

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2021

18th 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

*Lord of joy and mercy, be with us this day as we seek your voice and your guidance.
Remove the obstacles that block our commitment and help us to truly be your disciples;
for we ask this in Christ's Name. Amen.*

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

It's a great day to be here.

There are so many things we can do to serve the Lord.

Just listen for God's call to you. Let God guide your life.

We are willing to open our lives to God's service.

Come, let's worship and celebrate God's good news for us.

Let us bring our hopes and prayers to God with joy.

***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.**

**4. Let all who name Christ's holy name 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.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Patient Lord, we know that you call us to service, but we often feel inadequate. We love to make excuses for not doing something or for doing something only half-heartedly. Remind us again of your loving and guiding presence. Forgive us when we stumble and falter. Turn us again to you, serving joyfully and confidently. *Time for silent thoughts.*

Beloved Ones, you are the salty people - those who bring flavor to living. Your spirit of love and confidence gives hope to others. Remember that the Lord is always with you. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

Mark 9: 38-50

Christie Pavlishin, Reader

³⁸ John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone^[a] casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." ³⁹ But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. ⁴⁰ Whoever is not against us is for us. ⁴¹ For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

⁴² "If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me,^[b] it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. ⁴³ If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell,^[c] to the unquenchable fire.^[d] ⁴⁵ And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell.^[e] ⁴⁷ And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God

with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell,⁴⁸ where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

⁴⁹ "For everyone will be salted with fire.⁵⁰ Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Put Your Hand in the Hand"

Myrtle Connell, Soloist

MESSAGE

PASS THE SALT

"Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another." [v.50b]

***DEDICATION OF OURSELVES AND OUR OFFERINGS**

Gracious Lord, we join together in prayer. We recognize that daily prayer impacts our spiritual health. Likewise, offering our gifts to you impacts our spiritual health. As we practice these spiritual disciplines, we hope to draw even closer to you. We pray in the name of the Jesus Christ who offers salvation to all throughout our world. 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 Viv

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 #2176**

"Make Me a Servant"

Make me a servant, humble and meek

Lord let me lift up those who are weak

And may the prayer of my heart always be

Make me a servant, make me a servant

Make me a servant today.

**Make me a servant, humble and meek
 Lord let me lift up those who are weak
 And may the prayer of my heart always be
 Make me a servant, make me a servant
 Make me a servant today.**

**Make me a servant, humble and meek
 Lord let me lift up those who are weak
 And may the prayer of my heart always be
 Make me a servant, make me a servant
 Make me a servant today.**

***BENEDICTION**

Go now to serve the Lord. Remember the healing love that has taken place in your life.
 Be open to all the wonders and opportunities that God puts before you. Go in peace.
Amen.

***POSTLUDE**

***Stand as Able**

CALENDAR

Monday, September 27	10AM Zoom Prayer Group
Tuesday, September 28	16 th Annual Golf Outing
Thursday, September 30	7PM Zoom Interfaith Study on "The Care of Our Common Home"
Sunday, October 3	10AM Worship and Zoom Worship Caldwell Street Fair

CONTINUING EDUCATION Pastor Rodeffer is "attending" Church of the Resurrection's Zoom Leadership Institute Wednesday, Sept.29, 6:30-7:30; Thursday, September 30, 9AM-6:30PM; and Friday Oct. 1. 9AM-12:15PM.

PULLED PORK/ BAR B QUE CHICKEN TAKE OUT DINNER, Saturday, October 23!!