

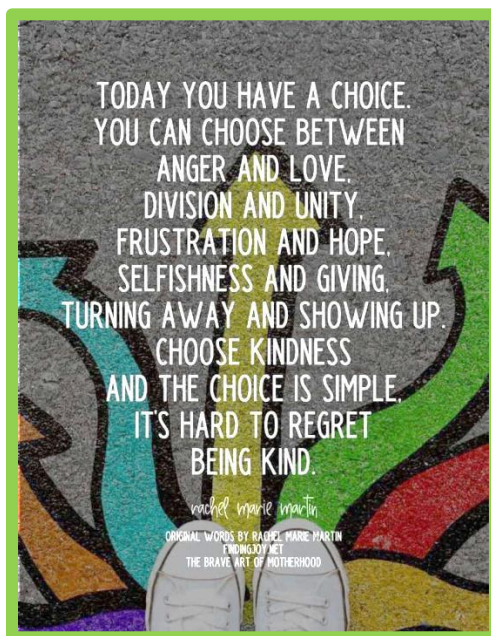
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2021

17th 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 AND INVOCATION

Pastor Viv

We draw near to you, O God, Source of all understanding, and ask you to draw near to us.

Teach us your wisdom from above, that we may bear good fruit in our lives.

Root us beside the streams of your wisdom, that the green leaves of our goodness, fed by your insight, may not wither. Amen.

On Care of Our Common Home, Interfaith Zoom Study begins this week.

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

Register at <https://forms.gle/DaFy8UPLnvfZuzXr6>

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Proverbs 31, Psalm 1 and James 3

Who is wise and understanding among us?

Those who seek wisdom and understanding each and every day. Those who delight in God and meditate on God's law.

Come, learn more about the wisdom from above, a wisdom that yields a harvest of righteousness.

O God, your wisdom is more precious than jewels! We draw near to you.

***HYMN TFWS #2270 “I Will Enter His Gates” [2x]**
I will enter his gates with thanksgiving in my heart
I will enter His courts with praise
I will say this is the day that the Lord had made
I will rejoice for he has made me glad

He has made me glad; He had made me glad,
I will rejoice for he had made me glad. (2x)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

James 3

O God, we live our lives as best we can—dealing with difficult relationships and situations, putting failures and disappointments behind us, and moving into each new day with as much energy, goodwill, and optimism as we can muster. But here, right now, we seldom have the right answers, we seldom seek your higher wisdom in our lives, we just move ahead. Forgive us for not asking for your insight. Fill us with your wisdom, that we may live lives of goodness and peace. *A period of silent meditation.*

When we come before God in humility and honesty, God draws near to us with forgiveness and renewed blessing. Thanks be to God! **Amen.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE	“Jesus Loves the Little Children”	Pastor Karen
Jesus loves the little children	Jesus cares for all the children	
All the children of the world	All the children of the world	
Red and yellow, black & white	Red and yellow, black and white	
They are precious in His sight	They are precious in His sight	
Jesus loves the little children of the world	Jesus cares for all the children of the world	

SCRIPTURE

Mark 9: 30- 37

Michele Sauer, Reader

³⁰They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; ³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.” ³²But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Who Is the Greatest?

³³Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” ³⁴But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” ³⁶Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷“Whoever welcomes one such child in

my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

“It Is Well With My Soul”**

Myrtle Connell, Soloist

MESSAGE

WELCOMING GOD INTO OUR LIVES

“Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me...” Mark 9: 37a

DEDICATION OF OURSELVES AND OUR OFFERINGS

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Jesus said: **“Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.”** Precious Lord, your love for us is amazing. You have blessed us in so many ways. The children of this congregation are an extraordinary example of your blessing. May a portion of this money support ministries that welcome children in our midst. 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 #402 “Lord, I Want to Be A Christian in My Heart”**

***BENEDICTION**

Psalms 1

We are planted by the streams of God’s wisdom.
 We meditate on the desires of God,
 taking delight in the laws of God.
 Sink your roots deep into the soil,
 and draw on God’s wisdom.
 For God will nourish us every day with insight.
 Go forth, knowing that God watches over you. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE**Stand as Able****CALENDAR**

Monday, September 20	10AM Zoom Prayer Group 7PM Zoom NOW
Tuesday, September 21	7PM Zoom Church Council
Thursday, September 23	7PM Zoom Interfaith Study on "The Care of Our Common Home" 7:30 Zoom Golf Outing Meeting

****MUSIC NOTES:** "Life can be so unpredictable—joys and sorrows, beautiful blessings and distressing difficulties can come unexpectedly. Our life's dreams and plans can change in an instant. We all know this to be true. So how can we find peace amid such turbulence?"

Horatio Spafford knew something about life's unexpected challenges. He was a successful attorney and real estate investor who lost a fortune in the great Chicago fire of 1871. Around the same time, his beloved four-year-old son died of scarlet fever.

Thinking a vacation would do his family some good, he sent his wife and four daughters on a ship to England, planning to join them after he finished some pressing business at home. However, while crossing the Atlantic Ocean, the ship was involved in a terrible collision and sunk. More than 200 people lost their lives, including all four of Horatio Spafford's precious daughters. His wife, Anna, survived the tragedy. Upon arriving in England, she sent a telegram to her husband that began: "Saved alone. What shall I do?"

Horatio immediately set sail for England. At one point during his voyage, the captain of the ship, aware of the tragedy that had struck the Spafford family, summoned Horatio to tell him that they were now passing over the spot where the shipwreck had occurred.¹

As Horatio thought about his daughters, words of comfort and hope filled his heart and mind. He wrote them down, and they have since become a well-loved hymn:

*When peace like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll—
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to know
It is well, it is well with my soul.²*

Perhaps we cannot always say that everything is well in all aspects of our lives. There will always be storms to face, and sometimes there will be tragedies. But with faith in a loving God and with trust in His divine help, we can confidently say, "It is well, it is well with my soul."

Spoken Word by Lloyd Newell