



The First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell
326 Bloomfield Avenue
Caldwell, NJ 07006
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November 8, 2020

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

REFLECTION

"Peter's recognition of Jesus as the son of the living God is the result of divine inspiration. Our own relationship with Christ is inspired by God's presence in our own lives. Peter's encounter with Christ leads to him become one of the spiritual leaders of the church. Our own encounters with Christ inspire us to faithfully share in Christ's ministry of healing and hospitality in our time." -Rev. Dr. Bruce Epperly

PRELUDE

*"We Arise" & "For the Beauty of the Earth"
"Many and Great"*

arr. Paul A. Tate
arr. Nicholas Palmer

WORDS OF WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER

OPENING HYMN No. 36, No. 1 - 3 *"For the Fruit of All Creation"* AR HYD Y NOS

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,
Future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labor, God's will be done.
In the help we give our neighbor, God's will be done.
In our worldwide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,
In the harvests we are sharing, God's will be done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us,
Most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(In Unison)*

It is so easy for us, Lord, to diminish the gifts you have given us. We have come to believe that either we are experts in some areas, or we know nothing. Each of us has been given special talents and gifts that can be used to help others, but for some reason we do not steward these gifts well. Forgive us when we view gifts as a privilege rather than a responsibility to use as you wish. Forgive us when we make decisions not to act. Help us look at the blessings that you have poured into our lives and to use them in your service. Teach us to open the doorways of your Kingdom on

earth as in heaven and let the gates swing wide on the “grease of grace,” Help us be better stewards of the Gospel in this world. In Jesus’ Name, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

This is the good news: God hears you, God forgives you, God is with you as you journey into that land called Promise.

Let the redeemed of God say: this is indeed great news! Accepting God's word of joy and grace, we will live as God's children in all the days to come. Amen.

HYMN No. 581

“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.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

SPECIAL MUSIC

“How Can I Keep From Singing”

arr. Gwyneth Walker

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 22:15-22

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 16:13-20

SERMON

“The Keys of a Steward”

Rev. William Schram

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Love In Any Language”

John Mohr & John Mays

PASTORAL 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.

HYMN No. 275, St. 1 & 4

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

EIN’ FESTE BURG

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 doth seek to work us woe.
His craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

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.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“All Creatures of Our God and King”

David A. Schack

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Rev. William Schram

Rev. Barbara Piercy

Noel Piercy

Alan Smulen, Soloist & Cantor

Ray Liptak & Rob Thiemann, AV Engineers