

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH AT CALDWELL

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

**January 8, 2023  
9:30 AM  
Baptism of the Lord**

**GATHERING**

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PRELUDE

*“Wie Schoen Leuchtet Der Morgenstern”*

Johann Pachelbel

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather wondering,  
“Where will we find the Babe born in Bethlehem?”

**We will find the Babe  
in the laughter of children,  
in the wisdom of grandparents.**

We gather wanting to know,  
“Where will we find the Christ who has come for us?”

**We will find our Hope  
where fear is overwhelmed by grace,  
where hatred is overwhelmed by love,  
where all people are overwhelmed by joy.**

\*HYMN NO. 151

*“We Three Kings”*

Kings of Orient

1. We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

***Refrain: O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to that perfect light!***

2. Born a King of Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,  
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign.

**Refrain**

3. Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a deity neigh;  
prayer and praising gladly raising, worshiping God Most High.

**Refrain**

4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone cold tomb.

**Refrain**

5. Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! sounds through the earth and skies.

**Refrain**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Most holy and most loving God, we admit to you and to each other, that we are those who either through foolishness or willfulness often choose darkness instead of light. Here and now we surrender to you our fears and proud opinions, our short-sighted folly and our pompous wisdom, our deep seated sins and our apathy towards change and renewal. Please forgive the darkness and pain we have inflicted on others, and restore the light-starved hopes and ideals within our own souls. Trusting your grace, we earnestly pray: "Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us." Through Christ Jesus our Savior. Amen!**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

My friends, Epiphany is good news!  
The Light comes not to sear and blind us but to save us.  
Christ Jesus came into this world to save sinners.  
In his name I declare to you: Yours sins are forgiven!

**Thanks be to God!**

Take up your forgiveness with thanksgiving,  
and live without shame or anxiety.

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ enables us. Amen!**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

MINUTE FOR MISSION

MLK, Jr. Day of Service

Facing Racism Task Force

EPISTLE READING

Ephesians 3:1-12

Page 181 NT

SPECIAL MUSIC

*"The Work Of Christmas"*

Eugene Butler

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 2:9-12

Page 2 NT

SERMON

*"Going By a Different Way"*

Rev. William Schram

1. Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;  
ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand  
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.
2. King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood,  
Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood,  
he will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food.
3. Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,  
as the Light of light descendeth from realms of endless day,  
that the powers of hell may vanish as the shadows clear away.
4. At his feet the six winged seraph, cherubim, with sleepless eye,  
veil the faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,  
“Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord most high!”

## JOYS & CONCERNS

### SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

#### THE INVITATION

#### GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

People of Advent: the Lord be with you!

**And also with you!**

People of Christmas, lift up your hearts.

**We lift our hearts overwhelmed with grace to the One who was born for us.**

People of the Star, offer your songs of joy and thanksgiving to God.

**We will sing our praises to the One**

**who has revealed glory and hope in the Babe of Bethlehem.**

In that first moment, you spoke, Radiant God, and the light of creation . . . Refresh us with the sweet nectar of grace so we, overwhelmed with joy, would go forth of everyone we meet. Amen

#### CONSECRATION AND 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.**

#### SHARING OF COMMUNION

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God, send us out by a different road so we may find new ears to hear the Good News. Now, Jesus, walk with us down a different road, so we may serve those beyond our familiar walls and ways. Now, Guiding Spirit, illuminate fresh ways to build community. Help us take our sisters and brothers by the hand to walk in wonder and grace. Amen.

2. To find the lost and lonely one,  
To heal that broken soul with love,  
To feed the hungry children with warmth and good food,  
To feel the earth below the sky above!

***Refrain***

3. To free the prisoner from his chains,  
To make the powerful care,  
To rebuild the nations with strength and goodwill,  
To call a man your brother everywhere.

***Refrain***

4. To bring hope to every task you do,  
To dance at a baby's new birth,  
To make music in an old man's heart,  
And sing to the colors of the earth!

***Refrain***

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*"We Three Kings"*

Wilbur Held

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***\*Please rise in body or in spirit***

**WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS**

Rev. William Schram  
Valerie Shondel, Interim Music Director  
Chancel Choir  
Ray Liptak, Rob Theimann, 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)**