

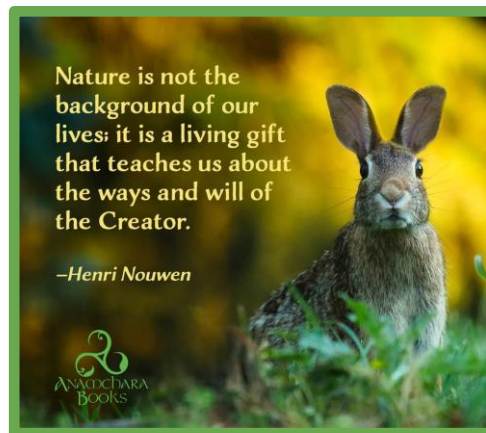
SUNDAY, August 7, 2022

9th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

Rev. Vivian L. Rodeffer, Pastor

Ms. Maxine Alstrom, Music Director



PRELUDE

WELCOME AND INVOCATION

Gracious and Loving God, we are grateful that you have called us together this day, drawing us from darkness to the glory of your light. May our spirits rejoice at the good news you have for us today and open our hearts to your healing love, for we ask this in Christ's Name. **Amen.**

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Sing praises to our Lord:

Who heals us and makes us whole.

Sing praises to our Lord, faithful children of God:

Whose joy rises in our lives each and every day.

Sing praises to our Lord, faithful children of God;

Give thanks to God's holy name:

God's Kingdom is near to us; God's peace resides in our hearts.

Let us worship God.

*HYMN # 578

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

1. God of grace and God of glory,
On Thy people pour Thy power.
Crown Thine ancient church's story,
Bring her bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
For the facing of this hour,
For the facing of this hour.

**2. Set our feet on lofty places,
Gird our lives that they may be,
Armored with all Christ-like graces,
In the fight to set men free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
That we fail not man nor Thee,
That we fail not man nor Thee.**

**3. Save us from weak resignation,
To the evils we deplore.
Let the search for Thy salvation,
Be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Serving Thee whom we adore,
Serving Thee whom we adore.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of tender mercies, we admit that sometimes we don't know what to do with ourselves. We anger at the slightest insult and imagine great vengeance upon those who wronged us. We laze about in the good news of our faith and do not consider the deep commitment of faith. We care for ourselves but not for others. Forgive us, we pray. Forgive us, help us to repent, and make us whole.

Time of silence.

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. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

Luke 12: 13-21, 29-34

¹³Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." ¹⁴But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" ¹⁵And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." ¹⁶Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' ¹⁸Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' ²⁰But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is

being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' ²¹ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

²⁹ And do not keep seeking what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. ³⁰ For it is the nations^[a] of the world that seek all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹ Instead, seek his^[b] kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. ³² "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

"How Great Thou Art"

Aisha Lettsome, soloist

THE MESSAGE

Stuff!

Rev. Barbara Stephens-Rich

DEDICATION OF OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD **Pastor Karen Sower**
of all life, in this summer season of abundance, we offer our heartfelt thanks. Thank you for seeds of promise you have sown in the soil of our lives. Bless our gifts of service of your people and our gifts of generosity. Amen

***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 Sower**
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 #384**

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

1. Love Divine, all love excelling,
 joy of heav'n, to earth come down;
 fix in us Thy humble dwelling,
 all Thy faithful mercies crown.
 Jesus, Thou art all compassion;
 pure, unbounded love Thou art;
 visit us with Thy salvation,
 enter every trembling heart.

2. Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit
 into every troubled breast;
 let us all in Thee inherit,
 let us find the promised rest.
 Take away the love of sinning;
 Alpha and Omega be;
 end of faith, as its beginning,
 set our hearts at liberty.

3. Finish, then, Thy new creation;
 pure and spotless let us be;
 let us see Thy great salvation
 perfectly restored in Thee;
 changed from glory into glory
 till with Thee we take our place,
 till we cast our crowns before Thee,
 lost in wonder, love and praise.

***BENEDICTION**

Bear witness to the love of God in this world so that those to whom love is a stranger, will find in you generous friends. May the love of God, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit, be yours, now and forever. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

***Stand as able.**

RETURN FROM VACATION Pastor Viv will be back in the office Monday, August 8. A special thanks to all who have filled in for her during the past four Sundays!

FLOWER MINISTRY

To place flowers on the altar area "in memory of," "in honor of," or "in celebration of," give your check and information to Louise Woodcox (973-464-8476) or to Ellen Elcavage in the church office (973-226-1094). There can be more than one bouquet. The cost is \$15.