



March 13, 2022

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

REFLECTION

Today's readings join grace, threat, and hope. We can succumb to temptation, we can be unfruitful, and turn from God, but if we repent, God will provide us with the strength and fortitude to begin again. Grace is not contingent on our efforts; grace is prevenient, but the energy and landscape of grace relates to our openness. God always acts concretely in our lives. ~ Rev. Dr. Bruce Epperly

PRELUDE

Prelude on "Rhosymedre" (My Song Is Love Unknown)

Ralph Vaughn Williams (1872-1958)

WORDS OF WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

We come, because we seek our God.

**Every morning, every day, every evening,
every moment, God is with us.**

We come, because we hunger for Christ.

**Jesus will feed us with hope,
will replace our emptiness with grace.**

We come, because we thirst for the Spirit.

Who fills our yearning for peace.

**HYMN No. 182

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

KINGSFOLD

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest;
Lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast."
I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting place, and he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give
The living water, thirsty one; stoop down and drink and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank of that lifegiving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light;
Look unto me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun;
And in that light life I'll walk till traveling days are done.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(In Unison)*

Neither our thoughts nor our ways are Yours, O God. Hearing Your call on our lives, we fall short: Invited to come to You, we ignore Your presence. Rather than trust in Your help, we despair when facing violence, deceit and hate and find ourselves powerless to respond well. Rather than prepare for uncertain challenges ahead, we prefer to enjoy the present. So, let this be our prayer...

**HYMN No. 698

Take, O Take Me as I Am

TAKE ME AS I AM

Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be;
Set your seal upon my heart and live in me.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

In every moment, God seeks what is best for us, continually offering us peace, hope, and forgiveness.

We will bless God in every moment, rejoicing with Jesus who fills us with steadfast love. Thanks be to our Lord, we are forgiven. Amen.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

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

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 55:1-9

SPECIAL MUSIC

My Master Hath a Garden

Randall Thompson

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 13:1-9

SERMON

You Have to face It to Fix It: Facing What Life Brings

Rev. William Schram

****HYMN No. 739**

O for a Closer Walk with God

CAITHNESS

O for a closer walk with God,
A calm and heavenly frame,
A light to shine upon the road
That leads me to the Lamb!

Return, O holy Dove, return,
Sweet messenger of rest,
I hate the sins that made thee mourn
And drove thee from my breast.

The dearest idol I have known,
Whate’er that idol be,
Help me to tear it from thy throne,
And worship only thee.

So shall my walk be close with God,
Calm and serene my frame;
So purer light shall mark the road
That leads me to the Lamb.

JOYS AND 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 618**

O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High

DEO GRACIAS

O love, how deep, how broad, how high,
Beyond all thought and fantasy,
That God, the Son of God, should take
Our mortal form for mortals' sake.

For us baptized, for us he bore
His holy fast and hungered sore;
For us temptation sharp he knew,
For us, the tempter overthrew.

For us, by wickedness betrayed,
For us, in crown of thorns arrayed,
He bore the shameful cross and death;
For us he gave his dying breath.

For us he rose from death again;
For us he went on high to reign;
For us he sent his Spirit here
To guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.

All glory to our Lord and God
For love so deep, so high, so broad:
The Trinity whom we adore
Forever and forevermore.

****BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune on Westminster Abbey

Jerry Westenkuehler

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

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Rev. William Schram

Rev. Barbara Piercy

Susan Jones

Paul Salierno, Soloist & Cantor

Ray Liptak & Rob Thiemann, AV Engineers



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