



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

August 22, 2021
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

REFLECTION

"The only difference between the saint and the sinner is that every saint has a past, and every sinner has a future." ~ Oscar Wilde

PRELUDE

"Just As I Am"

arr. William Bolcom

WORDS OF WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Return to the Lord your God,
for God is gracious.
Confess to the Lord your God,
for God is merciful.
Repent to the Lord your God,
for God is slow to anger.
Praise the Lord your God,
for God abounds in steadfast love.
Worship the Lord your God.
Together, let us worship God!

SUMMER HYMN SING (*Online Requests*)

"The Old Rugged Cross" (*Baptist Hymnal No. 230, St. 1 & 4*)

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
The emblem of suffering and shame;
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.
So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it some day for a crown.

To that old rugged cross I will ever be true,
Its shame and reproach gladly bear;
Then he'll call me some day to my home far away,
Where his glory forever I'll share.
So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it some day for a crown.

"Lift Every Voice and Sing" (*Hymn No. 339, St. 1 & 3*)

Lift every voice and sing till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty.
Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies;
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us.
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on, till victory is won.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who has by Thy might Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee;
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand may we forever stand,
True to our God, true to our native land.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(In Unison)*

At the starting line of this day, we call on your name, God of grace. As we run the race you have set before us, we confess:

- we do not always keep our eyes on your goals, not our own.
- when we falter, we do not always ask You to give us fresh strength and courage.
- when we are fleet-footed, we do not give you the glory, but take credit ourselves.

Keep us from wanting to win at other's expense or to count ourselves better than those at our side. All runners are your children. In the race You intend that each one is a winner. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal. You are forgiven, loved, and restored.

We go in faith, even when it's hard, knowing that we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses in Christ. We belong to Christ, and no one can take that from us. Amen.

HYMN No. 396, St. 4

"Brethren, We Have Met to Worship"

HOLY MANNA

Let us love our God supremely;
Let us love each other, too.
Let us love and pray for sinners
Till our God makes all things new.
Christ will call us home to heaven;
At his table we'll sit down.
Christ will gird himself and serve us
With sweet manna all around.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON *Nehemiah 1:3-4, 2:2-5, 3:1-7*

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON *Hebrews 12:1, 2*

SERMON *"You Asked for It: Does God Expect Me to Be a Hero of the Faith?"*

Rev. William Schram

SPECIAL MUSIC *"The Storm is Passing Over"*

arr. Barbara W. Baker

JOYS AND CONCERNS

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. 157 (*Online Request*)

"I Danced in the Morning"

LORD OF THE DANCE

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth:

At Bethlehem I had my birth.

Dance, then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the dance,' said he,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the dance,' said he.

I danced for the scribe and the pharisee,
But they would not dance and they wouldn't follow me.

I danced for the fishermen, for James and John.

They came with me and the dance went on.

Dance, then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the dance,' said he,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the dance,' said he.

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame;

The holy people said it was a shame.

They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,

And they left me there on a cross to die.

Dance, then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the dance,' said he,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the dance,' said he.

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;

It's hard to dance with the devil on your back.

They buried my body and they thought I'd gone,

But I am the dance, and I still go on.

Dance, then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the dance,' said he,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the dance,' said he.

They cut me down and I leapt up high;

I am the life that'll never, never die.

I'll live in you if you'll live in me;

I am the Lord of the dance', said he.

Dance, then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the dance,' said he.

BENEDICTION

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Rev. William Schram, Rev. Barbara Jo Piercy
Susan Jones, Micki Hardenberg - Cantor & Soloist, Chancel Choir
Ray Liptak & Rob Thiemann, AV Engineers