



The First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell
326 Bloomfield Avenue
Caldwell, NJ 07006
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July 18, 2021
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

REFLECTION

"Paul reminds the Philippians that what we focus on, what we think about, is soul food that will add or subtract from our experiences of peace, wholeness, and community. "Think about these things" – justice, purity, honor rather than divisiveness, scarcity, and polarization. This is a hard counsel today... Fixation on the latest utterings of erratic speakers plunges us into despair and polarization. In contrast, Paul's words invite us to become agents of a better world by imaging and living by a different set of values than those who counsel fear and hate."

~ Rev. Bruce Epperly

PRELUDE

Variations on "How Firm a Foundation"

arr. Janet Linker

WORDS OF WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

We come to God as people striding confidently or stepping hesitantly through life.

And always God welcomes us and draws us close.

We come to God as those trying communication, some still searching for words and some putting thought and feeling into language.

And always God hears us and invites us into the conversation of prayer.

We come to God as people defining our faith and people exploring tugs toward commitment.

And always God encourages us and reaches out to us.

Loving God, we worship today because in Christ, through the Spirit, you accept us, listen to us, and embrace us with steadfast love. Amen.

SUMMER HYMN SING

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(In Unison)*

O God, we praise you as Provider and Comforter, Source of Redemption and Joy. But we confess our trust is limited. We easily topple you from priority position especially when faithfulness contradicts desire or commitment becomes a disturber of comfort. We shrink your impact on our decisions by listening to Your word with selective hearing. We neglect to offer thanks for the grace and bounty that mark so many of our days. We back away when you beckon us to become instruments of your peace, your righteousness, and your steadfast love. Forgive us. Restore our trust. Embolden our faith in service to Jesus our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, our Lord is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.

HYMN No. 315, St. 1

"In the Midst of New Dimensions"

NEW DIMENSIONS

In the midst of new dimensions,
In the face of changing ways,
Who will lead the pilgrim peoples
Wandering in their separate ways?
God of rainbow, fiery pillar,
Leading where the eagles soar,
We your people, ours the journey
Now and ever, now and ever,
now and evermore.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Simple Song" from MASS

Leonard Bernstein

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Philippians 4:6-23

SERMON

"Contagious Faith"

Rev. William Schram

SPECIAL MUSIC

"I Go On" from MASS

Leonard Bernstein

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. 39

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

FAITHFULNESS

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not.
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow;
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

BENEDICTION

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

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Rev. William Schram

Rev. Barbara Piercy

Susan Jones

Micki Hardenberg, Cantor & Rae Gabrielle de la Crétaz, soloist

Ray Liptak & Rob Thiemann, AV Engineers