

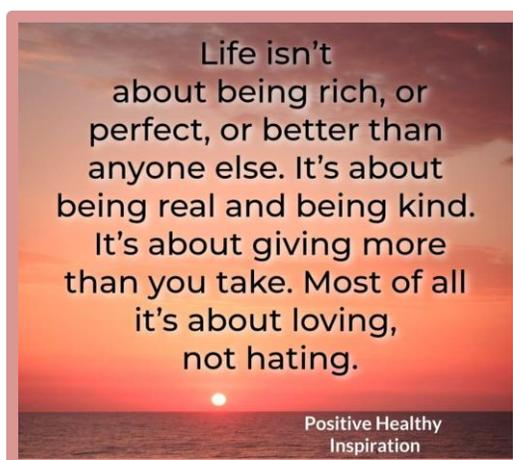
SUNDAY, AUGUST 29, 2021

14th 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, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INVOCATION

Pastor Viv

O God, It is good to be here in your presence among your people. Help us to worship with reverence, and to serve you with joy. May our words, our songs, and our thoughts be pleasing to you. Amen.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Praise be to God who reigns above the heavens.

Praise be to God who dwells within our hearts.

Let the majesty of all creation worship in reverence.

Let each man, woman and child pray in faith.

Praise be to God whom we worship in this hour.

***HYMN UMH #92**

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

**1. For the beauty of the earth,
For the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies,**

REFRAIN

**Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.**

**2. For the beauty of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flow'r,
Sun and moon, and stars of light,
REFRAIN**

**3. For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above,
For all gentle thoughts and mild,
REFRAIN**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God our Creator, We come to you a rebellious people. We have denied your intentions for us; we have sought our own ways rather than the way of Christ. We have refused to learn the lessons of the past, and still we remain bound up with past offenses. We dream of what cannot be and yet do not devote ourselves to laying a foundation for genuine hope. Forgive what we have been, amend what we are, and direct what we shall be in order to rise with Christ and serve you with trust and joy. *A time of silent confession.*

There is no greater joy in the heart of God than the moment when a son or daughter opens to the gift of forgiveness. In the name of Jesus Christ we are God's by grace. With great joy we are made alive. Thanks be to God. **Amen.**

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

Pastor Karen

**#147 All things bright and beautiful
All creatures great and small
All things wise and wonderful
'Twas God that made them all**

SCRIPTURE

James 1: 17-27

Christie Pavlishin, Reader

¹⁷ Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸ In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

¹⁹ You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰ for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹ Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

²² But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³ For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴ for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵ But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

²⁶ If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

Robb McCombe, Guitar

MESSAGE

THE FIRST FRUITS OF GRACE

“In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.” James 1: 18

***DEDICATING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD**

***PRAYER**

Holy God, we are grateful that every perfect gift in our lives is a gift from you. We have listened to your guidance, directing us to offer you our first fruits. So, we now join in this generous act of giving. We pray that these resources may care for your children everywhere in need. We pray in Jesus’s Name. 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!**

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

HYMN TFWS #2162*“Grace Alone”**

1. Every promise we can make, every prayer and step of faith
 Every difference we can make is only by His grace
 Every mountain we will climb, every ray of hope we shine
 Every blessing left behind is only by His grace. REFRAIN

Grace alone which God supplies
 Strength unknown He will provide
 Christ in us our cornerstone
 We will go forth in grace alone

2. Every soul we long to reach, every heart we hope to teach
 Everywhere we share His peace is only by His grace
 Every loving word we say, every tear we wipe away
 Every sorrow turned to praise is only by His grace. REFRAIN

***BENEDICTION**

God sends you forth today to be ambassadors for Christ. God looks for anyone who will lift instead of lean, help instead of hinder. Go to claim a corner of the world for God and may God's spirit go with you and abide with you. Amen.

***POSTLUDE**

OUR FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR today are a gift from Doreen Boyer for the Glory of God.

CALENDAR

Tuesday, August 31 7:00 PM Zoom Church Council Meeting

Tuesday, September 7 Rosh Hashanah Holy Day—Our church will not be used!

Monday, September 13 7:00 PM Zoom Nurture/Outreach/ Witness Meeting

SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, October 23 5-7 PM, Pulled Pork/ Bar-B-Q Chicken Take Out Dinner