



The First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell
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OCTOBER 17, 2021

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

REFLECTION

"The miracle story is not just about a personal exorcism. It is about the promise of God's ability to defeat and re-order the disordered powers that afflict individuals and communities."

The Meaning in the Miracles, 91 - Jeffrey Johns

PRELUDE

"Prelude in Classic Style"

Gordon Young

WORDS OF WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

With the faithful, as well as the foolish;
with the voiceless, and those who talk too much:

we gather to praise our God.

With those who find it easy to follow,
with those who stumble along the Way:

**we rejoice in Jesus, who makes us whole,
and calls us sisters and brothers.**

With all who are heirs to the promises of grace,
with all who share hope with others:

**we give thanks to the Spirit of peace,
who cradles us in the arms of hope.**

****HYMN NO. 410**

"God Is Calling through the Whisper"

W ZLOBIE LEZY

God is calling through the whisper of the Spirit's deepest sighs,
Through the thrill of sudden beauties that can catch us by surprise.
Flash of lightning, crash of thunder; hush of stillness, rush of wonder:
God is calling – can you hear? God is calling – can you hear?

God is calling through the voices of our neighbors; urgent prayers,
Through their longing for redemption and for rescue from despair.
Place of hurt or face of needing; strident cry or silent pleading:
God is calling – can you hear? God is calling – can you hear?

God is calling through the music of sublime and human arts,
Through the hymns of earth and angels, and the carols of our hearts.
Lift of joy and gift of singing; days and nights our praises bringing:
God is calling – can you hear? God is calling – can you hear?

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(In Unison)*

We do not call them demons anymore, God who listens to us, but there are those words which chain our hearts to them - words which shame others. There are those actions which bind our lives to them - those fears which grab our hands, that anger which pushes away those around us. There are those thoughts which draw us into the shadows, where we seek to hide from you, hoping you do not see the lives we lead.

Yet, you refuse to stay away but come closer to us in every moment, God who makes us whole. You would clothe us with grace, so we might be your people in this world. You would tear down all that separates us from others, so we might be one. You would make us

heirs to the promise of life and hope with our Brother, Jesus the Christ, who comes to heal us and make us your children. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the good news, dear friends. Our God comes, not to torment us, but to release us from all that keeps us from being God's beloved children. We are sisters and brothers of Jesus, those who have been blessed, forgiven, transformed.

Thanks be to God, who reaches out to us and shows us the way of the shadows, pointing to the path of mercy and hope. We are forgiven! Amen.

**HYMN NO. 635

"Sing, Praise, and Bless the Lord"

LAUDATE DOMINUM (Taizé)

Sing, praise, and bless the Lord.

Sing, praise, and bless the Lord.

Peoples! Nations! Alleluia!

Sing, praise, and bless the Lord.

Sing, praise, and bless the Lord.

Peoples! Nations! Alleluia!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Jeremiah 14:13-22

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Ever Will I Praise"

J.S. Bach/arr. Geoffrey Edwards

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 8:26-39

SERMON

"Bigger Than Both of Us"

Rev. William Schram

HYMN NO. 619

"Lord, When I Came into This Life"

LAND OF REST

Lord, when I came into this life

You called me by my name;

Today I come, commit myself,

Responding to your claim.

Within the circle of the faith,

As member of your cast,

I take my place with all the saints

Of future, present, past.

In all the tensions of my life,

between my faith and doubt,

let your great Spirit give me hope,

sustain me, lead me out.

So help me in my unbelief

And let my life be true:

Feet firmly planted on the earth,

My sights set high on you.

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. 327**

“From All That Dwell Below the Skies”

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

From all that dwell below the skies
Let the Creator’s praise arise:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Let the Redeemer’s name be sung
Through every land, in every tongue.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

In every land begin the song;
To ever land the strains belong:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
In cheerful sound all voices raise
And fill the world with joyful praise.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Eternal are thy mercies, Lord;
Eternal truth attends thy word:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore,
Till suns shall rise and set no more.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

****BENEDICTION**

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

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Rev. William Schram
Rev. Barbara Piercy
Susan Jones, Noel Piercy
Paul Salierno, Cantor
Westminster Choir
Ray Liptak & Rob Thiemann, AV Engineers