

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

FEBRUARY 20, 2022 Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

REFLECTION

"Before coming to America," the immigrant rabbi said, "I had to forgive Adolf Hitler. "Why?" I asked. "I did not want to bring Hitler with me, you know, to my new country." ~ Philip Yancey

PRELUDE We Shall Behold Him

Dottie Rambo arr. Phillip Keveren

ST. DENIO

WORDS OF WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Blessed are those who trust - in God!

We come in trust, to be grounded in God's love.

Blessed are those who hope - in God!

We come in hope, trusting in the One who gives us life.

Blessed are those who delight - in God's Word!

We come to hear God speak, hoping for healing and joy.

**HYMN No. 12

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light in accessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light, Nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might: Thy justice, like mountains high soaring above; Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life thou givest, to both great and small.
In all life thou livest, the true lif of all.
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
Then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.

Though reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light.
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight.
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

In this season of light, Revealing God, we find ourselves wandering the shadows of the world. In this time when we focus on Jesus' ministry of healing, we hold tight to all those emotions – hatred, fear, worry – which continue to damage us. in these days when we are invited to listen to Jesus' teachings, we confess it is easier to hear the seductive words of sin.

Forgive us, Resurrecting God, for trusting in promises which are short-lived, rather than in your Word which endures forever. You have sent Jesus before us so that, as we follow him, we might travel from that far country of fear and doubt to that better country of resurrection life.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Take delight in the good news, dear friends. Salvation is from our Lord, who restores us to new life.

Jesus chooses to be gracious; God longs to give us our heart's desires; The Spirit carries healing and hope to all. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

**HYMN No. 447 We Are Forgiven WE ARE FORGIVEN

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thank be to God. Thanks be to God. We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Children in kindergarten – 7th grade may exit the sanctuary for Sunday School

MINITUE FOR MISSION Caldwellopoly

Daniel Barnes, Alexis Chiappetta, Madison Goodson

Sarah Solie – Script & Director

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Genesis 45:3-11,15

SPECIAL MUSIC Rondeau Fanfare Jean-Joseph Mouret (1682-1738)

arr. Martha L. Thompson

GOSPEL READING *Luke 6:27-38*

SERMON Forgiveness Rev. William Schram

**HYMN No. 797 We Cannot Measure How You YE BANKS AND BRAES

We cannot measure how you heal or answer every sufferer's prayer, Yet we believe your grace responds where faith and doubt unite to care.

> Your hands, though bloodied on the cross, Survive to hold and heal and warn.

To carry all through death to life and cradle children yet unborn.

The pain that will not go away, the guilt that clings from things long past,

The fear of what the future holds, are present as if meant to last.

But present too is love which tends

The hurt we never hoped to find,

The private agonies inside, the memories that haunt the mind.

So some have come who need your help and some have come to make amends, As hands which shaped and saved the world are present in the touch of friends.

Lord, let your Spirit meet us here

To mend the body, mind, and soul,

To disentangle peace from pain, and make your broken people whole.

JOYS & CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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. 545 Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace

LAND OF REST

Lord, bid your servant go in peace; Your word is now fulfilled. These eyes have seen salvation's dawn, This child so long foretold. This is the Savior of the world, The Gentiles' promised light, God's glory dwelling in our midst, The joy of Israel.

**BENEDICTION POSTLUDE

Brethren, We Have Met to Worship

William Moore arr. Cindy Berry

**Those who are able may stand

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Rev. William Schram
Susan Jones
Jessica Goodson, Pianist
Micki Hardenberg, Cantor
First Church Ringers
Ray Liptak & Rob Thiemann, AV Engineers