



The First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell
326 Bloomfield Avenue
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Our Mission: Shining God's light by... Knowing Christ, Growing in His love, Going where He leads.

Sunday, September 18, 2022
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

REFLECTION

We are all the victims of our compulsions and addictions, and irrational powers greater than ourselves. We recognize the reality of sin, embodied in the interplay of family origin, genetics, environment, economics, gender and sexuality, and personal decision-making. The heaviness of the past, confirmed by thousands of habitual responses, can seem to overcome our best intentions. Healing of mind, body, or spirit, is never an individualistic enterprise. We need a beloved community and the unmerited grace of God "Thanks be to God who places us in the body of Christ and among friends and loved ones who accept and challenge us!" - Rev. Dr. Bruce Epperly

PRELUDE

"Sweet Hour of Prayer"

arr. Joel Raney

GATHERING SONG

"Indescribable"

Chris Tomlin

From the highest of heights to the depths of the sea
Creations revealing Your majesty
From the colors of fall to the fragrance of spring
Every creature unique in the song that it sings
All exclaiming

Indescribable, uncontainable
You placed the stars in the sky
And You know them by name
You are amazing, God
All powerful, untamable
Awestruck, we fall to our knees
As we humbly proclaim
You are amazing, God

Who has told every lightning bolt where it should go?
Or seen heavenly storehouses laden with snow
Who imagined the sun and gives source to its light?
Yet, conceals it to bring us the coolness of night
None can fathom

Indescribable, uncontainable
You placed the stars in the sky
And You know them by name
You are amazing, God
All powerful, untamable
Awestruck, we fall to our knees
As we humbly proclaim
You are amazing, God

Incomparable, unchangeable
You see the depths of my heart
And You love me the same
You are amazing, God
You are amazing, God

OPENING PRAYER

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**HYMN No. 401

“Here In This Place”

GATHER US IN

Here in this place the new light is streaming;
Now is the darkness vanished away;
See in this space our fears and our dreamings
Brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken;
Gather us in, the blind and the lame;
Call to us now, and we shall awaken;
We shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a mystery,
We are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history
Called to be light to the whole human race.

Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;
Gather us in, the proud and the strong;
Give us a heart, so meek and so lowly;
Give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water;
Here we will take the bread of new birth.
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us a new to be salt for the earth.

Give us to drink the wine of compassion;
Give us to eat the bread that is you;
Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion,
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not in the dark of buildings confining,
Not in some heaven, light years away;
Here in this place the new light is shining;
Now is the kingdom, and now is the day.

Gather us in and hold us forever;
Gather us in and make us your own;
Gather us in, all peoples together
Fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(In Unison)*

Almighty God, we confess to You we want the easy answers, the shortcuts, the quickest way to get what we want with minimal sacrifice. The ways of this world tempt us toward an easier life, in which we do not care about others, only our own desires. Call us into Your

way of life, a way that seeks righteousness, relief for the suffering, and welcome for the marginalized. Guide us into a way of deep listening, of seeking truth even when it strips away our illusions. Keep us to the path of knowledge and insight. In the name of Christ, who showed us this Way, this Truth, and this Life, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

It sounds so simple; we think it is too simple. But which is the burden you would choose: hate or love; anger or forgiveness; pain or peace? God invites us to receive the gifts which make it possible to have lives of faithful obedience.

This is the good news: God forgives us and takes our burdens from us. We would let go of them and welcome hope, joy, grace into our lives. Thanks be to God. Amen.

****HYMN No. 582**

“Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me” GLORY TO GOD

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.

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 SERMON

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Urban Promise

Ellen Johnson

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

2 Kings 2:23-25

SPECIAL MUSIC

My Soul, There is a Country”
Madison Goodson, soloist

Douglas E. Wagner

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Romans 7:15-25

SERMON

“Not Everyone Can Be Mr. Rogers”

Rev. William Schram

****HYMN No. 453**

“Open Your Ears, O Faithful People”

YISRAEL V’ORAITA

Open your ears, O faithful people;
Open your ears and hear God’s word.
Open your hearts, o royal priesthood;
God has come to you.

God has spoken to the people, hallelujah!
God has spoken words of wisdom, hallelujah!
God has spoken words of wisdom, hallelujah!

They who have ears to hear the message,
They who have ears, now let them hear;
They who would learn the way of wisdom,
Let them hear God’s word.

God has spoken to the people, hallelujah!
God has spoken words of wisdom, hallelujah!
God has spoken to the people, hallelujah!

God has spoken words of wisdom, hallelujah!

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.

EXPRESSING OUR GRATITUDE

CLOSING SONGS

"At Your Name (Yahweh, Yahweh)"

Phil Wickham

At Your name, the mountains shake and crumble
At Your name, the oceans roar and tumble
At Your name, angels will bow, the earth will rejoice
Your people cry out

Lord of all the earth
We shout Your name, shout Your name
Filling up the skies
With endless praise, endless praise
Yahweh, Yahweh
We love to shout Your name, oh Lord

At Your name, the morning breaks in glory
At Your name, creation sings Your story
At Your name, angels will bow, the earth will rejoice
Your people cry out

Lord of all the earth
We shout Your name, shout Your name
Filling up the skies
With endless praise, endless praise
Yahweh, Yahweh
We love to shout Your name, oh Lord

There is no one like our God
We will praise You, praise You
There's no one like our God
We will sing, we will sing
There is no one like our God
We will praise You, praise You
Jesus, You are God
We will sing

Lord of all the earth
We shout Your name, shout Your name
Filling up the skies
With endless praise, endless praise
Yahweh, Yahweh
We love to shout Your name, oh Lord

CLOSING SONGS

“All The People Said Amen”

Mat Maher

You are not alone if you are lonely
When you're feeling frail, you're not the only
We are all the same in need of mercy
To be forgiven and be free
It's all you got to lean on
But thank God, it's all you need

And all the people said Amen, whoa, oh-oh
And all the people said Amen
Give thanks to the Lord, for his love never ends
And all the people said Amen

If you're rich or poor, well, it don't matter
Weak or strong, we know love is what we're after
We're all broken, but we're all in this together
God knows we stumble and fall
And he so loved the world he sent his son to save us all

And all the people said Amen, whoa, oh-oh
And all the people said Amen
Give thanks to the Lord, for his love never ends
And all the people said Amen

Blessed are the poor spirits who are torn apart
Blessed are the prosecuted and the pure in heart
Blessed are the people lonely for another start
For this is a kingdom, the kingdom of God

And all the people said Amen, whoa, oh-oh-oh
And all the people said Amen
Give thanks to the Lord, for his love never ends
And all the people said Amen

****BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

“Everlasting God”

Brenton Brown & Ken Riley

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

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Rev. William Schram
Jessica Goodson, Pianist
Scott Westenberger, Guitarist/Song leader
Ray Liptak & Rob Thiemann, AV Engineers
Michael Sperazza, Matthew Califf & Samuel Gyan, AV Team