

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 5, 2023
9:30 am
Second Sunday In Lent**

REFLECTION

"The words of John 3:16 are more than a slogan to be placarded at sports events; they describe the divine intentionality and universality. God loves the world. ... Salvation touches all creation, embracing our cells as well as our souls. There are no limits, outsides, or impediments to the ubiquitous and graceful providence of God."

-Rev. Dr. Bruce Epperly

PRELUDE

"Largo from Concerto in a minor"

Antonio Vivaldi

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Keeper of every moment,

walk with us, we pray.

Watcher in the night:

stay with us, we pray.

Spirit of new life:

be in us, we pray.

*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

We are all too human, Faithful God, and so think we have nothing to learn from others, and thus discount ancestors in the faith like Nicodemus or Sarah. We look for answers online, convinced that we can trust whatever we find. We close tight the shutters of our souls, so the Spirit can only rattle us, but not get in to transform our lives.

Yet you continue to keep watch of us, Promise Giver, whether it is when we swagger through the sunshine of our lives, or in those shadowed moments of uncertainty in the night. You will not stumble as you continue to come to us, to lead us into your kingdom. You will always be our help, whether or not we recognize it or accept it, even as you remained faithful to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

(time of silent confession)

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Our hope, our help, our peace, our joy? All come from God, the One who loved us, and the world so much, that Jesus came to bring us salvation.

Keeper of our souls, be with us;

Watcher of our days, lead us;

Salvation of our lives, have mercy on us. 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

"Thy Word"

Amy Grant

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Genesis 12:1-4a

Page 9, OT

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Lonesome Valley"

Gilbert Martin

GOSPEL LESSON

John 3:1-17

Page 88, NT

SERMON

"A Pharisee at the Door"

Rev. William Schram

1. As the wind song through the trees, as the stirring of the breeze,
so it is with the Spirit of God, as the heart made strangely warm,
as the voice within the storm, so it is with the Spirit of God.
Never seen, ever known where the wind has blown bringing life,
bringing power to the world, as the dancing tongues of fire,
as the soul's most deep desire, so it is with the Spirit of God.
2. As the rainbow after rain, as the hope that's born again,
so it is with the Spirit of God, as the green in the spring,
as a kite on a string, so it is with the Spirit of God,
making worlds that are new, making peace come true, bringing gifts,
bringing love to the world, as the rising of the yeast,
as the wine at the feast, so it is with the Spirit of God.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

CONSECRATION 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.

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O Lord, Keeper of our lives: It is your Spirit poured out upon us
and upon the gifts of the Table which indicates the new life you bring. It is the brokenness of
the bread which conveys that life poured out for those who for those who wander in the
shadows.

It is the grace of the cup which overflows with your gifts, so we might go to be a blessing to
all forsaken in the world. In Jesus' name. Amen

1. Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken; the wine is poured; Christ is spoken and seen and heard.
***Refrain: Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again;
pass the Word around: loaves abound!***
2. Christ is able to make us one; at the table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless, love in word and deed express.
Refrain
3. Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) everywhere!
Refrain

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“*BWV 558 in g minor*”

J.S. Bach

* Please rise in body or spirit

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Rev. William Schram
Valerie Shondel, Interim Music Director
Sarah Solie, Soloist
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

✠ 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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