

SUNDAY, MAY 1, 2022

3rd SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

Rev. Vivian L. Rodeffer, Pastor

Ms. Maxine Alstrom, Music Director



Do not be afraid;
do not be discouraged,
for the LORD
your God will
be with you
wherever you go.

~Joshua 1:9~

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND INVOCATION

Pastor Viv

We offer up this morning to you, Lord, and pray in gratitude for the gift of salvation that Jesus won for us. As the day gets busier, may we never stray far from the quiet assurance we feel in our hearts right now, knowing how deep Your love is for us. Amen.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Spring is about to break forth!

In all the land, new life is happening!

Feel the wonder and power of God's creative energy

Feel the awe and joy of God's love for us.

Let us worship God with a full sense of joy and expectation.

Let us open our hearts, our spirits, our souls, to God's lavish love.

*HYMN #173

"Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies"

**1 Christ, whose glory fills the skies Christ, the true, the only Light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise, Triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near, Daystar, in my heart appear.**

**2 Dark and cheerless is the morn unaccompanied by Thee;
Joyless is the day's return, till Thy mercy's beams I see,
Till Thou inward light impart, glad my eyes, and warm my heart.**

3 Visit then this soul of mine, pierce the gloom of sin and grief;

**Fill me, Radiancy divine, scatter all my unbelief;
More and more Thyself display, shining to the perfect day.**

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and loving God, open our hearts so that we are able to admit to you the fullness of our lives – that which is beautiful and good, and that which is hurtful and hateful. We confess that we do not follow Jesus in all that we do. We love with condition. We judge and condemn.

We cast the first stone, and keep the logs in our own eyes. We do not turn to You as the source of our healing. Forgive us, we pray. Forgive our sin, and empower us to be imitators of Christ in love and service. *A time for silent confession.*

Friends in Christ, know this: the mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting, and I remind you of this surpassing grace – in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Alleluia! **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

Acts 9: 1-20

Jeannie Laureano, Reader

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest 2 and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. 3 Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. 4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” 5 He asked, “Who are you, Lord?” The reply came, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. 6 But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.” 7 The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. 8 Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. 9 For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

10 Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.” He answered, “Here I am, Lord.” 11 The Lord said to him, “Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, 12 and he has seen in a vision[a] a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.” 13 But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; 14 and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.” 15 But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; 16 I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.” 17 So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul[b] and said,

“Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” 18 And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, 19 and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, 20 and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.”

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

THE CHOIR

“Lord, Lift Me Now Out of My Depth”

Psalm 30

L. Chamberland & Arr. E. Alstrom

THE MESSAGE

YOU WANT ME TO WHAT?

“Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem.”

DEDICATION OF OURSELVES AND OUR OFFERINGS 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. Amen.

THE LORD’S SUPPER [See the insert.]

***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 it sing

2 Fear of death can no more stop us
 From our pressing here below
 For our Lord empowered 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 in trouble move the faster
 to our God who rights the wrong
 Alleluia. Alleluia.
 See the power of heavenly throngs.

***BENEDICTION**

You are people of the Resurrection! You know the powerful love of God! Go into God's world proclaiming hope, peace, and joy, in the name of the Risen Lord. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

***Stand as able.**

CALENDAR

Monday, May 2	10 AM	Zoom Prayer/Discussion Group, <u>The Lord's Prayer</u>
	7 PM	Zoom NOW Meeting
Tuesday, May 3	12 PM	West Essex Ministerium at Crane's Mill
	4 PM	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday, May 4	7:30 PM	West Essex First Aid Squad
Thursday, May 5	7 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, May 8	10 AM	Worship and Zoom Worship

MOTHERS' DAY

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

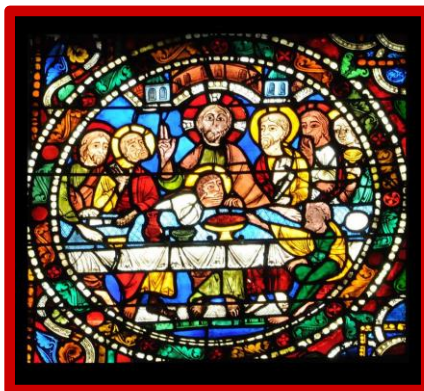
New Zoom Study beginning May 9 at 10 AM using Rev. Adam Hamilton's book, [The Lord's Prayer](#). Books are available on Kindle or in the lobby. Cost is \$15 each.

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THE LORD'S SUPPER



All who love the Lord Jesus Christ or wish to know Him better are invited to share in communion. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. This is the table of the Lord. He invites all who love him and trust in him alone for their salvation to sit with him and share in this joyful feast.

In this supper God tells us that our sins have been completely forgiven through the one sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross where his body was broken and his blood was shed. God also tells us that the Holy Spirit makes us one with Christ, and in Christ one with all other Christians.

Come, then, people of God, to the joyful feast of our Lord.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Loving God, You made this world marvelous for us to enjoy.

You gave Jesus to be our Savior, Lord, and friend, and to bring us to you.

You send your Spirit to make us one family in Christ.

For these gifts of love we thank you

and join with angels and saints in this joyful hymn of praise:

[Sung or spoken]

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

**God of power and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.
 Hosanna in the highest.
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Hosanna in the highest.**

For your kindness to us and your goodness to all,
 We give you thanks.
 We thank you that you showed your love by sending your Son,
 who gave his life for us,
 and rose again from death,
 and lives to pray for us forever.
 We thank you that he has brought us together at this table,
 to strengthen us by his love.

Lord, Send your Holy Spirit
 on us and these your gifts of bread and wine,
 that we may know Christ's presence,
 real and true,
 and be his faithful followers,
 showing your love for the world.
 Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father,
 now and forever. **Amen.**

The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ. We remember and believe that the body of our Lord Jesus Christ was given for the complete forgiveness of all our sins. Take and eat. *Time for silent prayer.*

The cup for which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ. We remember and believe that the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ was shed for the complete forgiveness of all our sins. Take and drink. *Time for silent prayer.*

**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.**