

**SUNDAY, August 1, 2021**

**10th 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!**

Sixteen months ago we left our church home.

**Covid-19 and fear and many deaths kept us away**

But God has been faithful and so we gather this morning

**With thanksgiving and rejoicing for God is good!**

**\*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.**

**5. In faith we'll gather 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.**

#### **A CREED OF DISCIPLESHIP**

**We are not people of fear:  
we are people of courage.  
We are not people who protect our own safety:  
we are people who protect our neighbors' safety.  
We are not people of greed:  
we are people of generosity.  
We are your people God,  
giving and loving,  
wherever we are,  
whatever it costs  
For as long as it takes  
wherever you call us. Amen.**

#### **SCRIPTURE**

**Ephesians 4: 1-16**

**L. Paige Moeller, Reader**

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, <sup>2</sup> with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup> making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup> There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, <sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. <sup>7</sup> **But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift.**

<sup>8</sup> Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people." <sup>9</sup> (When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended<sup>[a]</sup> into the lower parts of the earth? <sup>10</sup> He who descended is the same one

who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) <sup>11</sup> The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

<sup>14</sup> We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. <sup>15</sup> But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

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

#### **SPECIAL MUSIC**

**Hymn Sing**

**Maxine Alstrom, Piano**

#### **MESSAGE**

#### **POST PANDEMIC GRACE!**

*"But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift." Ephesians 4: 7*

#### **\*OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD**

**O God, we humbly admit that we search often for bread that perishes, rather than the bread of eternal life. We foolishly think that happiness and fulfillment can be attained from our own hands, rather than from your hands. We offer these gifts with the promise that you have already given us the bread of heaven. You are the Bread of Life. We come seeking to never be hungry or thirsty again. 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 if you are joining 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 # 629**

**“You Satisfy the Hungry Heart”**

1. You satisfy the hungry heart with gift of finest wheat,  
Come give to us O saving Lord, the bread of life to eat.  
As when the shepherd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice;  
So when You call your family Lord, we follow and rejoice.

2. You satisfy the hungry heart with gift of finest wheat,  
Come give to us o saving Lord, the bread of life to eat.  
With joyful lips we sing to You, our praise and gratitude,  
That You should count us worthy Lord, to share this heavenly food.

3. You satisfy the hungry heart with gift of finest wheat,  
Come give to us o saving Lord, the bread of life to eat.  
Is not the cup we bless and share the Blood of Christ outpoured?  
Do not one cup, one loaf, declare our oneness in the Lord?

4. You satisfy the hungry heart with gift of finest wheat,  
Come give to us o saving Lord, the bread of life to eat.  
The mystery of Your presence Lord, no mortal tongue can tell;  
Whom all the world cannot contain comes in our hearts to dwell.

**\* 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**