



The First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell
326 Bloomfield Avenue
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FEBRUARY 13, 2022

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

REFLECTION

“Today’s readings invite us to become large-spirited persons and congregations, who in the scrum of life, build relationships rather than walls and go the second mile to reach out to adversaries and join God in healing the world. Today’s readings describe the moral providence of God. God’s providential presence is motivated by love, healing, abundance, and reconciliation, and this image of divine providence serves as the guide and model for our own relationships and social involvement.” ~ Rev. Dr. Bruce Epperly

PRELUDE

Wonderful Words of Life

arr. Marianne Kim

WORDS OF WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

When we seek justice for the other, when we love kindness more than ever,
we live as God asks us to live.

When we walk humbly through life, when we offer mercy to those who hurt us,
we are the blessing God hopes we will be.

When we are willing to look foolish by following Jesus, when we choose weakness rather than power,
we reflect the One who is in our midst.

Let us praise the Lord our God.

****HYMN No. 181**

Silence! Frenzied, Unclean Spirit

EBENEZER

“Silence! Frenzied, unclean spirit,”
Cried God’s healing, Holy One.

“Cease your ranting! Flesh can’t bear it.
Flee as night before the sun.”

At Christ’s voice the demon trembled,
From its victim madly rushed,
While the crowd that was assembled
Stood in wonder, stunned, and hushed.

Lord, the demons still are thriving
In the gray cells of the mind:
Tyrant voices, shrill and driving,
Twisted thoughts that grip and bind,
Doubts that stir the heart to panic,
Fears distorting reason’s sight,
Guilt that makes our loving frantic,
Dreams that cloud the soul with fright.

Silence, Lord, the unclean spirit,
In our mind and in our heart.
Speak your word that when we hear it
All our demons shall depart.
Clear our thought and calm our feeling,
Still the fractured, warring soul.
By the power of your healing
Make us faithful, true, and whole.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(In Unison)*

Far too often, O God, we desire to look acceptable in the eyes of the world. We have not spoken truth with our hearts. We have said and done hurtful things to our friends. We have forgotten our true identity, wandering into ways that are not yours. We have forgotten what true discipleship is. Forgive us and help us live into becoming the people you have created and called us to be: people of justice and love and truth and humility. May we embrace our true identity, even in the face of the world’s questioning. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God’s love embraces us even when we fall short of what God desires for our lives and actions.
And in so knowing, may our lives and souls be transformed by the forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

****HYMN No. 406** *We Are Standing on Holy Ground* HOLY GROUND
We are standing on holy ground
And I know that there are angels all around,
Let us praise Jesus now;
We are standing in his presence on holy ground.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

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

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON *Jeremiah 1:4-10*

SPECIAL MUSIC *Prayer of St. Francis* Allen Pote

GOSPEL READING *Luke 6:17-26*

SERMON *Prescriptions and Descriptions* Rev. William Schram

SPECIAL MUSIC *The Summons* arr. William McNair

JOYS & CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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. 346** *For the Healing of the Nations* St. Thomas (Wade)
For the healing of the nations, Lord we pray with one accord;
For a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords;
To a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word.
Lead us forward into freedom; from despair your world release,
That, redeemed from war and hatred, all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness fear will die and hope increase.
All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned:
Pride of status, race, or schooling, dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice may we hallow life’s brief span.
You, Creator God, have written your great name on humankind;
For our growing in your likeness, bring the life of Christ to mind,
That by our response and service earth its destiny may find.

****BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Sortie in D* César Franck (1822 – 1890); arr. J. Michael Case
**Those who are able may stand

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

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