

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, July 2, 2023
10:00 am
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

REFLECTION

"The most difficult choices in life are not primarily between good and evil, but the most difficult choices in life are between what is good and what is best."

Rev. Dr. George Caird

PRELUDE

"Amazing Grace"

Wilbur Held

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOMING ONE ANOTHER

CALL TO WORSHIP

The earth is the Lord's, And all who dwell in it.

God is king over the nations: God sits on his holy throne.

He rules by his might forever. His eyes keep watch on the nations.

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, For God judges the peoples with equity and guides the nations upon earth.

O Lord, be gracious to us and bless us, And make your face to shine upon us.

May your ways be known upon the earth, Your saving power among all peoples.

*HYMN NO. 337

“My Country, Tis of Thee”

AMERICA

1. My country, tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing.
land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrims pride,
from every mountainside let freedom ring.
2. My native country, thee, land of the noble free, thy name I love;
I love thy rocks and rills, thy woods and templed hills;
my heart with rapture thrills like that above.
3. Let music swell the breeze, and ring from all the trees sweet freedom’s song.
Let mortal tongues awake; let all that breathe partake;
let rocks their silence break, the sound prolong.
4. Our fathers God, to thee, author of liberty, to thee we sing.
Long may our land be bright with freedom’s holy light;
protect us by thy might, great God, our King.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison - from Psalms 96 & 98)

Merciful God, in all our celebration, fireworks, parades, and gatherings we have proclaimed liberty and freedom. Yet our hearts are chained by anger, doubt, terror, and fear. We live in those chains, often not knowing that there is really any other way. We have become accustomed to our imprisonment. Forgive us when we turn away from your freeing love. Help us to place our trust in you and serve you by working with others for peace and hope for all. These things we ask in Jesus ’Name. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, listen to the good news! Christ came to give us new life;
to redeem and heal our brokenness.

We are made whole through his boundless love. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.

*HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 581

“Glory Be to the Father”

GLORIA PATRI

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.

EPISTLE LESSON

Hebrews 10:23-25, 32-36

Page 211, NT

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Bei Männern, welche Liebe fühlen! from the Magic Flute”

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 9:57-62

Page 66, NT

SERMON

“Keep on Plowing”

Rev. William Schram

1. Fight the good fight with all thy might.
Christ is thy strength and Christ thy right.
Lay hold on life, and it shall be thy joy and crown eternally.
2. Run the straight race through God’s good grace;
lift up thine eyes, and seek Christ’s face.
Life with its way before us lies; Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.
3. Cast care aside; lean on thy guide.
God’s boundless mercy will provide.
Trust, and thy trusting soul shall prove Christ is its life, and Christ its love.
4. Faint not nor fear: God’s arms are near.
God’s changeth not, and thou art dear.
Only believe, and thou shalt see that Christ is all in all to thee.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

May the God of wonder be with you.

And also with you.

Lift your hearts to the One who invites you to this Table, calling, “Come, come!”

Thirsty for life and hope, we bring our hearts to this feast.

Rejoice in the Lord, all you people!

We sing glad songs of thanks to God’s holy name.

Holy are you, God of compassion...;

All that we have been called to do in his name. Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ died, bearing our burdens

Christ arose, mocking death’s power.

Christ will return, for the good of all.

Flow through us, Healing Spirit. Amen.

CONSECRATION OF THE BREAD AND JUICE

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.**

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

Traditional Spiritual arr. Moses Hogan

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Wonderful God, we have encountered our risen Lord: he spoke to us his word of life and broke his bread for us. May we speak to one another his word that sets hearts afire with hope. May we be his bread that nourishes everyone around us. May we seek to discern and share in what Jesus would have us do now. In his name we pray. Amen.

INVITATION TO GIVING

*HYMN NO. 338

“O Beautiful for Spacious Skies”

MATERNA

1. O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,
for purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea!
2. O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,
who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life!
America! America! God mend thine every flaw;
confirm thy soul in self control, thy liberty in law!
3. O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years
thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears!
America! America! May God thy gold refine
till all success be nobleness and every gain divine!

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

Tune from Southern Harmony arr. Wilbur Held

* Please rise in body or spirit

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Rev. William Schram
Valerie Shondel, Director of Music
Ray Liptak, AV Engineer
Michael Sperrazza, & Matthew Califf AV Team
Abbey Clyne, Soprano
Alan Smulen, Bass

✠ 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



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