

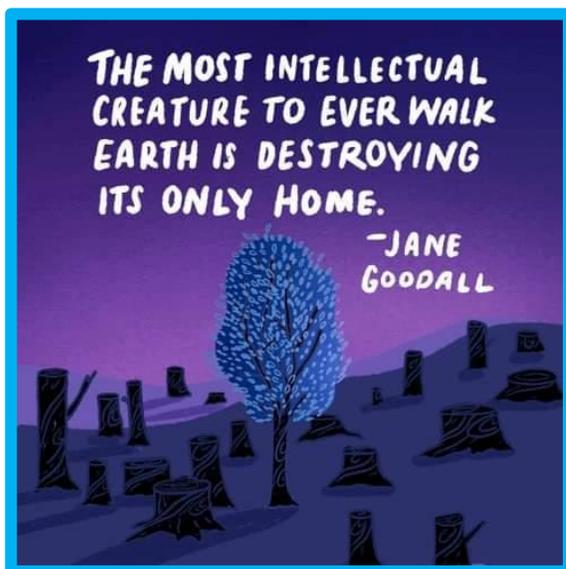
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

16<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Caldwell United Methodist Church, 8 Academy Rd., Caldwell, NJ 07006

Rev. Vivian L. Rodeffer, Pastor

Ms. Maxine Alstrom, Music Director



PRELUDE

Joyce Francavilla

WELCOME AND INVOCATION

Pastor Viv

[On Care of Our Common Home](#), Interfaith Zoom Study begins this week.

Study books are available for \$3.50 each. Call the office.

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

From Psalm 19

When we open our eyes, we see your glory, O God.

**Sun, moon, and stars proclaim your magnificence.**

When we open our ears, we hear your word, O God.

**The voice of creation reaches the ends of the earth.**

When we open our hearts, we receive your truth, O God.

**You fill us with joy and light forever.**

When we open ourselves, we praise your holy name.

**Praise God's holy name.**

\*HYMN #152

"I Sing The Almighty Power of God"

1. I sing the almighty power of God, that made the mountains rise,  
That spread the flowing seas abroad, and built the lofty skies.

I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;  
The moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.

2. I sing the goodness of the Lord, who filled the earth with food,  
Who formed the creatures thru the Word, and then pronounced them good.  
Lord, how thy wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eye,  
If I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky!

3. There's not a plant or flower below, but makes Thy glories known,  
And clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from Thy throne;  
Creatures that borrow life from thee are subject to Thy care;  
There's not a place where we can flee but God is present there.

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

With hearts of sorrow, we come before you, O God,  
to confess what you already know—  
we have failed to keep your laws.  
Again and again, we have followed our own selfish will,  
rather than your holy and life-giving will for our lives.  
Forgive us, O God, and cleanse us from hidden faults,  
that the words of our mouths, and the meditations of our hearts,  
may be acceptable to you, our Rock and our Redeemer. *A time of silent confession.*

Hear these words of assurance.  
God shows steadfast love and blesses to the thousandth generation  
those who walk in God's ways.  
In love, God sent Jesus to bless and redeem God's people.  
God forgives us our sins and restores us to new life.  
Let us rejoice in God's mercy. **Amen**

#### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Karen

#### SCRIPTURE

Mark 8: 27-38

Jeannie Laureano, Reader

<sup>27</sup> Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" <sup>28</sup> And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." <sup>29</sup> He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." <sup>30</sup> And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

<sup>31</sup> Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup> He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup> But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

<sup>34</sup> He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup> For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup> Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup> Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

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

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

**Joyce Francavilla**

## **MESSAGE**

### **THE GOSPEL OF CREATION**

*"Scripture helps us to see that human life is grounded in three close relationships: we relate to God, to our neighbor, and to the earth itself." On Care For Our Common Home, p. 18.*

## **DEDICATION OF OUR OFFERINGS**

### **\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Father, you challenge us to deny ourselves in order to follow you. We are not accustomed to denying ourselves often. Our culture promotes instant gratification. Self-help experts profess self-care as the key to contentment. Financial consultants advise clients to pay themselves first. Yet, you call us to give, to deny ourselves to follow you, to set our minds on divine things rather than human things. Help us in this offertory moment to focus on you as we sacrificially give ourselves and our offerings. In Jesus' name, we pray. 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 #2137 "Would I Have Answered When You Called"**

1. Would I have answered when you called, "Come, follow, follow me!"  
Would I at once have left behind both work and family?  
Or would the old, familiar round have held me by its claim  
And kept the spark within my heart from bursting into flame?
2. Would I have followed where you led through ancient Galilee,  
On roads unknown, by ways untried, beyond security?  
Or would I soon have hurried back where home and comfort drew,  
Where truth you taught would not disturb the ordered life I knew?
3. Would I have matched my step with yours when crowds cried "Crucify!"  
When on a rocky hill I saw a cross against the sky?  
Or would I too have slipped away and left you there alone,  
A dying king with crown of thorns upon a terrible throne?
4. O Christ, I cannot search my heart through all its tangled ways,  
Nor can I with a certain mind my steadfastness appraise.  
I only pray that when you call, "Come, follow, follow me!"  
You'll give me strength beyond my own to follow faithfully.

**\*BENEDICTION**

The love of God be the passion in your heart.  
The joy of God your strength when times are hard.  
The presence of God a peace that overflows.  
The Word of God the seed that you might sow. **Amen.**

**POSTLUDE**

## **CALENDAR**

<b>Monday, September 13</b>	10AM Zoom <b>Prayer Group</b>
<b>Tuesday, September 14</b>	10AM Zoom <b>Interfaith Study</b> on "The Care of Our Common Home"
<b>Thursday, September 16</b>	<b>YOM KIPPUR</b> , Day of Atonement, for our Jewish friends and neighbors
<b>Saturday, September 18</b>	11AM <b>Memorial Service</b> for Jennifer Williams in the sanctuary