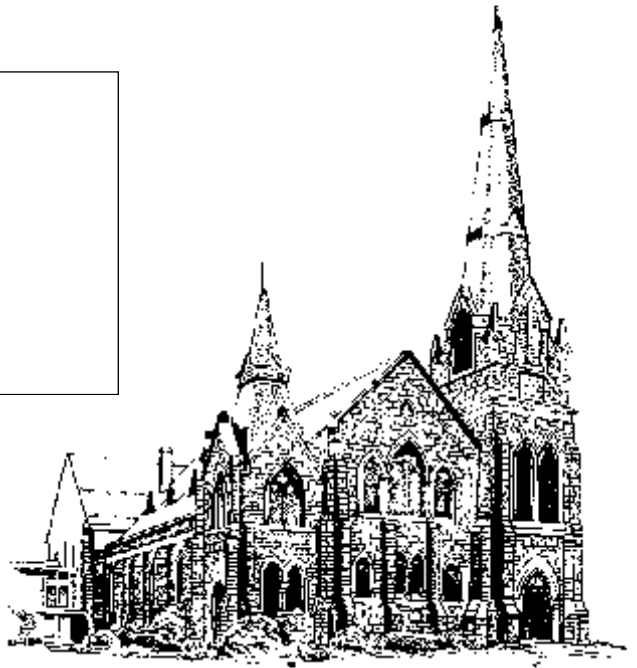


THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH AT CALDWELL

*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 26, 2023  
9:30 am  
First Sunday In Lent

---

REFLECTION

*"Notice that Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to fast for forty days and forty nights, and that it was when Jesus was at his weakest that the Devil came to him to tempt him. It is a safe thing to assume that the Devil will attack us when we're at our weakest and in the area that we're most vulnerable."*

*-Greg Herrick*

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come honestly before the Lord in repentance!

**Repentance means turning. Help us see what to turn from!**

Come hopefully before the Lord in repentance!

**Repentance means turning. Help us turn toward more Christ-like living!**

Know throughout all of your being, that God absolutely loves you!

**We gather today to consider how to best love God back. Open our hearts and minds and lead us in your ways. AMEN.**

\*HYMN NO. 544

*"Bless the Lord"*

BLESS THE LORD (Taizé)

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

### CALL TO CONFESSION

Lent is a journey of repentance – of turning away from evil and turning our lives God-ward. Knowing our ability to deflect and deny, God said, "I will lead you in the paths of truth." Let us be truthful before our Lord.

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION FOR LENT

**God of Wholeness, God of Healing, we come to You in our broken world. We confess our own brokenness, the places where we have sinned, caused harm unintentionally, or at times intentionally, to ourselves, others, and our world. We confess the brokenness of the world, that we have experienced, or have witnessed upon others. We confess when we've been unaware of our own prejudice. We lift up our own wounds and hurts. We pray for wholeness, O God. Come, Lord Jesus, Come.**

(time of silent confession)

**Amen.**

### ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Anyone in Christ becomes a new creation. The past is gone. Behold the new has come.

**Do not be afraid to receive forgiveness. Do not be afraid to offer forgiveness. For in the giving and receiving, we heal each other, and know Christ is with us. Go and share the good news. Amen.**

\*HYMN NO. 581

*"Glory Be to the Father"*

GLORIA PATRI (Creatorex)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,

world without end. Amen, amen.

### CHILDREN'S SERMON

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Page 2, OT

SPECIAL MUSIC

*"What Wondrous Love is This"*

arr. Paul Christiansen

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 4:1-11

Page 3, NT

SERMON

*"Encountering Jesus: A Tempter in the Wilderness"*

Rev. William Schram

\*HYMN NO. 783

*"When We Are Tested"*

ANGELS OF HEALING

1. When we are tested and wrestle alone,  
famished for bread when the world offers stone,  
nourish us, God, by your word and your way,  
food that sustains us by night and by day.

2. When in the desert we cry for relief,  
pleading for paths marked by certain belief,  
lift us to love you beyond sign and test,  
trusting your presence, our only true rest.
3. When we are tempted to barter our souls,  
trading the truth for the power to control,  
teach us to worship and praise only you,  
seeking your will in the work that we do.
4. When we have struggled and searched through the night,  
sorting and sifting the wrong from the right,  
Savior, surround us with circles of care,  
angels of healing, of hope, and of prayer.

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

### PASTORAL PRAYER 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. 819

*"Be Still My Soul"*

FINLANDIA

1. Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side.  
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.  
Leave to thy God to order and provide,  
who through all changes faithful will remain.  
Be still my soul: thy best, thy heavenly Friend  
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.
2. Be still, my soul: thy God doth undertake  
to guide the future surely as the past.  
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake;  
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.  
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know  
his voice who ruled them while he dwelt down below.
3. Be still, my soul: the hour is heartening on  
when we shall be forever with the Lord;  
when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,  
sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.  
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past  
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

---



---

\* Please rise in body or spirit

## WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Rev. William Schram  
Valerie Shondel, Interim Music Director  
Alan Smulen, Cantor  
Chancel Choir  
Members of the Chancel Bell 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