



The First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell
326 Bloomfield Avenue
Caldwell, NJ 07006
973-228-0310
www.firstprescaldwell.org

July 25, 2021

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

REFLECTION

"For no man is damned precisely because God hath not chosen him because he is not elected, but because he is a sinner, and doth willfully refuse the means of grace offered." ~ John Calvin

PRELUDE

"Nightingale Rag"

Joseph Lamb (1887 – 1960)

WORDS OF WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Before the earth was formed, we were chosen by God to be God's people.

God gathers us together that we might sing of joy and hope, as God's beloved.

Before the stars glittered in the night sky, we were chosen through Christ to be God's family.

Christ gathers us together that we might carol the good news of redemption.

Before the rivers flowed to the seas, we were chosen by the Spirit to serve creation.

The Spirit gathers us together that we might dance in the fields of peace with our sisters and brothers.

SUMMER HYMN SING

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(In Unison)*

We would sing praises to you, Composer of our lives, but we remember the harsh words we used toward a friend this week. We would learn your healing hymns of grace, but the broken chords of our anger and pain echo deep within us. We would dance in the circle of your love, but we recall how quickly we turned and ran when offered opportunities to serve your people. Forgive us, Gifter of every blessing. Open our hearts and fill us with your mercy. Open our ears that we may hear the songs of grace you would teach us to share with the world. Open our eyes that we may see the hope we have in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, our inheritance of love and joy. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Before the earth was shaped, God created the music of grace which sets our hearts, our souls, our feet to dancing with joy in the hope God has given to us.

It is God who has created us, it is God who has redeemed us, and it is God who sends us forth to live as brothers and sisters of Christ. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.

HYMN No. 654

"In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful"

Taizé Chant

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful;

In the Lord I will rejoice!

Look to God; do not be afraid.

Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.

Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Revelation 14:1-5

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Romans 8:28-38

SERMON

"You Asked For It: Are Only 144,000 Chosen to be Saved?"

Rev. William Schram

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Speak, O Lord"

Keith Getty, Stuart Townend
arr. Mary McDonald

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. 366, St. 1, 3, 4

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

HYFRYDOL

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heavens to earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling;
All thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
Pure unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation;
Enter every trembling heart.

Come, Almighty, to deliver;
Let us all thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve thee as thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
Glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation;
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in thee:
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

BENEDICTION

Please greet your fellow worshippers with a wave as you exit the sanctuary.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Rev. William Schram

Rev. Barbara Piercy

Susan Jones

Paul Salierno, Cantor & Soloist; Charlotte Casazza, Piano

Ray Liptak & Rob Thiemann, AV Engineers