



The First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell
326 Bloomfield Avenue
Caldwell, NJ 07006
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January 31, 2021

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

REFLECTION

"If you are a Christian, you are not a citizen of this world trying to get to heaven; you are a citizen of heaven making your way through this world."

-- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

PRELUDE

Chant de Paix (Song of Peace)

Jean Langlais (1907 – 1991)

WORDS OF WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER

HYMN No. 850, St. 1 - 3

"In a Deep, Unbounded Darkness"

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

In a deep, unbounded darkness,
Long before the first light shone,
You, O God, beyond all merit
Worked a wonder faith makes known:
In your mercy, in your mercy,
You embraced us as your own.
Evermore and evermore.

Though our world is everchanging,
You are constant, firm, and sure,
Faithful to your covenant promise,
Trusting you, we live, secure:
Singing praises, singing praises,
Long as heart and breath endure,
Evermore and evermore.

Joy transforms our lips to boasting
Only in your matchless grace,
Sending Christ to dwell among us,
Word made flesh in time and space:
Friend and Savior, Friend and Savior,
In whose life we glimpse your face,
Evermore and evermore.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(In Unison)*

Ever present One, you call us to be your presence, your body in this world, but too often we get caught up in being a hand or a foot, and lose sight of the overarching mission you set before us. We fracture into pieces. We go our separate ways, forgetting we need each other to be whole. Help us see with new eyes, and hear with

the ears of our heart, the liberating identity as your body in the world. May your Spirit revive and enable us to be and do all you call us to be and do. O God of liberation and righteousness, help us be faithful witnesses to your law of love and unity. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Forgiven, we are filled by God's Spirit, commissioned to be Christ's hope, Christ's people for the world.

Renewed, we can care for one another, weep with one another, serve one another, and live with one another. Thanks be to God. Amen.

HYMN 469

"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"

CHILDREN PRAYING

Lord, listen to your children praying.
Lord, send your Spirit in this place.
Lord, listen to your children praying.
Send us love; send us power; send us grace.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

MINUTE FOR MINISTRY

Soup Kitchen

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 3:16, John 20:21

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 4:14-21

SERMON

"Jesus' Mission, Our Mission"

Rev. William Schram

SPECIAL MUSIC

"How Can I Keep From Singing"

Traditional

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. 850, St. 4

"In a Deep, Unbounded Darkness"

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

God of Hagar, God of Sarah,
God of nomad Abraham,
God of Miryam, God of Moses,
Fiery Pillar, great I AM:
Lead us homeward, lead us homeward,
To the lovefeast of the Lamb,
Evermore and evermore.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"March"

G. F. Thompson

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Rev. William Schram
Noel A. Piercy
Susan Jones
Paul Salierno, Cantor & Adriana Pierce, Soloist
Ray Liptak & Rob Thiemann, AV Engineers

SERMON QUESTIONS FOR JANUARY 31ST

1. Do you remember having a version of the "God as cosmic Santa Claus" way of thinking?
2. Think about John 3:16. What does this verse tell us about: the nature of God; the nature of people; the relationship between God and people?
3. What does the sending in John 20:21 mean to you?
4. What do you recognize as the nature and purpose of Jesus' earthly mission/ (Luke 4:18,19)
5. What does it mean to you to now be both a channel and recipient of grace in a hurting world?
6. In what ways might our church unwittingly show the badness of "goodness dammed up?"

[DOWNLOAD SERMON QUESTIONS RESOURCE](#)