

SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 2021

Caldwell United Methodist Church, 8 Academy Rd., Caldwell, NJ 07006
 Rev. Vivian L. Rodeffer, Pastor

4th SUNDAY OF EASTER

Ms. Maxine Alstrom, Music Director



PRELUDE

WELCOME AND INVOCATION

Pastor Viv

Be with us this day, Lord. Open our hearts and minds to receive your word. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Beloved, we are called to love one another, because love is from God.

God's love is poured into us from our birth.

We are called to extend the love of God to all people.

God's love is taught to us through the witness of God's faithful people.

We are called to proclaim God's love in all that we say and do.

In all creation, in all our relationships, may God's love be made known.

HYMN #529

"How Firm A Foundation"

**1. How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
 Is laid for your faith in His excellent word!
 What more can He say than to you He hath said,
 To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?**

**2. "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
 For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
 I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
 Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand."**

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Megan Mead-Bracknell

Park UMC, Weehawkin

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Doug Wallace, Reader

¹⁶ We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷ How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸ Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹ And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰ whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹ Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²² and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³ And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴ All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Bless This House"

Helen Taylor and May H. Morgan

"Bless this house, O Lord we pray
Make it safe by night and day . .
Bless these walls so firm and stout
Keeping want and trouble out . .

Bless the roof and chimneys tall
Let thy peace lie overall . .
Bless this door that it may prove
Ever open to joy and love . .

Bless these windows shining bright
Letting in God's Heavenly light
Bless the hearth, ablazing there
With smoke ascending like a prayer!

Bless the people here within
Keep them pure and free from sin . .
Bless us all that we may be
Fit O Lord to dwell with thee . .

Bless us all that one day we may dwell
O Lord! With Thee!"

MESSAGE**A HOME FOR LOVE**

"All who obey his commandments abide in [God]..." 1 John 3: 24a

DEDICATION OF OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

Glorious God, You call us to love one another in truth and in action. We yearn to be active disciples, so that our hearts truly abide with you. Use these gifts to increase our ability to be your followers. In the name of the One who laid down his life for us, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

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. Amen

HYMN TFWS #2212**"My Life Flows On"**

1. My life flows on in endless song above earth's lamentation.
I hear the real though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that rock I'm clinging
It sounds an echo in my soul, how can I keep from singing?
2. What though the tempest round me roars,
I know the truth, it liveth,
What though the darkness round me close, songs in the night it giveth
No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that rock I'm clinging
Since love is lord of heaven and earth how can I keep from singing?
3. I lift my eyes, the cloud grows thin; I see the blue above it;
And day by day this pathway smooths, since first I learned to love it.
The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing;
All things are mine since I am his, how can I keep from singing?

BENEDICTION

John Newton

"May the grace of Christ our Savior, And the Father's boundless love, With the Holy Spirit's favor, Rest upon you from above. Thus may we abide In union, With each other and the Lord, And possess, in sweet communion, joys which earth cannot afford." **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALENDAR

Monday, April 26 **10 AM ZOOM PRAYER AND DISCUSSION GROUP**

Tuesday, April 27 **7 PM ZOOM COUNCIL MEETING**

Thursday, April 29 **7:30 PM FISH N CHIPS ZOOM MEETING**

Saturday, May 1 **DEADLINE FOR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS**

SAVE THE DATE! Saturday June 5, 5 – 7 PM, Fish 'n Chips Takeout Dinner