

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH AT CALDWELL

326 Bloomfield Avenue

Caldwell, NJ 07006

973-228-0310

www.firstprescaldwell.org



Sunday, October 1, 2023

9:30 am

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

World Communion Sunday

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

REFLECTION

"The failure to forgive disrupts, distorts, and degrades community."

Christopher Dorsey

PRELUDE

"Beach Spring"

tune from the Sacred Harp Philadelphia 1844

arr. Wilbur Held

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOMING ONE ANOTHER

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Kenya)

We come to worship our Father, the Great Elder

We come to thank God for His glorious gifts.

When we look upon God's greatness, we are overcome with awe.

Let us worship our Great Elder, the Ruler of all things on earth and in heaven, for we are His servants, ready to do his will.

*HYMN NO. 311 (vs. 1,2 & 4) *"Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather"* (tune from Japan)

TOKYO

1. Here, O Lord, your servants gather, hand we link with hand;
looking toward our Savior's cross, joined in love we stand.
As we seek the realm of God, we unite to pray:
Jesus, Savior, guide our steps, for you are the Way.
2. Many are the tongues we speak, scattered are the lands;
yet our hearts are one in God, one in love's demands.
While in darkness hope appears, calling age and youth:
Jesus, teacher, dwell with us, for you are the Truth.
4. Grant, O God, an age renewed, filled with deathless love;
help us as we work and pray; send us from above
truth and courage, faith and power needed in our strife:
Jesus, Savior, be our Way; be our Truth, our Life.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (from South Africa)

O God, You asked for our hands, that you might use them for your purpose. We gave them for a moment, and then withdrew them, for the work was hard. You asked for our mouths to speak out against injustice. We gave you a whisper, that we might not be accused. You asked for our eyes to see the pain of poverty. We closed them, for we did not want to see. You asked for our lives, that you might work through us. We gave you a small part, that we might not get too involved. Lord, forgive our calculated efforts to serve you only when it is convenient for us to do so, only in those places where it is safe to do so, and only with those who make it easy to do so. Holy God, forgive us, renew us, and send us out as usable instruments. In Jesus' name. Amen

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON (adaptation from the Church of South India)

The Saviour of the world, the refuge of the repentant, forgives and strengthens all who truly seek His grace. He accepts us as His sons and daughters, and sets us free from the bondage of our past. **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.**

*HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 595 *"Holy, Holy, Holy"*

ARGENTINE SANTO

Holy, holy, holy. My heart, my heart adores you!
My heart knows how to say to you: you are holy, Lord!

CHILDREN'S SERMON

CHILDREN'S PRAYER RESPONSE

HYMN NO. 469 *"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"* CHILDREN PRAYING

Lord, listen to your children praying. Lord, send your Spirit in this place.
Lord, listen to your children praying. Send us love; send us power; send us grace.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Philippians 2:1-13 Page 186, NT

SPECIAL MUSIC *"Can You Drink This Cup?"* Craig Courtney

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 18:23-35 Page 19, NT

SERMON *"Christian Winning"* Rev. William Schram

*HYMN NO. 264 *"At the Name of Jesus" (tune from England)* KING'S WESTON

1. At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow,
every tongue confess him King of glory now;
'tis the Father's pleasure we should call him Lord,
who from the beginning was the mighty Word.
2. Humbled for a season to receive a name
from the lips of sinners unto whom he came,
faithfully he bore it spotless to the last,
brought it back victorious, when from death he passed;
3. Bore it up triumphant, with its human light,
through all ranks of creatures, to the central height,
to the throne of Godhead, to the Father's breast.
filled it with the glory of that perfect rest.
4. Christians, this Lord Jesus shall return again,
with his Father's glory o'er the earth to reign;
for all wreaths of empire meet upon his brow,
and our hearts confess him King of glory now.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Litany of Thanksgiving and Blessing

(used at the 2010 World Alliance of Reformed Churches meeting)

Bread of life, cup of peace, we give you thanks O God.

You set us in this world to love and to serve you, and to live in peace with your whole creation. Although we have failed to do so, you have not rejected us, but continue to call us back to your way.

Bread of life, cup of peace, we give you thanks O God.

In Jesus Christ, you showed us your love for all, especially those among us often rejected by others. Those of us who are poor, immigrants, prostitutes, suffering from illness, those whom society has deemed unclear or impure. You showed us the way to a new community, one in which the last would be first, justice would be realized, resources would be shared in common.

Bread of life, cup of peace, we give you thanks O God.

Jesus proclaimed the good news of the reign of God, healing the sick, feeding the hungry, calling for justice from tax collectors and religious leaders, preaching about faith guided by the heart, not law.

Bread of life, cup of peace, we give you thanks O God.

Yet we rebelled against his message of compassion and justice, and he was crucified because we feared such love. But death cannot ultimately defeat life nor quench love. Jesus rose from the grave, and in the resurrection we place our hope and assurance. We joyfully celebrate Christ's life and resurrection as we wait for the day that Christ is fully present with us and in us and the world is at peace.

Bread of life, cup of peace, we give you thanks O God.

Gracious God, we give you thanks for pouring out your Holy Spirit upon us. Fill us with compassion that we might be moved to action that your reign might be on earth as it is in heaven.

Amen.

CONCECRATION OF THE ELEMENTS

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.

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

SPECIAL MUSIC

Translation:

"Ave Verum"
Hail, true Body, born of the Virgin Mary,
having truly suffered, sacrificed on the cross for mankind,
from whose pierced side water and blood flowed:
Be for us a sweet foretaste in the trial of death!

W.A. Mozart

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (from Scotland)

Help us rise in your resurrection power from this table where you, our Lord and Savior, have served us by your own hand, that we may feed others from the bread of life and cup of peace. May we extend your arms of peace to a world at war. This we ask through Christ; in Christ, with Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit. Amen

INVITATION TO GIVING

*HYMN NO. 526 *“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ” (tune from Jamaica)* LINSTEAD

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! REPEAT 2X

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 REPEAT 2X***
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 REPEAT 2X***

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE *“May the Peace of God Go With You”* Hal H. Hopson

POSTLUDE *“All Creatures of our God and King”* Hal H. Hopson

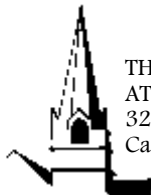
* Please rise in body or spirit

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Rev. William Schram
Valerie Shondel, Director of Music
FPC Chancel Choir
Ray Liptak, AV Engineer
Matthew Califf, Michael Sperrazza, Dennis Velez, 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



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