

SUNDAY, July 7, 2024
Caldwell United Methodist Church, 8 Academy Road, Caldwell, N. J. 07006
Rev. Kil Jae Park, Pastor

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
Jackie Han, Music Minister



**My country 'tis of thee
Sweet land of liberty
Of thee I sing
Land where my fathers died
Land of the pilgrims' pride
From ev'ry mountainside
Let freedom ring.**

PRELUDE

"God of our Fathers"

Jackie Han

WELCOME AND INVOCATION

Good morning, beloved of God. It is an honor to be with you this morning and I wanted to begin our service with recognition of the Fourth of July which took place a few days ago. I thought it might be inspiring to join our hearts together by singing the first verse of My Country Tis of Thee before we begin our formal worship service today. If you are able, I would invite you to stand and to sing the first verse, as noted above.

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Beloved, we are so blessed to live in this country and so grateful for the freedom we have experienced in our lives. Too often we forget to take a moment to look around us and appreciate our freedom. Our world can indeed be challenging and when our bodies feel unable and incapable, and the voices all around us disparage and criticize our bodies as weak and worthless, God calls to us..

P: Open your heart to your weakness and my strength.

L: When we persist in the false belief that we should and must do everything on our own, never asking for help and persisting in our drive for full independence, God calls to us...

P: Open your heart to your weakness and my strength.

L: When we feel shame because we need help, and the deep vulnerability of our needs pierces our hearts, God calls to us...

Listen! Pay attention! God calls to us in our weakness, not to erase our frailties or bemoan all the things society may tell us we lack, but to empower us within the vulnerability of our humanness, naming us Beloved in the fullness of who we are.

**P: May we open our hearts in worship to receive the goodness in our weakness and the power in the strength of God's love for all of God's vulnerable creation.
Amen**

***OPENING HYMN "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" UMH # 139**

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near
Join me in glad adoration!**

**Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee
Surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
who with his love doth befriend thee**

**Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again,
gladly forever adore him.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Together)

Merciful God, of what do we boast?

Can we truly say with Paul that we do not boast about ourselves or our achievements?

Does the danger in such thinking lie in the next step-

The thought that we can do anything, or all things – by ourselves?

And depend on our own strength to do things our own way

Paul talks out power being made perfect in weakness.

Forgive us for believing

That we have to be hard and domineering

If we want to get ahead in life.

Paul says that he boasts of his weaknesses

So that the power of Christ may dwell in him.

**Forgive us when we use our power selfishly or aggressively,
Ignoring that indwelling, Christ-given power
Which frees us to be vulnerable.
Jesus says "My grace is sufficient for you,
For power is made perfect in weakness."
Permeate our lives with your grace, Lord
So that we can affirm with Paul
That we are content with weaknesses for your sake,
And fill us with the knowledge
That it is when we allow ourselves to be empowered by you,
That we are truly strong. Amen**

Assurance of Forgiveness

Hear again the good news, that Jesus' grace is sufficient for us all –
Sufficient for us to be forgiven in his name
Receive that grace and rejoice in the power to live in his strength.
Thanks be to God!

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

*** GATHERING SONG: "Thou Art Worthy"**
**Thou art worthy,
 Thou art worthy,
 Thou art worthy, O Lord,
 To receive glory,
 Glory and honor,
 Glory and honor and power
 For Thou hast created,
 hast all things created,
 Thou hast created all things;
 And for Thy pleasure
 they are created -
 Thou art worthy, O Lord.**

SCRIPTURE: 2nd Corinthians 12:2-10 Tony Gazzillo, reader
12:2 I 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.
**12:3 And I know that such a person--whether in the body or out of the body I do
not know; God knows--**
12:4 was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal

is permitted to repeat.

12:5 On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses.

12:6 But 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,

12:7 even 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.

12:8 Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me,

12:9 but 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.

12:10 Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

The word of God, for the people of God.

Thanks be to God. Amen

ANTHEM

"How Beautiful"

Joyce Francavilla, soloist

MESSAGE:

"Our Strength Is In the Lord"

Rev. Karen Gazzillo

RECEIVING THE MORNING'S OFFERINGS

Merciful God, in this time of reflection and offering, we acknowledge our weaknesses and limitations, knowing that it is through our struggles that we learn humility and dependence on you. As we bring forth our gifts, may we also bring our vulnerabilities, trusting in your grace to transform our weaknesses into strengths for the work of your kingdom. Amen.

*** DOXOLOGY #94**

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!

DEDICATION

HOLY COMMUNION

"The Great Thanksgiving"

UMH # 13

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
Always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven
We praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**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.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.
By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
you gave birth to your Church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

Amen

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

**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**

*** CLOSING HYMN: My Country Tis of Thee (last verse)**

**Our fathers' God to Thee
Author of liberty
To Thee we sing
Long may our land be bright
With freedom's holy light
Protect us by Thy might
Great God our King.**

*** BENEDICTION**

Pastor Karen

POSTLUDE

"God Bless America"
Please remain seated for the postlude

Jackie Han

*** Stand as able**

Announcements

- **Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God by Patty Sampson and in celebration of the Caldwell United Methodist Church family.**

- **Special thanks to Ann Calvin for hosting the time of Fellowship today. Please join us for fellowship immediately following the worship service.**
- **Our very first Men's Breakfast Meeting (aka Boys' Morning Out) will take place August 3rd in the Guynn Room at 9:00 am.**

Insert

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**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
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Amen