

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH AT CALDWELL

326 Bloomfield Avenue
Caldwell, NJ 07006
973-228-0310
www.firstprescaldwell.org



*Our Mission: Shining God's light by ...
Knowing Christ, Growing in His love, Going where He leads.*

Sunday, April 28, 2024

9:30 AM

Fifth Sunday of Easter

GATHERING TOGETHER TO WORSHIP THE LORD

REFLECTION

"God as master gardener offers a better plan for our lives. Let us find our home in God's word and place our trust there. The harvest will be bountiful." Rev. Nancy R. Blakely, "Feasting on the Word"

PRELUDE

"Hymn to Joy"

Michael Burkhardt

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

In the wilderness, water brings life.

Seek us out, O God, and take us to the water.

In the Word of God, the good news gives light.

Seek us out, O God, and fill us with understanding.

In the bread and the wine, the body of our Savior nourishes everyone.

Seek us out, O God, and give us yourself.

Here is the water of life, the word that feeds, the food of eternity. Come and praise the vine that gives all goodness.

*HYMN NO. 611

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

HYMN TO JOY

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy, we confess that we have not borne the fruit of the Spirit. We have not loved others as you have loved us. We have denied the promises of baptism and cut ourselves off from you. Forgive us, restore us, that we may abide in your love and live out your mercy, for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

We have already been cleansed by the word that God has spoken to us. In baptism God claimed us and joined us to Christ, as branches to a vine. Believe the promise given by God: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

*RESPONSE AFTER ASSURANCE

“Glory Be to the Father”

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.

*WELCOMING ONE ANOTHER

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of our Lord and Savior be with you all.

And also with you.

Please pass the peace by welcoming one another today.

HEARING AND RESPONDING TO THE WORD

CHILDREN’S SERMON

CHILDREN’S PRAYER RESPONSE

“The Lord is Risen”

Taize

The Lord is risen, alleluia!
Sing out and praise the Lord!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Acts 8:26-40

Page 119, NT

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Ubi Caritas”

Ola Gjeillo

Translation:

Where charity and love are, God is there.
Christ's love has gathered us into one.
Let us rejoice and be pleased in Him.
Let us fear, and let us love the living God.
And may we love each other with a sincere heart.

GOSPEL LESSON

John 15:1-8

Page 103, NT

SERMON

“So, What Now? Lessons of the Early Church: Abide in the Lord”

Rev. Chris Houtz

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Each petition will end by saying, “God, who makes us one, **hear our prayer.**”

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.

THANKSGIVING

INVITATION TO OFFERING AND OFFERING

RESPONSE TO OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY *“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”* OLD HUNDREDTH
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below;
praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Through our offerings, O God, give your loving Spirit to a world in need of comfort. Make our many gifts one offering for the world; in the name of Jesus. Amen.

SENDING US INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN NO. 300 *“We Are One in the Spirit”* THEY’LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE *“Jubilate Coeli”* Taize
(Heavens Sing With Gladness)

POSTLUDE *“All Creatures of our God and King”* Hal Hopson

** Please rise in body or in spirit*



The flowers this morning are given to the glory of God....
...in memory of David Wefferling by Lewis Wefferling

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Rev. Chris Houtz, Pastor, Head of Staff
Valerie Shondel, Director of Music
FPC Chancel Choir
Ray Liptak, AV Engineer
Dennis Velez, Assistant AV Engineer
Matthew Califf & Michael Sperrazza, AV Team

✝ We are glad you have chosen to worship here today! Please come again!

✝ For more information about our church, please visit our website:

www.firstprescaldwell.org



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
AT CALDWELL
326 Bloomfield Avenue
Caldwell, NJ 07006
973-228-0310