



The First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell
326 Bloomfield Avenue
Caldwell, NJ 07006
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September 19, 2021
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

REFLECTION

“The character of our shared life in congregations, communities and families has the power to draw people to the kingdom or to push them away. How we live together is the most persuasive sermon we’ll ever get to preach.”

~ Christine Pohl

PRELUDE

“Rondeau de Concert”

Theme from Incidental music from *Abdelazer*
Henry Purcell (1659 – 1695), arr. Dennis Janzer

WORDS OF WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

If we were all a single member, where would the body be?
Christ has made us: many members, different gifts, but one body.
We suffer together, we rejoice together, and we worship together;
For we are the body of Christ together.

****HYMN No. 404**

“What Is This Place”

KOMT NU MET ZANG

What is this place,
Where we are meeting?
Only a house, the earth its floor.
Walls and a roof, sheltering people,
Windows for light, an open door.
Yet it becomes a body that lives
When we are gathered here,
And know our God is near.

Words from afar,
Stars that are falling.
Sparks that are sown in us like seed:
Names for our God, dreams, signs, and wonders
Sent from the past are what we need.
We in this place remember and speak
Again what we have heard;
God’s free redeeming word.

And we accept
Bread at his table,
Broken and shared, a living sign.
Here in this world, dying and living,
We are each other’s bread and wine.
This is the place where we can receive
What we need to increase;
God’s justice and God’s peace.

OPENING PRAYER (*In Unison*)

Do we make you laugh or weep, Gracious God? We sing that we are one in your Spirit, but cannot tolerate those who disagree with us. We talk of being one Body, but churches fight over music and worship styles or Bible versions or carpet colors. We affirm the giftedness of each person, but we heap honor on just a special few. Forgive

us, Creative God, that we dismember your Body so easily. May the words of our mouths speak peace to the brokenness in our world; may the hopes of our hearts bring wonder to those in despair; and may our love embrace all who are around us, even as we have been welcomed by your grace in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

****HYMN No. 306, St. 1 & 5**

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

DENNIS

Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love.
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.

From sorrow, toil, and pain,
And sin we shall be free;
And perfect love and friendship reign
Through all eternity.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Children in kindergarten – 7th grade may exit the sanctuary for Sunday School.

HYMN No. 188, St. 2

“Jesus Loves Me”

JESUS LOVES ME

Jesus loves me! This I know,
As he loved so long ago,
Taking children on his knee,
Saying, “Let them come to me.”
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Adult Education

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Judges 12:1-6

SPECIAL MUSIC

“I Dream of a World”

Mark A. Miller

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 18:15-20

SERMON

“Conflict and Community”

Rev. William Schram

****HYMN**

*“Bring Forth the Kingdom”
(GIA: Gather #280)*

You are salt for the earth, O people:
Salt for the Kingdom of God!
Share the flavor of life, O people:
Life in the Kingdom of God!
Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy,
Pray for the Kingdom of peace;
Work for the Kingdom of justice,
Hope for the City of God!

You are a light on the hill, O people:
Light for the City of God!
Shine so holy and bright, O people:
Shine for the Kingdom of God!
Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy,
Pray for the Kingdom of peace;
Work for the Kingdom of justice,
Hope for the City of God!

You are a seed of the Word, O people:
Bring forth the Kingdom of God!
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice,

Grow in the Kingdom of God!
Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy,
Pray for the Kingdom of peace;
Work for the Kingdom of justice,
Hope for the City of God!

We are a blest and a pilgrim people:
Bound for the Kingdom of God!
Love our journey and love our homeland:
Love is the Kingdom of God!
Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy,
Pray for the Kingdom of peace;
Work for the Kingdom of justice,
Hope for the City of God!

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.

RECOGNITION OF SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY

Oasis, A Haven for Women and Children - Laetitia Caroli

**HYMN No. 175

"Seek Ye First"

LAFFERTY

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And its righteousness,
And all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!

Ask, and it shall be given unto you;
Seek, and you shall find;
Knock, and the door shall be opened unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!

You shall not live by bread alone
But by every word
That proceeds from the mouth of God.
Allelu, alleluia!

**BENEDICTION

****Those who are able may stand.**

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

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