



The First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell  
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**August 8, 2021**

**Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost**

**REFLECTION**

*It is Christ Himself, not the Bible, who is the true Word of God. The Bible, read in the right spirit and with the guidance of good teachers will bring us to Him. When it becomes really necessary (i.e. for our spiritual life, not for controversy or curiosity) to know whether a particular passage is rightly translated or is Myth ... specially chosen by God ... to carry a spiritual truth) or history, we shall no doubt be guided to the right answer. But we must not use the Bible as a sort of Encyclopedia out of which texts (isolated from their context and read without attention to the whole nature and purport of the books in which they occur) can be taken for use as weapons. ~ C.S. Lewis*

**PRELUDE**

*"I Must Tell Jesus"*

arr. Cindy Berry

**WORDS OF WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

We have gathered in God's holy presence, the One who etches grace on our hearts.

**This is the place where God will transform us into disciples.**

We glorify our God, who yearns for justice, not just for a favored few, but for the least of our world.

**This is the place where God will write compassion on our souls.**

We give thanks to God for unceasing grace; we remember God's persistence in saving us.

**This is the place where God will breathe the Word into our lives.**

**SUMMER HYMN SING** (*Online Requests*)

***"Eternal Father, Strong to Save" (Hymn No. 8, St. 1 & 4)***

Eternal Father, strong to save,  
Whose arm has bound the restless wave,  
Who bade the mighty ocean deep  
Its own appointed limits keep:  
O hear us when we cry to thee  
For those in peril on the sea.

O Trinity of love and power,  
All travelers guard in danger's hour;  
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,  
Protect them wheresoe'er they go;  
Thus evermore shall rise to thee  
Glad praise from air and land and sea.

***"Now Thank We All Our God" (Hymn No. 643, St. 1 & 3)***

Now thank we all our God  
With heart and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things hath done,  
In whom this world rejoices;  
Who, from our mother's arms,  
Hath blessed us on our way  
With countless gifts of love,  
And still is ours today.

All praise and thanks to God,  
Who reigns in highest heaven,  
To Father and to Son  
And Spirit now be given;  
The one eternal God,  
Whom heaven and earth adore,  
The God who was, and is,  
And shall be evermore.

***“Morning Has Broken” (Hymn No.664, St. 1 & 3)***

Morning has broken like the first morning;  
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning,  
Born of the one light Eden saw play!  
Praise with elation; praise every morning,  
God’s recreation of the new day!

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

**Your words are given to us, Author of Life, so we might be reformed, but we are intent on changing others. Your words are offered to us so we might be transformed, but we are focused on conforming to our culture. Your words are spoken to lead us into new life, but we hold our old ways tight to our chests.**

**Forgive us, God of Wonder. Do not remember our sins but continue to touch us with your steadfast mercy. Show us how to be persistent in living out our faith, even as you were so tenacious in offering us your grace and life in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Jesus reminds us that we are to be resolute in our lives of faithfulness and service. The good news is that God is steadfast in filling us with love and grace.

**We are forgiven people. May we live as sisters and brothers in Christ, God's children in word and deed, in hope and joy. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**HYMN No. 581**

*“Glory Be to the Father”*  
Glory be to the Father, and the Son,  
And to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning,  
Is now, and ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen, Amen.

GLORIA PATRI

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**EPISTLE LESSON**

*2 Timothy 3:16-17*

**GOSPEL LESSON**

*John 1:1-5, 14-18*

**SERMON**

*“You Asked For It: Is the Bible the Word of God or Just a Difficult Book?”*

Rev. William Schram

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

*“How Great Thou Art”*

arr. Lloyd Larson

**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. 749**

*"Come! Live in the Light!"*

**WE ARE CALLED**

Come! Live in the light!

Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!

We are called to be light for the kingdom,

To live in the freedom of the city of God.

We are called to act with justice;

We are called to love tenderly;

We are called to serve on another,

To walk humbly with God.

Come! Open your heart!

Show your mercy to all those in fear!

We are called to be hope for the hopeless

So hatred and violence will be no more.

We are called to act with justice;

We are called to love tenderly;

We are called to serve on another,

To walk humbly with God.

Sing! Sing a new song!

Sing of that great day when all will be one!

God will reign, and we'll walk with each other

As sisters and brothers united in love.

We are called to act with justice;

We are called to love tenderly;

We are called to serve on another,

To walk humbly with God.

**BENEDICTION**

**WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS**

Rev. William Schram

Susan Jones

Jessica Goodson, Piano

Micki Hardenberg, Cantor

Ray Liptak & Rob Thiemann, AV Engineers