

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, February 19, 2023

9:30 am

Transfiguration of the Lord

---

REFLECTION

*"Christ's identity as king directly shapes the identity of his followers. Loved by and freed from their sins by Jesus, believers form his kingdom, in which they enjoy the exalted status of priests. His people serve within this "kingdom," where Jesus enjoys "glory and dominion" forever."*

*-Greg Carey*

PRELUDE

*"Bryn Calfaria"*

Ralph Vaughan Williams

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Blessed are those who doubt,

**For faith is a journey, not a destination.**

Blessed are those who question,

**For easy answers are dismissed, but truth takes time to discern.**

Blessed are those who have not seen,

**Blessed are those who have come to believe.**

Blessed are those who struggle in their faith,

**For God has called us in the struggle together. Come, worship God, and follow Jesus, who calls us into this life of faith together.**

\*HYMN NO. 610

*“O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”*

AZMON

1. O for a thousand tongues to sing my dear Redeemer’s praise,  
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of God’s grace!
2. The name of Jesus charms our fears, and bids our sorrows cease,  
sings music in the sinner’s ears, brings life, and health, and peace.
3. Christ speaks, and listening to his voice new life the dead receive;  
the mournful waken to rejoice; the poor in heart believe.
4. My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,  
to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of that name.
5. To God all glory, praise, and love be now and ever given  
by saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heaven.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*IN UNISON*)

**God of hope and promise, when we hesitate to speak of your hope, forgive us, and give us a voice. When we find it difficult to love one another, forgive us, and give us fresh compassion. When we want to stand with the high and mighty, forgive us, and seat us next to those who are struggling. When we stay locked behind our fears and doubts, forgive us, and send us out to share you grace. When we cannot believe your Word of new life, forgive us, and fill us with your joy. Amen**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (from Revelation 1:1-9)

Jesus loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father.

**To Christ be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.**

HYMN NO. 447

*“We Are Forgiven”*

WE ARE FORGIVEN

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

CHILDREN’S SERMON

FIRST LESSON

Revelation 1:1-9

Page 230, NT

SPECIAL MUSIC

*“Hymn of Promise”*

Natalie Sleeth

SECOND LESSON

Revelation 18:1-8

Page 241, NT

SERMON

*“Images of the Church: Revelation of John,  
Communities of Resistance”*

Rev. William Schram

\*HYMN NO. 772

*“Live Into Hope”*

TRURO

1. Live into hope of captives freed, of sight regained, the end of greed.  
The oppressed shall be the first to see the year of God’s own jubilee!
2. Live into hope! The blind shall see with insight and with clarity,  
removing shades of pride and fear, a vision of our God brought near.

3. Live into hope of liberty, the right to speak, the right to be,  
the right to have one's daily bread, to hear God's word and thus be fed.
4. Live into hope of captives freed from chains of fear or want or greed.  
God now proclaims our full release to faith and hope and joy and peace.

## 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.**

\*HYMN NO. 314                      *"Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness"*                      CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT

1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

***Refrain: Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.  
Christ be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.***

2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has power to save us. Make us your living voice.

***Refrain***

3. Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are dead.

***Refrain***

4. Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone.

***Refrain***

5. Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come.

***Refrain***

### \*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

*"Jubilate!"*

Fela Sowande

\* Please rise in body or spirit

## WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Rev. William Schram  
Henry Gehman, Organ/Piano  
Alan Smulen, 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)**



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
AT CALDWELL  
326 Bloomfield Avenue  
Caldwell, NJ 07006  
973-228-0310