

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 26, 2023
9:30 am
Fifth Sunday In Lent

REFLECTION

"Open every dark place to light and air; this is the time to uncover and unbind!"

-Sarah Dylan Breuer

PRELUDE

"Herzlich tut mich verlangen"

Kimberger

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (From Psalm 105)

O give thanks to the Lord, call on God's name,

Make known God's deeds among the peoples.

Sing to God, sing praises to the Lord,

Tell of all God's wonderful works.

Glory in God's holy name,

Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

*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

Creator God, You created the world out of chaos, and we confess that our world right now is in chaos. It is difficult for us right now to make sense out of what is happening. Illness and death have interrupted our lives. The world human beings created has turned upside down. But You are our constant, O God. You are our compass, O Christ. You are the wind that moves us, O Spirit. Guide us in this time, where we confess we need You more than ever, to be our foundation, to guide our way, and to move us into compassion and love. In the name of Christ, who journeys with us now and always, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

You can put your hope in God, dear friends, for God offers us that love which never fades, that life which never ends.

We wait for the Lord, and our Lord does not fail us. Christ’s hope, Christ’s love, and Christ’s grace are forever. Thanks be to God. 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 SCRIPTURE READING

John 11:1-27

Page 98, NT

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Drop, Drop Slow Tears”

Gordon Young

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

John 11:28-45

Page 99, NT

SERMON

“Encountering Jesus: A Woman at a Graveside”

Rev. William Schram

*HYMN NO. 785

“In Deepest Night”

ROSE MARY

1. In deepest night, in darkest days,
when harps are hung, no songs we raise,
when silence must suffice as praise,
yet sounding in us quietly there is the song of God.
2. When friend was lost, when love deceived,
dear Jesus wept, God was bereaved;
so with us in our grief God grieves,
and round about us mournfully there are the tears of God.

3. When through the waters winds our path,
around us pain, around us death,
deep calls to deep, a saving breath,
and found beside us faithfully there is the love of God.

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. 250

"In the Bulb There Is a Flower"

PROMISE

1. In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.
2. There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come future; what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.
3. In our end is our beginning; in our time infinity;
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"The Nave"

Gordon Young

* Please rise in body or spirit

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

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

LENT & EASTER SERVICES

Palm Sunday April 2, 2023 9:30AM: Chancel Choir, Trumpet, Bells, Organ and Piano: Sanctuary

Seder Dinner Wednesday April 5, 2023 6PM Room 120

Maundy Thursday April 7, 2023 7PM: Chancel Choir, Genesis Quintet: Sanctuary

Good Friday (Contemporary) April 8, 2023 7PM Fellowship Hall

Early Easter Worship 8AM Acoustic Instruments, Old Burial Ground weather permitting. Fellowship Hall otherwise.

Easter Celebration Service 10AM: Chancel Choir, Brass, Timpani, Bells, Piano and Organ : Sanctuary

Easter Egg Hunt following Worship: Old Burial Ground

✝ 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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