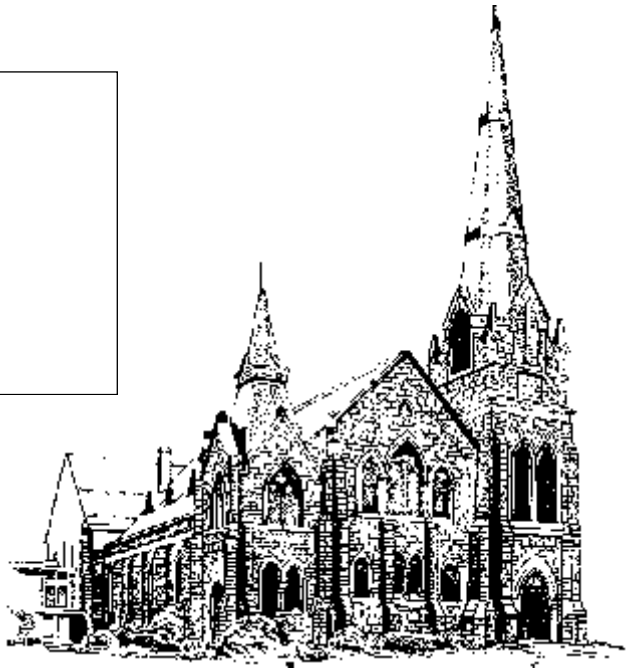


THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH AT CALDWELL

*326 Bloomfield Avenue  
Caldwell, NJ 07006  
973-228-0310  
www.firstprescaldwell.org*



*Our Mission: Shining God's light by ...  
Knowing Christ, Growing in His love, Going where He leads.*

Sunday, January 15, 2023  
9:30 am  
Second Sunday After Epiphany

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REFLECTION

Moreover, the God present in Jesus is, as Alfred North Whitehead affirms, “the fellow sufferer who understands.” Jesus’ saving love is suffering love, love that takes on the sin and pain of the world. Love sacrifices that we might find wholeness. Divine wisdom is ever-present, inspiring us to awe and wonder, and to see divinity in the quotidian adventures of life, and then work toward a world reflective of God’s values.

PRELUDE

*“Voluntary”*

John Stanley

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

On this morning, as every morning,  
**we are surrounded by God’s grace.**  
In these moments, as every moment,  
**we are Called to costly discipleship by Jesus.**  
Throughout this day, as every day,  
**we are taught peace and hope by the Spirit.**

1. The church’s one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord.  
 She is his new creation by water and the word.  
 From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride.  
 With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
2. Elect from every nation, yet one o’er all the earth,  
 her charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, on birth.  
 One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,  
 and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.
3. Though with a scornful wonder this world sees her oppressed,  
 by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,  
 yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up: “How long?”  
 And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.
4. Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,  
 she waits the consummation of peace forevermore:  
 till with the vision glorious her loving eyes are blest,  
 and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.
5. Yet she on earth has union with God, the Three in One,  
 and mystic sweet communication with those whose rest is won:  
 O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,  
 like them, the meek and lowly, may live eternally.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(IN UNISON)*

**Merciful God, Jesus revealed the great depth of your love in his determination to defeat evil even when this meant giving up his own life. Forgive us, O God, when we allow the power of evil to flourish because we fear that taking up one’s cross would be just too costly an exercise.**

**Gracious and loving God, forgive our lack of trust in you; Help us when we hesitate, and strengthen us when we are weak Breathe your Spirit afresh into our hearts and minds—our lives—so that we have the courage to follow Jesus wherever he takes us. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Be glad and rejoice! Give thanks with shouts of joy! Grace abounds for everyone.

**With glad cries of deliverance, we offer our thanks to Christ who loves us and forgives us. Amen.**

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

## SERMON

*Forging An Alternative Community*

Rev. William Schram

## \*HYMN NO. 726

*“Will You Come and Follow Me?”*

KELVINGROVE

1. “Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don’t know and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;  
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?”
2. “Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer in prayer in you and you in me?”
3. “Will you let the blinded see if I but called your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do this such as this unseen,  
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?”
4. “Will you love the ‘you’ you hide if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you’ve found to reshape the world around,  
through my sight and touch and sound in you and in me?”
5. Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.  
In your company I’ll go where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I’ll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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

## INVITATION TO GIVING

## \*HYMN NO. 306

*“Blest the Tie That Binds”*

DENNIS

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.  
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.
2. Before our Father’s throne we pour our ardent prayers.  
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.
3. We share our mutual woes; our mutual burdens bear.  
And often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.
4. When we are called to part, it gives us inward pain;  
but we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.
5. From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;  
and perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

We are seek to be

**Shining God's light by...**

**- Knowing Christ, Growing in His love, Going where He leads**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE (sing)**

**I am the Light of the World**

**You people come and follow me.**

**If you follow and love, You'll learn the mystery**

**Of what you were meant to do and be.**

POSTLUDE

*"Psalm XIX"*

Benedetto Marcello

\* Please rise in body or spirit

**WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS**

Rev. William Schram

Valerie Shondel, Interim Music Director

Chancel Choir

Ray Liptak & Rob Thiemann, AV Engineers

Michael Sperrazza, & Matthew Califf AV Team

✚ We are glad you have chosen to worship here today! Please come again!

✚ For more information about our church, please visit our website:

**[www.firstprescaldwell.org](http://www.firstprescaldwell.org)**



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