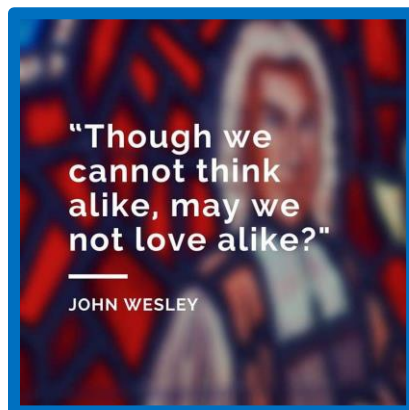


SUNDAY, July 18, 2021

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

8th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Ms. Maxine Alstrom, Music Director



PRELUDE

WELCOME AND INVOCATION

Pastor Viv

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!
Give thanks to him; bless his name! Psalm 100: 4*

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather together in the name of Jesus Christ—
members of God's family, and brothers and sisters to one another.

**There are no outsiders here among us,
no one has any special standing or bragging rights.**

For we have been brought together by the redeeming love of Jesus.
Let's join together in worship!

HYMN #540

"I Love Thy Kingdom Lord"

**1. I love Thy kingdom Lord
The house of Thine abode
The church our blest Redeemer saved
With His own precious blood**

**2. I love Thy church O God
Her walls before Thee stand
Dear as the apple of Thine eye
And graven on Thy hand**

**3. Sure as Thy truth shall last
To Zion shall be given
The brightest glories earth can yield
And brighter bliss of heaven**

**4. I love Your church O God
The people You have called
The church our blest Redeemer
Saved with His own precious blood**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE

O Christ, if we carry the name Christian, we are signs of your presence. Yet we confess that we sometimes hurt people through our pride, rather than showing the way to the healing waters of your Spirit. When we are discourages ourselves, we are unable to be signs of joy or hope or good news. Forgive us, and give us grace to be earthly reminders of your love.

A time for silent confession.

The good news is that Christ calls us to new life and enables us to begin again and again and again. Let us praise God for this gift. **Amen.**

A MISSION MINUTE

“Bridges”

Joan Olszewski

SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 2: 11-22

Doug Wallace, Reader

¹¹So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called “the uncircumcision” by those who are called “the circumcision”—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands— ¹²remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. ¹⁵He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. ¹⁷So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; ¹⁸for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father.

¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, ²⁰ built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. ²¹ In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; ²² in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

MESSAGE

A GRACE FILLED DWELLING

"...You are...built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God."

Ephesians 2: 11-22

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

Glorious God, we like to practice random acts of kindness. Your Word even confirms that we further your kingdom when we show kindness and compassion to another person. We pray that Jesus' life and teaching may be our example for sharing intentionally our talents, prayers, time, and offerings. We humbly give this offering as an expression of our faith. Amen.

THE MORNING PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Karen

Submit prayers anytime 24/7 on our website caldwellchurch.org by selecting "PRAYER" near the top of the homepage and filling in your request.

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 #2158

"Just a Closer Walk With Thee"

1. I am weak but Thou art strong;
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long
As I walk, let me walk close to Thee.

REFRAIN:

Just a closer walk with Thee,

Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to Thee,
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

2. Thro' this world of toil and snares,
If I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee. REFRAIN

3. When my feeble life is o'er,
Time for me will be no more;
Guide me gently, safely o'er
To Thy kingdom shore, to Thy shore. REFRAIN

BENEDICTION

We leave this place no longer strangers, but members of God's own family,
Together, we are being built into a holy dwelling place where God lives by the Spirit.
So go out with joy and confidence to love and serve the world,
for we do not go alone. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monday, July 26 10 AM

Book Discussion on Ann Monk Kidd's [The Book of Longings](#) which imagines a married Jesus 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."

Tuesday, July 27

Diane Moser Memorial Big Band Performance
Tierney's Tavern, Montclair Time TBA

*AN OPEN WEDDING INVITATION
TO THE CONGREGATION.*



Mark Larson, son of Margaret and the late George Larson, invites you all to his and Liz' wedding here at church on Thursday, July 29 at 2:30 PM. His mother will be present and will enjoy seeing those who are able to attend. There will be cake and coffee in the Guyn Room afterwards.