees

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, June 5 5 PM Fish 'n Chips