

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, March 19, 2023
9:30 am
Fourth Sunday In Lent**

REFLECTION

"One of the most dangerous spiritual places we can live is in the deluded notion that we are fully-sighted, spiritually-speaking. Conversely, the healthiest place to live is not only to acknowledge our spiritual blindness, but also to recognize that as an acceptable place to live."

-Daniel B. Clendenin

PRELUDE

"Rose Window"

Gordon Young

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

You are called to be children of light;

May we live as children of light

For the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true;

May we live in ways pleasing to God.

Everything that becomes visible is light,

Sleeper awake! Rise from the dead, and let Christ's light shine on you!

Come, join in this time of worship

Follow the light. Live into the light. Be the light of Christ in the world.

*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

Holy God, we confess that at times we have watered down the faith to be a list of rules. We have judged others and decided who is worthy of being in and kept others out. Forgive us for our sins. Forgive us for not seeing Your way as a way of life. Forgive us for not looking inward, to judge ourselves and to live our lives in ways pleasing to You. May we follow Your light, and turn away from our selfish ways. In the name of Christ, the Light of the World, we pray, 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. 698

"Take, O Take Me As I Am"

TAKE ME AS I AM

Take, O take me as I am;

summon out what I shall be; set your seal upon my heart and live in me.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

MINUTE FOR MISSION

FIRST LESSON

John 9:1-17

Page 96, NT

SPECIAL MUSIC

"When Jesus Wept"

William Billings

SECOND LESSON

John 9:18-41

Page 97, NT

SERMON

"Encountering Jesus: A Man by a Gate"

Rev. William Schram

*HYMN NO. 452

"Open the Eyes of My Heart"

OPEN THE EYES

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord. Open the eyes of my heart;
I want to see You; I want to see You;
Open the eyes of my heart, Lord. Open the eyes of my heart;
I want to see You; I want to see You;
to see You high and lifted up, Shinin' in the light of Your glory.
Pour out Your power and love As we sing holy, holy, holy.
Holy, holy, holy. Holy, holy, holy.
Holy, holy, holy, I want to see you.

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. 450

"Be Thou My Vision"

SLANE

1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
2. Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.
3. Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.
4. High King of Heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"O Darkest Woe"

Wilbur Held

* Please rise in body or spirit

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Rev. William Schram
Valerie Shondel, Interim Music Director
Chancel Choir
Members of the Chancel Bell Choir
Ray Liptak & Rob Thiemann, AV Engineers
Michael Sperrazza, & Matthew Califf AV Team

LENT & EASTER SERVICES

Seder Dinner - Wednesday, April 5th, 2023 – 6:00pm, Room 120

Maundy Thursday – April 7th, 2023 – 7:00pm, Sanctuary

Good Friday (Contemporary)– April 8th, 2023 - 7:00pm, Fellowship Hall

Easter Sunday, April 10th, 2023

8:00am Early Easter Worship. Acoustic instruments. , Old Burial Ground weather permitting.
Fellowship Hall otherwise.

10:00am, Easter Celebration Service with Brass and Timpani Sanctuary

The flowers this morning are given to the glory of God.....
In memory of Sandra Lopus Harvey.
by Nancy Lopus

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

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

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