



The First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell
326 Bloomfield Avenue
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May 22, 2022
Sixth Sunday of Easter

REFLECTION

We are all too busy. There are a thousand ways we can spend our days, our energies, our efforts. Choices abound. In the midst of this abundance of choices, what would it mean if we simply wondered how God is speaking in the midst of all of this? Indeed, might we then find ourselves, like Paul, called to "Macedonia," too? What do you suppose would happen if we then simply 'set sail' and went? And what sorts of surprises might be waiting us there? Who might we meet by the river outside of town who would change the course of mission for the church and for each and all of us? And where and with whom might we discover and receive unexpected hospitality?

~ Rev. Dr. Janet H. Hun

PRELUDE

Theme and Trilogy

Judy Hunnicutt

WORDS OF WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven has drawn near."

God is here, with us now.

Jesus said, "I will come and make my home with those who love me."

God is here, with us now.

Jesus said, "The Holy Spirit will come, and teach you, and remind you."

God is here, with us now.

Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you."

God is here, with us now.

We join our hearts in worship, knowing God's presence is with us always.

****HYMN No. 9**

The Play of the Godhead

PERICHORESIS

The play of the Godhead, the Trinity's dance,
Embraces the earth in a sacred romance:
With God the Creator, and Christ the true Son,
Entwined with the Spirit, a web daily spun
In spangles of mystery, the great Three-in-One.

The warm mists of summer, cool waters that flow,
Turn crystal as ice when the wintry winds blow.
The taproot that nurtures, the shoot growing free,
The life-giving fruit, full and ripe on the tree:
More mystic and wondrous, the great One-in-Three.

In God's gracious image of coequal parts,
We gather as dancers, uniting our hearts.
Men, women, and children, and all living things,
We join in the round of bright nature that rings
With rapture and rhythm: creation now sings!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(In Unison)*

Because you dwell in our hearts, Eternal God, you know how the anger, the pain, the bitterness of our lives try to crowd you out. The noise of the world deafens us to that Word which can heal us. We want our children to be good, kind, and gentle to others, and then they hear us call others names, and speak of them with demeaning words. Our desire for revenge towards those who have hurt us shows that your peace, indeed, is not in us. You promise a new heaven and a new earth, so create new spirits and new lives within us, Healing God. Shattered by our sin, your heart can still heal our brokenness. Your Spirit, living deep within our souls, can teach us faithful ways. Your Word, Jesus Christ our Lord, whispers to us of your mercy, your hope, your love. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

The Word which can transform us is not some idle gossip, but good news for us. It fills us with forgiveness, equips us for service, and sends us forth to love others as God loves us.

In our midst, the Holy Spirit teaches us all we need to know, gives us what we need in order to be faithful, and fills us with peace. Thanks be to God. Amen.

****HYMN No. 582**

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me
Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be. Amen.

GLORY TO GOD

World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Acts 15:12-22a

SPECIAL MUSIC

There Is A Balm In Gilead

arr. Raymond Wise

GOSPEL LESSON

John 16:12-15

SERMON

Tunes and Improvisations

Rev. William Schram

****HYMN No. 641, St. 1, 2, 4**

When in Our Music God Is Glorified

ENGLEBERG

When in our music God is glorified,
And adoration leaves no room for pride,
It is as though the whole creation cried:
Alleluia!

How often making music, we have found
A new dimension in the world of sound,
As worship moved us to a more profound
Alleluia!

Let every instrument be tuned for praise!
Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!
And may God give us faith to sing always:
Alleluia!

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER & 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. 23**

God, You Spin the Whirling Planets

PLEADING SAVIOR

God, you spin the whirling planets,
Fill the seas and spread the plain,
Mold the mountains, fashion blossoms,
Call forth sunshine, wind, and rain.
We created in your image,
would a true reflection be
Of your justice, grace, and mercy
And the truth that makes us free.

You have called us to be faithful
In our life and ministry.
We respond in grateful worship
Joined in one community.
When we blur your gracious image,
Focus us and make us whole.
Healed and strengthened as your people,
We move onward toward your goal.

God, your word is still creating,
Calling us to life made new.
Now reveal to us fresh vistas
Where there's work to dare and do.
Keep us clear of all distortion.
Polish us with loving care.
Thus, new creatures in your image,
We'll proclaim Christ everywhere.

****BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Soli Deo Gloria

Marianne Kim

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

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

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