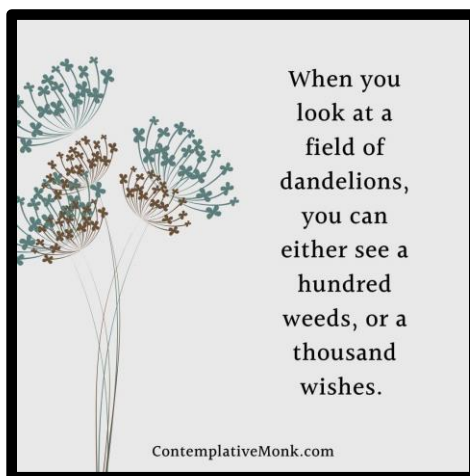


SUNDAY, September 18, 2022
 Caldwell United Methodist Church, 8 Academy Road, Caldwell, N. J. 07006
 Rev. Vivian L. Rodeffer, Pastor

15th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
 Ms. Maxine Alstrom, Music Director



PRELUDE

WELCOME AND INVOCATION

Pastor Viv

Divine Nurturer, we are thankful that we can come to you any time. You have made it possible for us to come this day just as we are. Help us to nurture our relationship with you, ourselves, and each other so that we may be a blessing to our sisters and brothers. Amen

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather together to celebrate the joy in our lives.

God's love fills our hearts to overflowing with laughter.

We gather, in God's presence, to find comfort and hope for our pain.

God's grace wipes away our tears and knits us together as one people.

We gather together, in God's presence, to worship God in faith and truth.

Alleluia! Amen!

*HYMN TFWS #2065 "More Precious Than Silver"

**1 Lord, You are more precious than silver;
 You are more costly than gold;
 Lord, You are more beautiful than diamonds;
 And nothing I desire compares with You.**

2 Lord, Your life is divine, eternal.

**Lord, Your life regenerated me.
 Lord, Your life is growing within me,
 Until I am fully conformed to Thee.**

**3 Lord, Your love is wide as the ocean.
 Lord, Your love is deep as the sea.
 Lord, Your love encompasses the nations,
 And that is all I want to live in me.**

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

Everlasting God, we must confess how we have not lived as your people. We serve many masters - work, wealth, power, addictions - yet find no hope in them. We hear the cries of the poor, and shut the doors of our hearts to them. We ridicule those who expose their hopes and dreams to us. Forgive us so that we might be the hope and love others need in their lives, even as Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, brought these gifts to us, calling us to be faithful with the grace, peace, and joy entrusted to us. *Silence is kept*

We are God's beloved children, and will model God's grace and love in our hearts. Thanks be to God! We are forgiven! **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

Luke 16: 1-13

The Parable of the Dishonest Manager

16 Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. 2 So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.' 3 Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. 4 I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' 5 So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' 6 He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' 7 Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' 8 And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. 9 And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

10 "Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. 11 If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? 12 And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? 13 No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

THE MESSAGE A Good Lesson from a Bad Example?

DEDICATION OF OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God's love is steadfast and abundant. We are blessed to give from hearts of love that others might experience abundance. May the gifts we bring be used to supply whatever balm is needed, wherever it is needed. May these resources be used to facilitate the wholeness of all. 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!**

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 #206 "I Want to Walk As A Child of the Light"**

**1 I want to walk as a child of the light
I want to follow Jesus
God sent the stars to give light to the world**

The star of my life is Jesus
 In Him, there is no darkness at all
 The night and the day are both alike
 The Lamb is the light of the city of God
 Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus

2 I want to see the brightness of God
 I want to look at Jesus
 Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path
 And show me the way to the Father
 In Him, there is no darkness at all
 The night and the day are both alike
 The Lamb is the light of the city of God
 Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus

3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ
 I want to be with Jesus
 When we have run with patience the race
 We shall know the joy of Jesus
 In Him, there is no darkness at all
 The night and the day are both alike
 The Lamb is the light of the city of God
 Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus

***BENEDICTION**

God has filled us with joy and wonder.

We will go to let it overflow in the lives of others.

Jesus has filled us with comfort and hope.

We will go to wipe away the tears of those around us.

The Spirit sends us forward in faith to share the truth of God's presence in our lives.

Alleluia! We will live everyday as God's own. Amen.

*** POSTLUDE**

***Stand as able.**

Altar Flowers are given today to the glory of God and in honor of Joan Coleman.

CALENDAR

Monday, September 19

**NO PRAYER/DISCUSSION GROUP
7:00 PM FINANCE AND TRUSTEE MTG**

Tuesday, September 20

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING