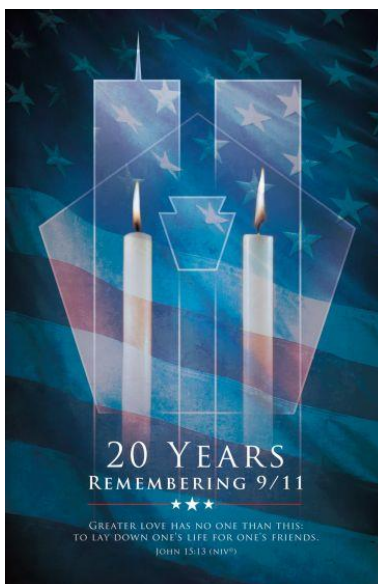


SUNDAY, September 5, 2021

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

15th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Ms. Maxine Alstrom, Music Director



PRELUDE

WELCOME AND INVOCATION

Pastor Viv

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

So many days, we are like the blind beggar in Mark's gospel,
 sitting on the side of the road hoping to hear the sounds of your coming.
 We are like the Canaanite woman begging for the crumbs that fall from your table.
 We are like the woman who was sick for so many years
 who reached out to touch the hem of your garment.

Jesus Christ, Son of David, have mercy upon us!

Have mercy upon us when we cannot see how we will make it,
 Have mercy upon us when we are sick and cannot get well,
 Have mercy upon us when life hardens our hearts
 and makes it difficult for us to love, to heal or to forgive,
 Have mercy upon us when persecution comes and when we are misunderstood.

**Jesus Christ, Son of David, we come this morning asking
 for strength to get to the other side, and grace to represent you well.**

We come, confident that your promise to be with us always is true,
 confident that you are greater than the trials we face,
 confident that we are secure in the palm of your hands.

We come to you today, like blind Bartimaeus who sat on the side of the road to Jericho,
 knowing that you love us and have not forgotten our needs.

**Jesus Christ, Son of David, have mercy upon us,
 And grant us your peace. Amen.**

***HYMN**

“O God, Our Hearts Were Shattered”

Carolyn Gillette

7.6.7.6 D LLANGLOFFAN (UMH #435 “God of Every Nation”)

These hymn lyrics were written on the afternoon of 9-11-2001 and are now shared on 10,000 websites.

**O God, our hearts were shattered On that horrendous day;
 We heard the news and gathered To grieve and then to pray.
 We cried to you and wondered, "Where did the violence start?"
 The world as we had known it had just been torn apart.**

**We heard of those who perished-- Of heroes' sacrifice.
 We paused again to cherish the gifts of love and life.
 We worried for the future; we hugged our loved ones then.
 We cried, "Can peace be found here?" "We can't let terror win!"**

**Some sought to answer terror the only way they knew--
 With anger toward the stranger and calls for vengeance, too.
 Yet this is not your answer, nor what you would create.
 May we live toward a future where love will conquer hate.**

**God, give us faith and wisdom To be your healing hands;
 Give open minds that listen to truth from all your lands.
 Give strength to work for justice; grant love that casts out fear.
 Then peace and not destruction will be the victor here.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Pastor Karen

SCRIPTURE

Mark 7: 24-37

Robb McCombe, Reader

²⁴From there [Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, ²⁵but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷He said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and

throw it to the dogs.”²⁸ But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.”²⁹ Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.”³⁰ So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³¹ Then [Jesus] returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³² They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³ He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴ Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” ³⁵ And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶ Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷ They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

Myrtle Connell, Solo and Ruth Carrara, Piano

MESSAGE

GONE TO THE DOGS

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

Healing One, we are reminded often in the Bible that you were capable of miraculous actions. But, miracles are not limited to ancient times. We recall many miracles that have touched people within our own congregation and are astounded. Today, we offer you ourselves and our gifts as sacred gestures of our gratitude. All praise and honor be given to you! 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.**

THE LORD'S SUPPER

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 #467

"Trust and Obey"

1. When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word,
 What a glory He sheds on our way!
 While we do His good will, He abides with us still,
 And with all who will trust and obey.
 Trust and obey, for there's no other way
 To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

2. Not a shadow can rise, not a cloud in the skies,
 But His smile quickly drives it away;
 Not a doubt or a fear, not a sigh or a tear,
 Can abide while we trust and obey.
 Trust and obey, for there's no other way
 To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

3. Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at His feet.
 Or we'll walk by His side in the way.
 What He says we will do, where He sends we will go;
 Never fear, only trust and obey.
 Trust and obey, for there's no other way
 To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

* BENEDICTION

May God fix our faith on the Lord Jesus Christ,
 May we know that nothing can separate us from the constancy of God's love,
 May God's Holy Spirit guide our steps today and always. **Amen.**

*POSTLUDE

CALENDAR

Monday, September 6 OFFICE CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY
 Tuesday, September 7 Our Jewish neighbors celebrate "Rosh Hashanah"
 Thursday, September 9 4:00 PM ZOOM Nominations Meeting
 7:30 PM ZOOM Golf Outing Meeting
 Saturday, September 11 8:30 AM Caldwell 9-11 Memorial Service, Town Green