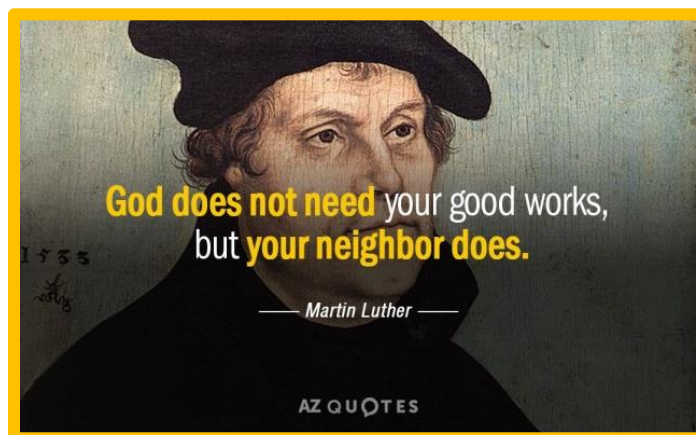


**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2021**

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

**REFORMATION SUNDAY**

**Ms. Maxine Alstrom, Music Director**



## PRELUDE

### WELCOME AND INVOCATION

**Pastor Viv**

*Lord, we gather here this day in praise and thanksgiving for all the wonderful things you have done for us. Help us to be faithful disciples in all that we think, do and say, that your great love may be revealed and offer healing to all people. **Amen.***

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

God is calling us today.

**Help us to hear God's call in our lives.**

God needs our gifts and graces to help others.

**May we use the blessings which God has given us to benefit others.**

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

**Let us share God's; love our in our words and deeds.**

### \*HYMN #110

**"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"**

**Martin Luther, 1529**

**1. A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;  
 our helper he, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.  
 For still our ancient foe does seek to work us woe;  
 his craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate,  
 on earth is not his equal.**

**2. Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,  
were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing.  
You ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he;  
Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same;  
and he must win the battle.**

**3. That Word above all earthly powers no thanks to them abideth;  
the Spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth.  
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;  
the body they may kill: God's truth abideth still;  
his kingdom is forever!**

#### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**How often, O Lord, have we believed that the greatest commandment is our love for ourselves solely. We have not heard the cries of those in need; we have turned our backs on opportunities to serve you by serving others. Many times we have thought only of our own wants and desires and ignored the needs of others. Help us to truly understand the commandments to love you with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind. Let us care for our neighbors both far and near. Bring us back to your loving light.**

*Take a few moments of confession.*

In the midst of our darkness and ignorance, the bright light of God's love shines through, healing our anguished souls. Rejoice, beloved of God, for God's love and forgiveness are given to you this day. **Amen.**

#### **SCRIPTURE**

**Mark 12: 28-34**

**Jeannie Laureano, Reader**

<sup>28</sup> One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" <sup>29</sup> Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; <sup>30</sup> you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' <sup>31</sup> The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." <sup>32</sup> Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that 'he is one, and besides him there is no other'; <sup>33</sup> and 'to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,' and 'to love one's neighbor as oneself,'—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." <sup>34</sup> When

Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God."  
After that no one dared to ask him any question.

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

**BELL CHOIR**

**"Joy in My Heart"**

**Arr. James D. Kimball for Sharlene Schubert**

**MESSAGE**

**"NOT FAR FROM THE KINGDOM"**

**\*DEDICATION OF OURSELVES AND OUR OFFERINGS** –*The offering will be placed on the altar.*

**\*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, YOUR SILENT PRAYERS & 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 #463**

**"Lord, Speak to Me"**

- 1. Lord, speak to me that I may speak  
In living echoes of your tone.  
As you have sought, so let me seek  
Your erring children, lost and lone.**
- 2. Oh, teach me, Lord, that I may teach  
The precious truths which you impart.  
And wing my words that they may reach  
The hidden depths of many a heart.**
- 3. Oh, fill me with your fullness, Lord,  
Until my very hearts o'erflows**

In kindling thought and glowing word,  
Your love to tell, your praise to show.

4. Oh, use me, Lord, use even me,  
Just as you will, and when, and where  
Until your blessed face I see,  
Your rest, your joy, your glory share.

**\*BENEDICTION**

*The pathway is open before you this day. It is a path of peace and hope, brought to others by God's mighty love and wondrous blessings. Go in peace, bringing hope to all that you meet. Go, blessed ones, to serve God all your days. Amen.*

**\*POSTLUDE**

**CALENDAR**

Monday, November 1	10 AM Zoom <b>Prayer Group—New Book</b> 7 PM Zoom <b>NOW Meeting</b>
Tuesday, November 2	12 PM <b>West Essex Ministerium Association</b> 4 PM <b>Bell Choir Rehearsal</b> 7 PM <b>Choir Rehearsal</b>
Wednesday, November 3	7 PM <b>West Essex First Aid Squad</b>
Sunday, November 7	<b>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS</b> <b>All Saints Sunday</b> , 10 AM Zoom and In Person
Tuesday, November 8	7 PM Zoom <b>Finance Meeting</b> 8 PM Zoom <b>Trustees Meeting</b>

**LONGING TO PRAY: HOW THE PSALMS TEACH US TO TALK WITH GOD** by J. Ellsworth Kalas is the new book we are beginning this Monday morning at Prayer/ Discussion Group from 10 AM through 11 AM each. Join us when you can or be present every week. *“This...book invites us to study with some ancient experts in prayer, the writers of the Book of Psalms. We haven't read long in the psalms before we realize that the authors, like us, were altogether human, their lives marked by breathtaking highs and lows. But with all of that, they were saints who left us with the greatest collection of prayers in the possession of the human race.”* Copies of the book are in the church office at \$16 each. Call to reserve yours for the study or for personal reading. Pastor Viv has heard Rev. Kalas speak on two occasions and says his down to earth thoughts and deep faith are inspiring! Won't you join us on zoom. If you are interested, text Pastor Viv and she will send you the zoom link for the class.