

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH AT CALDWELL

326 Bloomfield Avenue  
Caldwell, NJ 07006  
973-228-0310  
[www.firstprescaldwell.org](http://www.firstprescaldwell.org)



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

Sunday, April 7, 2024  
9:30 AM  
Second Sunday of Easter

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**GATHERING TOGETHER TO WORSHIP THE LORD**

REFLECTION

*"When doubt crowds out hope, we can be confident that Jesus will come to meet us where we are, even if it is out on the far edge of faith that has forgotten how to believe, offering love at the very moment that grace seems nothing but a farcical ghost story told by not-to-be-believed friends."*

Rev. Dr. Serene Jones, Feasting on the Word

PRELUDE

*"Canzona Bergamasca"*

Samuel Scheidt

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Peace be with you.

**How good and pleasant it is when we live together in unity.**

Receive the Holy Spirit.

**It is like precious oil on the head, the blessing of the Lord.**

\*HYMN NO. 255

*"O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing"*

O FILII ET FILIAE

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**You have shown yourself to us, O God, by Word and Spirit, with signs and wonders, in flesh and blood, yet we still struggle to live and believe the good news of Jesus Christ. Have mercy on us; forgive us. Enter into our lives and cast out our fear so that we may come to trust in you and have life in Jesus' name. Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

We have an advocate with God—Jesus Christ, the righteous one—who offered his life in love to save the world from sin. This is the good news of the gospel: 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 grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Please share the peace of Christ with one another.

## 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!

### MINUTE FOR MISSION

*Tricky Tray*

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### SCRIPTURE

Acts 4:32-35

Page 114, NT

### SPECIAL MUSIC

*“Est ein Ros'entsprungen”*

Brahms

### SCRIPTURE

John 20:19-31

Page 108, NT

### SERMON

*“So, What Now? Lessons of the Early Church: Don’t Settle for What Used to Be”*

Rev. Chris Houtz

### \*HYMN NO. 300

*“We Are One in the Spirit”*

THEY’LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS

### JOYS AND CONCERNS

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Each petition will end by saying, “Pour out your blessing, O Lord;

**send us your Spirit of peace.”**

# THANKSGIVING

## INVITATION TO OFFERING AND OFFERING

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Almighty God, by your grace, accept the fruit of our labor and the offerings of our lives in union with our risen Lord who lives and reigns with you forever. Amen.**

### RESPONSE TO OFFERING

\*DOXOLOGY *“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”* OLD HUNDREDTH  
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;  
praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

### PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### SANCTUS

*“Holy, Holy, Holy”* Haugen  
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power, God of might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

### MEMORIAL

*“Christ Has Died; Christ Is Risen”* Haugen  
Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.  
Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

### AMEN

*“Amen”* Haugen

### THE LORD’S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:  
**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.**

### BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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

### DISTRIBUTION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Gracious God, we give you thanks that by the witness of your word and the sharing of this meal you have opened our hearts and eyes to the presence of Christ among us. Now send us forth from this place by the power of your Spirit to tell this good news to the world: the Lord is risen indeed! Amen.**

**SENDING US INTO THE WORLD**

\*HYMN NO. 817

*"We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight"*

DUNLAP'S CREEK

\*BENEDICTION

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

*"Battaglia Galliard"*

Samuel Scheidt

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*\* Please rise in body or in spirit*

**WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS**

Rev. Chris Houtz, Pastor, Head of Staff

Henry Gehman, Organ

Julia Pennello

Stephanie Parmelee & Bryce Grier, Trumpet

Sheldon Senek III, French Horn

James Boland, Trombone

JT Adinolfi, Tuba

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:

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