



The First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell
326 Bloomfield Avenue
Caldwell, NJ 07006
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May 9, 2021
Sixth Sunday of Easter
Mother's Day

REFLECTION

In each of our histories, there is regret and unfinished business... That's when you give thanks that the Word, the eternal Logos, became flesh, our flesh, and moved in with us. God refused to stay spiritual. The Word intrudes with words we cannot say to ourselves, Light shines in our darkness. ~ William Willimon

PRELUDE

"Children of the Heavenly Father"
"God, Give Us Christian Homes"
"The Family Of God"

arr. Anna Laura Page
arr. Cindy Berry
arr. Phillip Keveren

WORDS OF WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

A MOTHER'S DAY GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER

HYMN No. 316

"Where Charity and Love Prevail"
Where charity and love prevail,
There God is ever found;
Brought here together by Christ's love,
By love are we thus bound.

TWENTY-FOURTH

Let us recall that in our midst
Dwells Christ, God's holy Son.
As members of each body joined,
In him we are made one.

Let strife among us be unknown;
Let all contentions cease.
Be God's the glory that we seek;
Be his our only peace.

Let us forgive each other's faults
As we our own confess,
That we may love each other well
In Christian holiness.

Love can exclude no race or creed,
If honored be God's name;
Our common life embraces all
Whose Maker is the same.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*In Unison*)

Easter is such a wonderful season, Lord. Hope springs anew in our hearts. As the earth is being refreshed by the warmth of spring, so we have been refreshed and made new by the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. And we want to stay in this euphoria forever. But you have called us to go into the valley, to those who need to hear of your love and to feel your caring presence. In his words of hope, Jesus prepared his disciples to be witnesses. We have heard these words before, but far too often, we have turned our backs to this message. We don't quite believe that we are capable of actually living our whole lives in your love. So we act in ways that are often neglectful and hurtful of others. We take more time pampering ourselves than we do helping other people. It is easier to justify our selfish desires than it is to witness to your transforming love. Stop us in our tracks, O Lord. Turn us around. Help us to face our weakness and your forgiving grace. Heal us of our sins and place us again on the paths of peace. We ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Long ago Jesus said to his disciples, "I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from God. You did not choose me, but I chose you!" Jesus speaks these words to us today.
Jesus forgives us and chooses us to be his friends, sharing his great work of love. Hallelujah!

HYMN No. 480

"Take Me to the Water" AFRICAN AMERICAN SPIRITUAL
Take me to the water.
Take me to the water.
Take me to the water to be baptized.

I love Jesus.
I love Jesus.
I love Jesus, yes, I do.

He's my Savior.
He's my Savior.
He's my Savior, yes, he is.

Glory hallelujah.
Glory hallelujah.
Glory hallelujah to be baptized.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SPECIAL MUSIC

"I Never Saw a Moor"

Douglas E. Wagner
Words from Emily Dickinson poem

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 8:26-40

GOSPEL LESSON

John 15:9-17

SERMON *“WJJD?: Making Choices, Demonstrating Commitment”* Rev. William Schram

SPECIAL MUSIC *“A Mother’s Love”* Amy Jill Jordan & Steven Mackinnon

JOYS AND CONCERNS

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. 324

“For All the Faithful Women”

NYLAND

For all the faithful women who served in days of old,
To you shall thanks be given; to all their story told.
They served with strength and gladness in tasks your wisdom gave.
To you their lives bore witness, proclaimed your power to save.

We praise your name for Miriam, who sang triumphantly
While Pharaoh's vaunted army lay drowned beneath the sea;
For Ruth, who left her homeland and ventured forth in faith,
Who pledged to serve and worship Naomi’s God till death.

We sing of busy Martha, who toiled with pot and pan
While Mary sat in silence to hear the word again.
We praise the other Mary, who hastened to the tomb
And found her Lord arisen, dispelling doubt and gloom.

Lord, hear our praise of Dorcas, who served the sick and poor.
Her hands were cups of kindness, her heart an open door.
O God, for saints and servants, our fervent prayer we raise,
That, faithful in your service, our lives may sing your praise.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Westminster Abbey”

arr. Jerry Westenkuehler

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Rev. William Schram

Rev. Barbara Piercy

Noel A. Piercy

Susan Jones

Micki Hardenberg, Cantor & Soloist

Jessica Goodson & Madison Goodson – Mother/Daughter Duet

Ray Liptak & Rob Thiemann, AV Engineers