



The First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell  
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**MAY 16, 2021**  
**Seventh Sunday of Easter**

**REFLECTION**

*“Early in my ministry I was told that ‘We’ve never done it that way before’ were the seven last words of the church.” ~ Richard Floyd*

**PRELUDE**

*“Amazing Grace”*

arr. Charles Callahan

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

**CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER**

We come to this place of prayer,  
**for here we can bring our hopes and dreams,  
our hidden fears and the doubts we wear on our sleeves.**  
We come to this place of grace,  
**for here we learn compassion and joy,  
and discover how deeply we are loved.**  
We come with these people called the church,  
**to be blessed by the variety of gifts,  
to live as one for our God.**

Great God, here may we feel your presence. Here may we learn of your love and grace.  
Here may we continue our growth as your followers. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

**HYMN No. 267**

*“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”*

MADRID

Come, Christians, join to sing:  
Alleluia! Amen!  
Loud praise to Christ our King:  
Alleluia! Amen!  
Let all, with heart and voice,  
Before his throne rejoice;  
Praise is his gracious choice:  
Alleluia! Amen!  
  
Come, lift your hearts on high:  
Alleluia! Amen!  
Let praises fill the sky:  
Alleluia! Amen!  
He is our guide and friend;  
To us he’ll condescend;  
his love shall never end:  
Alleluia! Amen!

Praise yet our Christ again:  
Alleluia! Amen!  
Life shall not end the strain:  
Alleluia! Amen!  
On heaven's blissful shore  
His goodness we'll adore,  
Singing forevermore:  
Alleluia! Amen!

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

Lord, we speak of you as the foundation of life but where do we center our living? We choose to belong to the world, not to belong to you, the world is more fun! We do not intend to be servants of Jesus, rather, we pursue our own pleasures, and the joy of Christ is not within us. Christ prayed for us to be one but even in this church we separate ourselves, young or old, just family and friends, member from strangers. Who could see the truth of your word in us? These are the sins we can name. Forgive us Lord. Amen

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Our risen Lord has secured our salvation. We are sanctified in Christ, in truth and love. We may now be in the world but no longer of the world. And we are chosen apostles: messengers of this love to the glory of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

**HYMN No. 614**

*"Great Are You, Lord"*

GREAT IS THE LORD

Great are you, Lord: you are holy and just;  
By your power we trust in your love.  
Great are you, Lord: you are faithful and true;  
By your mercy you prove you are love.  
Great are you, Lord, and worthy of glory!  
Great are you, Lord, and worthy of praise.  
Great are you, Lord. We lift up our voice; we lift up our voice:  
Great are you, Lord! Great are you, Lord!

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON**

*Acts 1:15-17, 21-26*

**GOSPEL LESSON**

*John 17:6-19*

**SERMON**

*"WIJD: Preparing Us For the Future in a Different Way"*

Rev. William Schram

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

*"Days of Elijah"*

Robin Mark

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

*This morning, the Sacrament of Baptism is given to Charlene Judith Pace, daughter of Kevin & Nancy Pace. Representing the congregation is Elder Kathy Pace.*

*Today at noon, the Sacrament of Baptism will be celebrated with Chet & Amanda Van Doren in the baptism of their daughter, Abigail Margaret Van Doren, born July 13, 2021. Grandparents are Tom & Barbara Everett and Craig & Lori Van Doren. Elder Tom Everett will be representing the congregation.*

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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. 265**

*"Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun"*

DUKE STREET

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun  
Does its successive journeys run;  
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,  
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To him shall endless prayer be made,  
And praises throng to crown his head;  
His name, like sweet perfume shall rise  
With every morning sacrifice.

People and realms of every tongue  
Dwell on his love with sweetest song,  
And infant voices shall proclaim  
Their early blessings on his name.

Blessings abound where'er he reigns:  
The prisoners leap to lose their chains;  
The weary find eternal rest,  
And all who suffer want are blest.

Let every creature rise and bring  
Honors peculiar to our King;  
Angels descend with songs again,  
and earth repeat the loud Amen!

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*Fanfare*

Gerald Near

**WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS**

Rev. William Schram  
Rev. Barbara Piercy  
Sue Jones & Noel Piercy  
Paul Salierno, Cantor & Soloist  
Ray Liptak & Rob Thiemann, AV Engineers

## **SERMON QUESTIONS**

1. What are you praying for as we move ahead into a new normal? How does this illuminate the state of your spirit?
2. In Acts 1:15-17, 21-26, the disciples chose Mathias to fill the role of apostle abandoned by Judas. What are your particular prayers for the leaders of your congregation or presbytery?
3. Jesus' prayer assumes a sharp distinction between his disciples and the world. How do you respond to these contrasts in your efforts to be faithful?
4. A wise mentor once told me that prayers needed hands and feet. How do you think that prayer is connected with faithful action by Jesus' disciples in the world today?
5. On this final Sunday of the season of Easter, how are your prayers bearing witness to the power of Christ's resurrection?