

The First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell 326 Bloomfield Avenue Caldwell, NJ 07006 973-228-0310 www.firstprescaldwell.org

APRIL 18, 2021 Third Sunday of Easter

REFLECTION

"Surely... we cannot imagine any certainty that is not tinged with doubt, or any assurance that is not assailed by some anxiety." — John Calvin

PRELUDE

Trio Sonata, BWV 528

J. S. Bach (1685 – 1750)

II. Andante

WORDS OF WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER

Doubt and fear are gone!

Light and hope abound!

Where we once felt alone and lost;

Christ has come to walk again with us.

Hallelujah!

HYMN No. 248

"Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!"

HYMN TO JOY

Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna!
Celebrate this day of days!
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder:
All creation is amazed.
In the desert allsurrounding,
See, a spreading tree has grown.
Healing leaves of grace abounding
Bring a taste of love unknown.

Christ is risen! Raise your spirits
From the caverns of despair.
Walk with gladness in the morning,
See what love can do and dare.
Drink the wine of resurrection,
Not a servant, but a friend.
Jesus is our strong companion.
Joy and peace shall never end.

Christ is risen! Earth and heaven Nevermore shall be the same. Break the bread of new creation Where the world is still in pain. Tell its grim, demonic chorus:
"Christ is risen! Get you gone!"
God the First and Last is with us.
Sing Hosanna everyone!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Gracious God, you give to us your greatest gift, Your Son Jesus Christ, as we still don't understand what is going on. You call us to be people of courage and hope; and yet we run and hide, doubting and fearing. You challenge us to proclaim our faith; but we huddle in darkness whispering our words of discouragement. Shake us up, Lord! Forgive us when we seem to need prodding over and over again. Help us to see the presence of Jesus in our lives; and remind us of all that He taught us, to help us to live as disciples, serving you by serving others. Change us! Remold us! Make us truly the disciples you have called us to be. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Do not be afraid. The Light of God has vanquished the darkness! Christ is risen! Doubts are erased. Rejoice! God's love is poured upon you, now and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN 626 "As the Deer" AS THE DEER

As the deer pants for the water,
So my soul longs after you.
You alone are my heart's desire,
And I long to worship you.
You alone are my strength, my shield;
To you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire,
And I long to worship you.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

MINUTE FOR MISSION "One Great Hour of Sharing"

SPECIAL MUSIC Tableaux De Provence, No. 2 "Chanson" Paul Maurice

FIRST LESSON Luke 24:36-48

SECOND LESSON *Matthew 28:11-20*

SERMON "WIJD? Facing, Causing, Overcoming Doubt" Rev. William Schram

SPECIAL MUSIC "We Walk By Faith" Karen Marrolli

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; 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 No. 295 "Go to the World!" SINE NOMINE

Go to the world! Go into all the earth.
Go preach the cross where Christ renews life's worth.
Baptizing as the sign of our rebirth.
Alleluia. Alleluia.

Go to the world! Go into every place.
Go live the word of God's redeeming grace.
Go seek God's presence in each time and space.
Alleluia. Alleluia.

Go to the world! Go struggle, bless, and pray; The nights of tears give way to joyous day. As servant church, you follow Christ's own way. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Go to the world! Go as the ones I send, For I am with you till the age shall end, When all the hosts of glory cry "Amen!" Alleluia. Alleluia.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Hymn to Joy" arr. Paul Manz

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Rev. William Schram
Rev. Barbara Piercy
Sue Jones & Noel Piercy
Paul Salierno, Cantor & Soloist
Cailan Compierchio, Alto Sax
Ray Liptak & Rob Thiemann, AV Engineers

SERMON QUESTIONS FOR SUNDAY, APRIL 18TH

- 1. What aspects of daily life can make you have doubts about your faith?
- 2. When has someone else stirred up doubts or fears in your mind, about your faith or about what was happening in the world.
- 3. What would provide definite proof about the resurrection for you?
- 4. Where have you seen evidence of our Lord's redemptive hand at work in the world in which you live?
- 5. When have you doubted you could do what Jesus is asking of you?
- 6. "What would Jesus do?" assumes Jesus is gone from the world. "What is Jesus doing?" assumes the risen Lord is still active within this world. Which perspective describes how you have viewed Jesus' role in your life now?