

SUNDAY, APRIL 24, 2022

HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY

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

Rev. Vivian L. Rodeffer, Pastor

Ms. Maxine Alstrom, Music Director



## PRELUDE

### WELCOME AND INVOCATION

Pastor Viv

*"Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place; I can feel his mighty power and his grace. I can hear the brush of angel wings, I see glory on each face; surely the presence of the Lord is in this place."*

For centuries in Eastern Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant countries, the week following Easter Sunday, including "Bright Sunday" (the Sunday after Easter), was observed by the faithful as "days of joy and laughter" with parties and picnics to celebrate Jesus' resurrection.

Churchgoers and pastors played practical jokes on each other, drenched each other with water, told jokes, sang, and danced. The custom was rooted in the musings of early church theologians (like Augustine, Gregory of Nyssa, and John Chrysostom) that God played a practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead. "*Risus paschalis - the Easter laugh,*" the early theologians called it.

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

(based on Psalm 98)

Sing a new song to the Lord, for He has done wonderful things!

His right hand has won a mighty victory; His holy arm has shown his saving power!

**Shout triumphantly to the Lord, all the earth! Be happy!**

**Rejoice out loud! Sing Your praises!**

For He has made known His saving power,

**And every corner of the earth has seen our God's salvation!**

### \*HYMN TFWS #2008

**"Let All Things Now Living"**

**1 Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving  
to God the Creator triumphantly raise;  
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,  
who guides us and leads us to the end of our days,**

God's banners fly o'er us, God's light goes before us,  
 a pillar of fire shining forth in the night:  
 Till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,  
 as forward we travel from light into light.

2 The law God enforces, the stars in their courses,  
 the sun in its orbit obediently shine,  
 The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,  
 the depths of the ocean proclaim the Divine.  
 We too, should be voicing our love and rejoicing;  
 with glad adoration, a song let us raise:  
 Till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:  
 To God in the highest, hosanna and praise.

### CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Almighty God, You give us the joy of celebrating our Lord's resurrection. Give us also the joys of life in your service, and bring us at last to the full joy of life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### HYMN MEDLEY CONTEST

*Congregants are invited to "name the hymns" in this all-encompassing medley of your favorites played by our beloved Music Director Maxine Alstrom! The winner will have the most number of songs correctly identified after listening to the entire medley. Jot them down as you recognize them.*

### CHURCH "FAMILY FEUD"

*So you think you know stuff??? Prove it! Two teams will compete to answer "church" questions.*

### SCRIPTURE

### ANGEL APPEARANCES

Pastor Viv

#### At His Birth

29 When she saw the **angel**, she was troubled at his words. She thought about what had been said. 30 The angel said to her, "Mary, do not be afraid. You have found favor with God. 31 See! You are to become a mother and have a Son. You are to give Him the name Jesus. 32 He will be great. He will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the place where yearly father David sat. 33 He will be King over the family of Jacob forever and His nation will have no end." 34 Mary said to the angel, "How will this happen? I have never had a man." 35 The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come on you. The power of the Most High will cover you. The holy Child you give birth to will be called the Son of God. 36 "See, your cousin Elizabeth, as old as she is, is going to give birth to a child. She was not able to have children before, but now she is in her sixth month. 37 For God can do all things." 38 Then Mary said, "I am willing to be used of the Lord. Let it happen to me as you have said." Then the angel went away from her. Luke 1: 29-38

But after [Joseph] had considered this, **an angel of the Lord** appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit." Matthew 1:20

8 In the same country there were shepherds in the fields. They were watching their flocks of sheep at night. 9 **The angel of the Lord** came to them. The shining-greatness of the Lord shone around them. They were very much afraid. 10 The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. See! I bring you good news of great joy which is for all people. 11 Today, One Who saves from the punishment of sin has been born in the city of David. He is Christ the Lord. 12 There will be something special for you to see. This is the way you will know Him. You will find the Baby with cloth around Him, lying in a place where cattle are fed." 13 At once **many angels from heaven** were seen, along with the angel, giving thanks to God. They were saying, 14 "Greatness and honor to our God in the highest heaven and peace on earth among [those] who please Him." Luke 1: 8-14

#### RESPONSE #240

#### **"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"**

Hark! The herald angels sing  
 "Glory to the new-born king  
 Peace on earth and mercy mild  
 God and sinners reconciled"  
 Joyful all ye nations rise  
 Join the triumph of the skies  
 With angelic host proclaim  
 "Christ is born in Bethlehem"

#### ***At His Death and Resurrection.***

Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of olives, and his disciples followed him. On reaching the place, he said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation." He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, "Father, if you are willing take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." **an angel** from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground. Luke 22: 39-44

1-3 At the crack of dawn on Sunday, the women came to the tomb carrying the burial spices they had prepared. They found the entrance stone rolled back from the tomb, so they walked in. But once inside, they couldn't find the body of the Master Jesus. 4-8 They were puzzled, wondering what to make of this. Then, out of nowhere it seemed, **two men, light cascading over them, stood there.** The women were awestruck and bowed down in worship. The men said, "Why are you looking for the Living One in a cemetery? He is not here, but raised up. Remember how he told you when you were still back in Galilee that he had to be handed over to sinners, be killed on a cross, and in three days rise up?" Then they remembered Jesus' words. Luke 24: 1-8

#### RESPONSE #313

#### **"Christ is Risen"**

**Christ is risen, Christ is living, dry your tears, be unafraid!  
 Death and darkness could not hold him, nor the tomb in which he lay.  
 Do not look among the dead for one who lives forevermore;  
 Tell the world that Christ is risen, make it known he goes before.**

*This morning "Pum, the Harpist" from the Heavenly Host, will be our speaker.*

## 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 Viv

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 # 310

### "He Lives"

1 I serve a risen Savior, He's in the world today  
 I know that He is living, whatever foes may say  
 I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer  
 And just the time I need Him He's always near  
 REFRAIN

He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today  
 He walks with me and talks with me  
 along life's narrow way

He lives, He lives, salvation to impart  
 You ask me how I know He lives?  
 He lives within my heart

2 Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian Lift up your voice and sing  
 Eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ, the King  
 The Hope of all who seek Him, the Help of all who find  
 None other is so loving, so good and kind. REFRAIN

### \*BENEDICTION

May the joy of the angels and the blessing of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## POSTLUDE

**\*Stand as able.**

## CALENDAR

Monday, April 25      10 AM      Zoom Prayer/Discussion Group

### "HEADS UP" FOR MAY MEETINGS

Monday, May 2    7PM      Zoom NOW Meeting  
 Monday, May 9    7 and 8 PM    Zoom Finance and Trustees Meetings  
 Monday, May 23   7 PM      Zoom Council Meeting

**FISH 'N CHIPS TAKEOUT DINNER** Purchase your tickets NOW on the church website, [caldwellchurch.org](http://caldwellchurch.org), for Saturday, May 14.