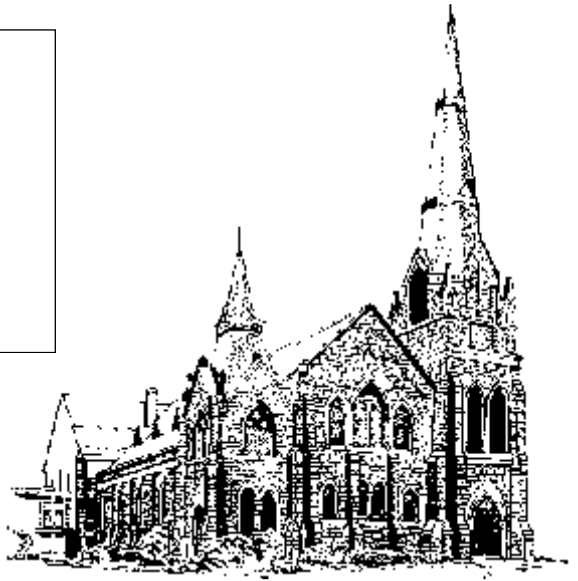


THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH AT CALDWELL

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, September 17, 2023
9:30 am
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

REFLECTION

*"What if the simple assertion that Jesus is the Messiah is more powerful but quieter than the
clanging gongs of empire?"*

Dr. Eric Barreto

PRELUDE

"Allegro"

Fiocco

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOMING ONE ANOTHER

CALL TO WORSHIP

Give thanks to God with all your hearts.

We will hold nothing back from our God.

Sing full-throated praises to our God.

We will join in the chorus of thanksgiving for God's abiding love.

Glorify God's and that Word we know as Jesus Christ.

We will worship our God with wonder and joy.

- 1. God is here! As we your people
meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.
- 4. Lord of all, of church and kingdom,
in an age of change and doubt
keep us faithful to the gospel;
help us work your purpose out.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We confess our struggle to be transformed into disciples, God of mystery. The desires of the world would shape us into people you would not recognize. The demands of our society pull us away from your heart. Our culture values the rich, the powerful, the successful, but you are on the side of the weak, and the lost. Forgive us, Merciful God, for looking for you in all the wrong places. Reawaken us with your voice that calls us to service; revive our weary hearts with your vision of creation; refresh our fatigued spirits that we might boldly proclaim Jesus as our Lord and Savior, and go forth to serve your people, in Christ's name.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

To all who seek forgiveness through confession of sin and commitment to change, Christ responds with mercy and grace.

Ever and always, God welcomes us home to live with joy in the world. Glory be to God

*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.

CHILDREN’S SERMON AND BLESSING OF BACKPACKS

RESPONSE

“God of All Learning”

Bunnesan

God of all learning, God of all knowing,
We bring these backpacks filled with supplies.
Bless all these tools of learning and growing.
Use them, we pray, to change many lives.

Bless all who learn and bless those who guide them,
Bless those who teach and counsel and care.
May they remember you walk beside them.
Through all their school days, you, Lord, are there.

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Coat Drive

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 138

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Here I Am Lord”

Craig Courtney

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 16:13-20

Page 17, NT

SERMON

“Answering the Key Question”

Rev. William Schram

*HYMN NO. 720

“Jesus Calls Us”

GALILEE

1. Jesus calls us: o’er the tumult of our life’s wild, restless sea;
day by day his sweet voice soundeth saying, “Christian, follow me.”
2. Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world’s golden store,
from each idol that would keep us, saying, “Christian, love me more.”
3. In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures, “Christian, love me more than these.”
4. Jesus calls us: by thy mercies, Savior, may we hear thy call,
give our hearts to thy obedience, serve and love thee best of all.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Amazing Grace”

arr. Greg Jasperse

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.**

EXPRESSING OUR GRATITUDE

INVITATION TO GIVING

*HYMN NO. 39

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

FAITHFULNESS

1. Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not.
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.
**Refrain: Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!**
2. Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.
Refrain
3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:
blessings all mine, with then thousand beside!
Refrain

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE *“May the Peace of God Go With You”*

Hal H. Hopson

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *“Variations on Come, You Faithful Raise the Strain”*

Michael Burkhardt

* Please rise in body or spirit

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Rev. William Schram

Valerie Shondel, Director of Music

FPC Chancel Choir

Genesis: Sarah Solie, Abigail Clyne, Kate Glennon, Julie Pannello, Justin McBurney, Will Downey

Members of the FPC Bell Choir

Will Downey, Violin

Rosie Holland, Flute

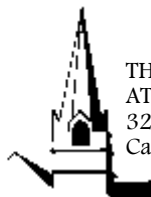
Ray Liptak, AV Engineer

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



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