

SUNDAY, September 4, 2022

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

Rev. Vivian L. Rodeffer, Pastor

13th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Ms. Maxine Alstrom, Music Director



PRELUDE

WELCOME AND INVOCATION

Pastor Viv

*Open our hearts today, O Lord, to feel the powerful strength and love you have for us. Help us to listen, not only with our ears, but with our spirits for your words of compassion and healing. Enable us to become more faithful disciples for you; for we ask this in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.***

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

We come to you this day, with burdens and cares in our hearts.

Lord, take these burdens from us and ease our souls.

We come to you this day, with fear and uncertainty about the future.

Lord, calm our fears and help us to place our trust in you.

Come, let us worship God whose love is abundant.

Let us praise the God of our salvation who watches over us always.

***HYMN #126**

“Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above”

**1 Sing praise to God who reigns above,
the God of all creation,
the God of power, the God of love,
the God of our salvation.**

**With healing balm my soul is filled
and every faithless murmur stilled:**

To God all praise and glory.

2 The Lord is never far away,

**but through all grief distressing,
an ever present help and stay,
our peace and joy and blessing.**

**As with a mother's tender hand,
God gently leads the chosen band:
To God all praise and glory.**

**3 Thus all my toilsome way along,
I sing aloud thy praises,**

that earth may hear the grateful song
my voice unwearied raises.
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart,
both soul and body bear your part:
To God all praise and glory.

give God all praise and glory;
let all who own his power proclaim
aloud the wondrous story!
Cast each false idol from its throne,
for Christ is Lord, and Christ alone:
To God all praise and glory.

4 Let all who name Christ's holy name

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of our lives, you search us and know us.
We have refused to take up your cross,
to bear the burdens that are ours to carry.
We have not given up our attachments to possessions or to self.
We have not counted the cost of walking into an unknown future with you.
Help us turn away from evil, that we may walk with you once more.

A time for silent meditation.

The Holy One rejoices in our repentance,
reshaping us into vessels of love and service.
In the grace-filled love of Christ, we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

Luke 8: 4-15

The Parable of the Sower

4 When a large crowd was gathering, as people were coming to him from town after town, he said in a parable: 5 "A sower went out to sow his seed, and as he sowed some fell on a path and was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. 6 Some fell on rock, and as it grew up it withered for lack of moisture. 7 Some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. 8 Some fell into good soil, and when it grew it produced a hundredfold." As he said this, he called out, "If you have ears to hear, then hear!"

The Purpose of the Parables

9 Then his disciples asked him what this parable meant. 10 He said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but to others I speak in parables, so that 'looking they may not perceive and hearing they may not understand.'

The Parable of the Sower Explained

11 "Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. 12 The ones on the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. 13 The ones on the rock are those who,

when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe only for a while and in a time of testing fall away. 14 As for what fell among the thorns, these are the ones who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. 15 But as for that in the good soil, these are the ones who, when they hear the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart and bear fruit with endurance.

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

Joyce Francavilla

THE MESSAGE Week 7: THE FRUIT OF GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT: A HEART OF GOODNESS

*"But as for that in the good soil, these are the ones who, when they hear the word, hold it fast in **an honest and good heart**, and bear fruit with patient endurance." Luke 8: 15*

DEDICATION OF OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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
**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 #121 “There’s A Wideness in God’s Mercy”**

**1 There’s a wideness in God’s mercy,
like the wideness of the sea.
There’s a kindness in God’s justice,
which is more than liberty.**

**3 But we make God’s love too narrow
by false limits of our own,
and we magnify its strictness
with a zeal God will not own.**

**2 There is welcome for the sinner,
and more graces for the good.
There is mercy with the Savior,
there is healing in his blood.**

**4 For the love of God is broader
than the measures of the mind,
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.**

***BENEDICTION**

May God’s joy be in our hearts and God’s love surround our living.
Each day and night and wherever we roam, may we know God’s presence.
In growing and learning, in joy and sorrow, in friendship, in solitude,
in beginnings and endings, may God keep us and bless us all the days of our lives.
May the blessing of God – the Beginning, the End, and the Everlasting,
be with us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

*** POSTLUDE**

***Stand as able.**

CALENDAR

Monday, September 5	LABOR DAY/ CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	
Tuesday, September 6	Noon 7:30 PM	West Essex Ministerium, CAI Golf Outing Committee
Wednesday, September 7	7:30 PM	West Essex First Aid Squad
Thursday, September 8	12:15 PM	Kiwanis Luncheon Meeting
Friday, September 9	Evening	Viewing for Thomas Crane-Sanctuary
Saturday, September 10	Morning	Crane Viewing and Funeral Service