

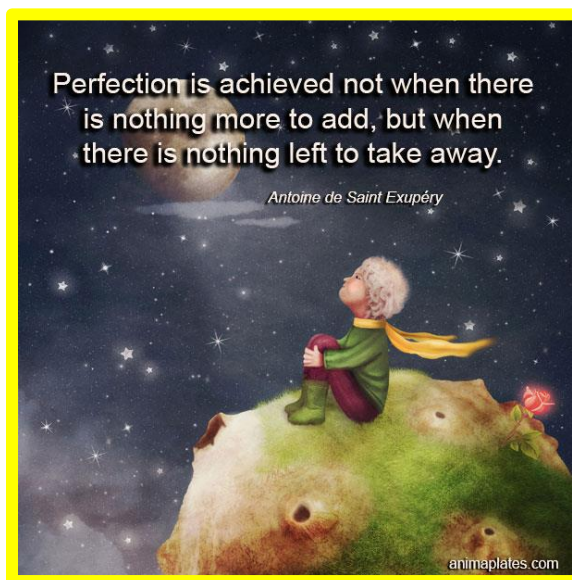
SUNDAY, MAY 2, 2021

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

Rev. Vivian L. Rodeffer, Pastor

Maxine Alstrom, Music Director



PRELUDE

WELCOME AND INVOCATION

Pastor Viv

Please have juice and bread ready if you wish to receive communion this morning.

Gracious God, You are everything to us.

O let our gratitude be great,

Let our praise be plentiful,

Let our worship be wonder-full!

*Through Christ Jesus your ever-living Son. **Amen!***

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come! Gather in the name of the resurrected Christ

Surely God is in this place, calling us to worship in spirit and in truth.

God's love flows for you and for all people!

God's Spirit refreshes us with love and life.

Rejoice, abide now and ever and always, in the living Christ.

Thanks be to God! Let us worship God.

HYMN #92

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

1. For the beauty of the earth,
 For the glory of the skies,
 For the love which from our birth
 Over and around us lies.
 Refrain: Lord of all to Thee we raise
 This our hymn of grateful praise.

2. For the wonder of each hour,
 Of the day and of the night,
 Hill and vale, and tree and flower,
 Sun and moon, and stars of light.(Refrain)

3. For the joy of human love,
 Brother, sister, parent, child,
 Friends on earth and friends above,
 For all gentle thoughts and mild.(Refrain)

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Megan Mead-Bracknell, Park UMC (Weehawken)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, We confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will. We have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love We have not loved our neighbors, and We have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *All pray in silence.*

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

SCRIPTURE

1 John 4: 7-21

Tracy Voca, Reader

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; **if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.**

¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶ So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷ Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the Day of Judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹ The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

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

MESSAGE

A POSSIBILITY OF PERFECTION

"...If we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us." 1 John 4: 12b

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

Holy Lord, you have perfected love among us by sending your son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. We humbly acknowledge your gift is an overwhelming pronouncement of grace. We share these tithes and offerings today with the hope that your children everywhere will be anointed with the knowledge that your perfect love casts out all fears. 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.

CUMC CHOIR

"Give Thanks"

<https://soundcloud.com/vivian-rodeffer/choir-give-thanks>

COMMUNION

Please have juice and bread available to join in virtual communion this morning.

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING COMMUNION

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery
 In which you have given yourself to us.
 Grant that we may go into the world
 In the strength of your Spirit,
 To give ourselves for others,
 In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN #383**“This Is a Day of New Beginnings”**

1. This is a day of new beginnings,
 Time to remember and move on,
 Time to believe what love is bringing,
 Laying to rest the pain that’s gone.
2. For by the life and death of Jesus,
 God’s mighty Spirit, now as then,
 Can make for us a world of difference,
 As faith and hope are born again.
3. Then let us, with the Spirit’s daring,
 Step from the past and leave behind
 Our disappointment, guilt and grieving,
 Seeking new paths, and sure to find.
4. Christ is alive, and goes before us,
 To show and share what love can do.
 This is a day of new beginnings;
 Our God is making all things new.

BENEDICTION

In faith we’ve gathered round the table,
 To taste and share what love can do.
 This is a day of new beginnings;
 Our God is making all things new.
 Go in peace and grow in love. Amen.

POSTLUDE**VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR AND ANNOUNCEMENTS****CALENDAR**

Monday, May 3

10 AM ZOOM PRAYER / DISCUSSION GROUP

7 PM ZOOM NOW MEETING

Tuesday, May 4

NOON ZOOM WEST ESSEX MINISTERIUM ASSOCIATION

Sunday, May 10

10 AM ZOOM WORSHIP