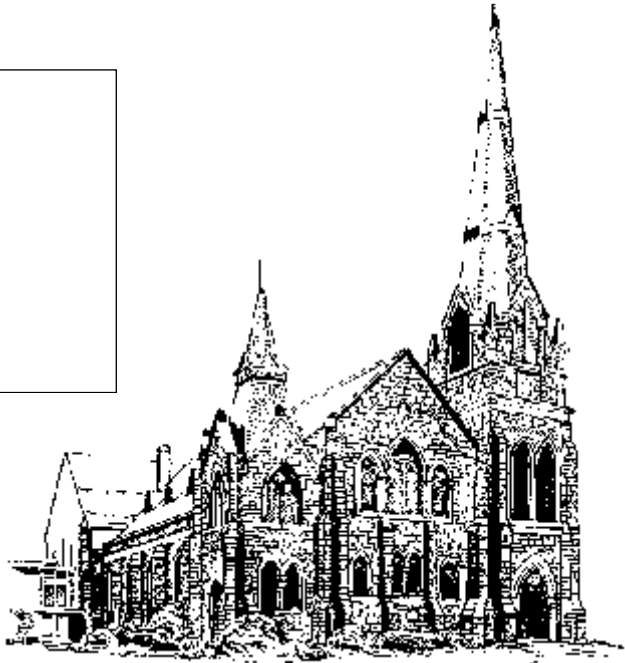


THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH AT CALDWELL

*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, April 30, 2023
9:30 am
Fourth Sunday of Easter**

REFLECTION

"...new life starts in the dark. Whether it is a seed in the ground, a baby in the womb, or Jesus in the tomb, it starts in the dark...Darkness in the cocoon is a place of mysterious transformation where a worm becomes a winged thing of incandescent beauty."

Barbara Brown Taylor

PRELUDE

"Meditation on St. Anne"

Gordon Young

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOMING ONE ANOTHER

CALL TO WORSHIP

On the long road of our faith journey, we wonder...

...what lies ahead along the path?

Through all our in-between stages of transformation, we wonder...

...where am I going, and where am I growing?

As we search for direction in life, we wonder...

...how can I trust when everything is so uncertain?

Moving into new paradigms and perspectives, we wonder...

...what will be revealed when I open up to new possibilities?

Then the love of the Divine reminds us,

“You too are my child. You can emerge to renewed life. Again and again.” Amen.

*HYMN NO. 240

“Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks”

ALLELUIA NO. 1

Refrain: Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.

1. Jesus is Lord of all the earth. He is the King of creation.

Refrain

2. Spread the good news o’er all the earth: Jesus has died and has risen.

Refrain

3. We have been crucified with Christ. Now we shall live for forever.

Refrain

4. Come let us praise the living God, joyfully sing to our Savior.

Refrain

*LITANY OF AFFIRMATION

(ADAPTED FROM THE PCUSA BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH)

In life and death we belong to God.

Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

In sovereign love, God created the world good, acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation, and makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God, was crucified, and raised from the dead, delivering us from death to life eternal.

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, Come, Lord Jesus! Amen

RESPONSE

“Behold, I Make All Things New”

Iona Community

Behold, behold. I make all things new

beginning with you

and starting from today.

Behold, behold. I make all things new

My promise is true.

For I am Christ the way.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

FIRST READING

Acts 2:36-41

Page 112, NT

SPECIAL MUSIC

“God So Loved The World”

Stainer

SERMON

*“Emerge Into New Life:
It’s a Journey”*

Rev. William Schram

*HYMN NO. 451

“Open My Eyes, That I May See”

OPEN MY EYES

1. Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me.
Place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes; illumine me, Spirit divine!
2. Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear.
And while the wave notes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears; illumine me, Spirit divine!
3. Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere.
Open my heart, and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart; illumine me, Spirit divine!

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. 744

“Arise Your Light Is Come”

FESTAL SONG

1. Arise, your light is come! The Spirit’s call obey;
show forth the glory of your God, which shines on you today.
2. Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captives’ liberty, good tidings to the poor.
3. Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born,
bind up the brokenhearted ones and comfort those who mourn.
4. Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing; God’s power will make us strong.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Miniature for Organ”

Flor Peeters

* Please rise in body or spirit

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Rev. William Schram
Valerie Shondel, Interim Director of Music
Chancel Choir
Ray Liptak, AV Engineer
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



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