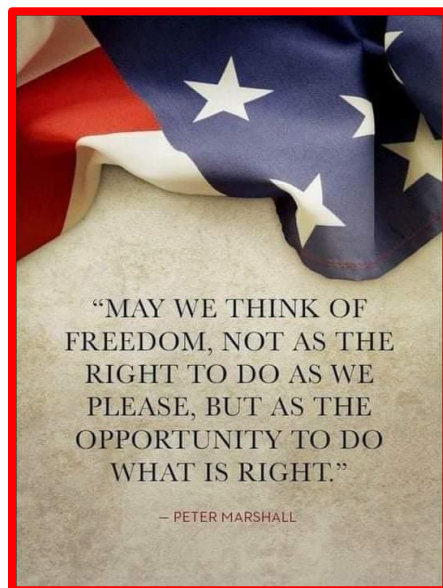


SUNDAY, July 1, 2021 COMMUNION 6th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Caldwell United Methodist Church, 8 Academy Rd., Caldwell, NJ 07006
Rev. Vivian L. Rodeffer, Pastor Ms. Maxine Alstrom, Music Director



PRELUDE

WELCOME AND INVOCATION

Pastor Viv

CALL TO WORSHIP

This is the day that the Lord has made!

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

This is a day of new beginnings!

This is a time for growing into new disciples for Jesus.

Come, let us prepare ourselves for worship

Let us worship God.

HYMN #437

“This Is My Song”

**1. This is my song, O God of all the nations
 A song of peace for lands afar and mine
 This is my home, the country where my heart is
 Here are my hopes and dreams, my holy shrine**

**2. But other hearts in other lands are beating
 With hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
 My country's skies are bluer than the ocean
 And sunlight beams on clover leaf and pine**

**3. But other lands have sunlight, too, and clover
And skies are everywhere as blue as mine
O hear my song, thou God of all the nations
A song of peace for their land and for mine**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Megan Mead-Bracknell

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious and loving God,
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. *A time of silent prayer.***

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

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

2 Corinthians 12: 2-10

Reader

²I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. ³And I know that such a person—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows— ⁴was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat.

⁵On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. ⁶But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, ⁷even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. ⁸Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, ⁹but he said to me, **“My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.”** So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. ¹⁰Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Maxine Alstrom, Piano

MESSAGE**GRACE SUFFICIENT**

"My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." 2 Cor. 12: 9

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

We give thanks to you, O God. We are thankful for your steadfast love. We praise you by singing; we praise you through prayer; we praise you in service. This offering is praise – an opportunity to practice generosity. We pray that these gifts may help our church fulfill its purpose. In Jesus' name, 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.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

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 #378**"Amazing Grace"**

1. Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found
Was blind, but now I see

2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

3. My chains are gone
I've been set free
My God, my Savior has ransomed me

And like a flood, His mercy rains
Unending love, Amazing grace

4. The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures

BENEDICTION

Let us embrace the work and wonder of this day
with fresh commitment.
May we go forward together
in the power of the love of God
in the company of Jesus Christ
and by the leading of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALENDAR

Monday, July 5 Office Closed

Tuesday, July 6- Wednesday July 7 Ellen is on vacation. Office remains closed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are pleased to announce **CHURCH REOPENING** on Sunday, August 1. Our virtual presence will continue as well. For the time being, masks will be required and we will be socially distanced in the pews. We will be entering the Academy Road entrance and exiting the Washburn Place exit. Can't wait to see you all!!

BOOK DISCUSSION on Ann Monk Kidd's **The Book of Longings** which imagines a married Jesus will be held Wednesday, July 21, 7 PM in the church Memorial Garden. A zoom book discussion will be held Monday, July 26, 10-noon. Please message the pastor if you will attend. Her cell is #609 709 8373. Friends are welcome too. There is a study guide in the back of the book.

Summary: "Grounded in meticulous research and written with a reverential approach to Jesus' life that focuses on his humanity, The Book of Longings is an inspiring, unforgettable account of one woman's bold struggle to realize her passion and potential inside her, while living in a time, place and culture devised to silence her. It is a triumph of storytelling both timely and timeless, from a masterful writer at the height of her powers."