



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

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**February 28, 2021**  
**Second Sunday in Lent**

**REFLECTION**

*“Avarice, greed, concupiscence, and so forth are all based on the mathematical truism that the more you get, the more you have. The remark of Jesus that it is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35) is based on the human truth that the more you give away in love, the more you are. It is not just for the sake of other people that Jesus tells us to give rather than get, but for our own sakes too.” ~ Frederick Buechner*

**PRELUDE**

*Two Songs for Lent* arr. Michael Hassell  
*“He Never Said a Mumbalin’ Word” & “Near the Cross”*

**WORDS OF WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER**

**HYMN No. 226, St. 1-4**

*“There in God’s Garden”*

SHADES MOUNTAIN

There in God’s garden stands the tree of Wisdom,  
Whose leaves hold forth the healing of the nations,  
Tree of all knowledge, tree of all compassion,  
Tree of all beauty.

Its name is Jesus, name that says, “Our Savior!”  
There on its branches see the scars of suffering;  
See there the tendrils of our human self-hood  
Feed on its lifeblood.

Thorns not its own are tangled in its foliage;  
Our greed has starved it; our despite has choked it.  
Yet, look! It lives! Its grief has not destroyed it.  
Nor fire consumed it.

See how its branches reach to us in welcome;  
Hear what the Voice says, “Come to me, ye weary!”  
Give me your sickness; give me all your sorrow;  
I will give blessing.”

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *(In Unison)*

**Gracious God, you have provided us with a world abundant and balanced. Even as we give you thanks, we also ask for forgiveness. Help us turn from consumption and turn toward sharing. Help us turn from greed and turn toward creative sharing as the way to faithfulness. Inform our spirits. Inspire our deeds.**

*(Time of silent reflection. Think about something you want to turn from during Lent, or something you want to turn toward.)*

**Lord, hear our prayer. Amen.**

### **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

God's life turned towards humanity in Jesus, even before people repented and turned our lives toward God. Trust the Lord who reaches out to us in grace. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Amen.**

**HYMN No. 716, St. 2**      *"God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"*      BEACH SPRING  
Skills and time are ours for pressing  
Toward the goals of Christ, your Son:  
All at peace in health and freedom,  
Races joined, the church made one.  
Now direct our daily labor,  
lest we strive for self alone.  
Born with talents, make us servants  
Fit to answer at your throne.

### **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**ANTHEM**      *"Ashokan Farewell"*      arr. Douglas E. Wagner

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**      *Genesis 13:1-13*

**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON**      *Luke 12:15 - 21*

**SERMON**      *"The 7 Deadly Sins: Greed"*      Rev. William Schram

**SPECIAL MUSIC**      *"I Want To Be Where You Are"*      Don Moen

### **JOYS AND CONCERNS**

#### **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. 226, St. 5 & 6**      *"There in God's Garden"*      SHADES MOUNTAIN  
This is my ending, this, my resurrection;  
Into your hands, Lord, I commit my spirit.  
This have I searched for; now I can possess it.  
This ground is holy.  
All heaven is singing,  
"Thanks to Christ whose passion  
Offers in mercy, healing, strength, and pardon.  
Peoples and nations, take it, take it freely!"  
Amen! My Master!

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*“The Old Rugged Cross”*

arr. Roger C. Wilson

**WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS**

Rev. William Schram

Rev. Barbara Piercy

Susan Jones

Noel Piercy

Alan Smulen, Soloist & Cantor

Chancel Handbell Choir

Ray Liptak & Rob Thiemann, AV Engineers

**SERMON QUESTIONS FOR FEBRUARY 28TH**

1. What areas of your life might be avenues for greed?
2. Have you experienced the greed seen in possessing and keeping things?
3. Have you practiced disposable greed - constantly buying the latest, newest upgrades and putting aside usable but older items?
4. Have you fallen into the trap of thinking that the volume of one's possessions or wealth is also a sign of the value of a person?
5. How do the treasures of heaven satisfy in ways that earthly treasures cannot?