

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH AT CALDWELL

326 Bloomfield Avenue
Caldwell, NJ 07006
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www.firstprescaldwell.org



*Our Mission: Shining God's light by ...
Knowing Christ, Growing in His love, Going where He leads.*

Sunday, August 6, 2023
10:00 am
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

REFLECTION

"The leader who serves also presents a transforming vision of legitimate authority, where strength perfected in weakness is proved by God to be genuine power."

David Tiede

PRELUDE

"The Ash Grove"

Wilbur Held

INTROIT

"Alleluia"

words and music Larry Gatlin

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOMING ONE ANOTHER

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, let us give thanks to God!

**We gather together to praise the One who strengthens the weak,
and hears the prayers of the forgotten.**

Come, let us give thanks to Christ!

We gather together to sing of the One who calls us to serve others.

Come, let us give thanks to the Spirit!

**We gather together to exalt the One who provokes us to love
not only our family and friends, but the guest among us.**

1. Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.
2. ‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!
3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come.
‘Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.
4. The Lord has promised good to me;
his word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.
5. When we’ve been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we’ve no less days to sing
God’s praise than when we’d first begun.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, we confess that our egos get in the way. We think we know best. We think our experience gives us better insight. We think our ways are the only ways. Even when we know we need to change, we resist it, because we fear what we will lose. Even when we know we need to see things in a new way, we deny it, and insist that there is only one way. Forgive us for our short-sightedness. Forgive us for our denial. Forgive us for our stubbornness and selfishness. Grant us grace. Grant us mercy. Open us slowly, so that we might adjust to Your wondrous and amazing light. In the name of the Light of the World, we pray. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (from Lamentations 3:22-23)

“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, God’s mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.” God’s mercy is new every moment. We know that we are forgiven, we are loved, and Jesus has mercy and renewed life in store for us, if we are open to faith in him. Let us go forth; being open, being blessed. 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.

1. Lord, who may dwell within your house
or on your holy hill?
Those who do good and speak the truth,
whose lives are blameless still;
2. Who have no guile upon their tongues
nor harm their neighbor's life,
but honor those who fear the Lord
and turn away from strife;
3. Who do no wrong, but keep their word
and seek no bribe or gain.
All those who do such things shall live
and safe from harm remain.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

May the God of every word be with you,
and with you as well.

Let us open our hearts to the Lord who hands us grace.

We lift them to the Lord whose love never ends.

Join in singing glad songs of praise to our Lord.

We will sing and praise with cheerful hearts.

You viewed chaos, God of fruitfulness, and called forth creation.

Your Spirit whispered over the waters, stirring forth life; the Word was there calling the sun,
moon, and stars to shine, shouting to the fields to blossom... we will delight in your glory and
grace through all eternity, our glad songs of thanksgiving offered to you always, God in
Community, Holy in One. Amen.

CONSECRATION OF THE ELEMENTS

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

Now Lord, let us go to walk the road of faithful service. Help us feed others with Your hope. Help us go to break down the walls that separate us from You and one another. Help us to join the Servant of the world in embracing the refugees of despair and fear. Help us go to teach kindness in our world that we may gather our sisters and brothers, and rest in the Spirit's peaceful lap.

*HYMN NO. 835

“Just a Closer Walk with Thee”

CLOSER WALK

**Refrain: Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
daily walking close to thee: let it be, dear Lord, let it be.**

1. I am weak, but thou art strong;
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long as I walk,
let me walk close to thee.
2. Through this world of toil and snares,
if I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.
3. When my feeble life is o'er,
time for me will be no more;
guide me gently, safely o'er to thy shore,
dear Lord, to thy shore.

Refrain

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

“The Irish Blessing”

Traditional arr. Don Gray

POSTLUDE

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

Hal H. Hopson

* Please rise in body or spirit

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Rev. William Schram
Valerie Shondel, Director of Music
Alan Smulen, Cantor
Dapper Dans of Harmony
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