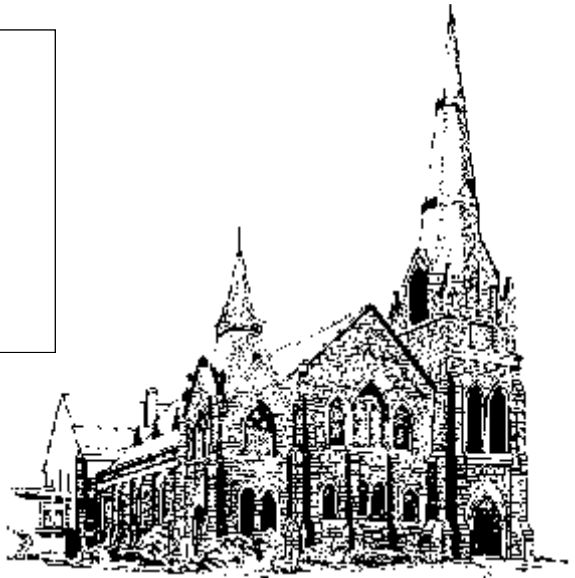


THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH AT CALDWELL

326 Bloomfield Avenue  
Caldwell, NJ 07006  
973-228-0310  
[www.firstprescaldwell.org](http://www.firstprescaldwell.org)



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

Sunday, September 24, 2023  
9:30 am  
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

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REFLECTION

*"...when Jesus explains that the law and the prophets all hang on the commandments to love God and love our neighbors, he is inviting his hearers to see that those around them were created in God's image."*

Rev. Michael Anthony Howard

PRELUDE

*"His Eye is on the Sparrow"*

Wilbur Held

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOMING ONE ANOTHER

CALL TO WORSHIP

We are invited to share in Christ's ministry of compassion.

**We will widen our hearts so we might cradle the lost.**

We are challenged to learn more about God each day.

**We will open our minds so we might discern God's dreams for us.**

We are summoned to let the Spirit be planted within us.

**We will deepen our souls so we might grow in love.**

1. Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but thou art mighty. Hold me with thy powerful hand.  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
feed me till I want no more; feed me till I want no more.
2. Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow.  
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.  
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,  
be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and shield.
3. When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside.  
Death of death, and hell’s destruction, land me safe on Canaan’s side.  
Songs of praises, songs of praises  
I will ever give to thee; I will ever give to thee.

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**As you know, God our healer, we stand on the edge of your promises and hopes, yet cannot seem to let ourselves cross over into the life you intend for us. We seek praise from our families, yet are unable to tell them how much we love them; we care more about our needs and desires, than for the struggles of our neighbors; we think more about the trash we read and see than focusing on the Spirit of wisdom. Forgive us, Everlasting God. Renew our lives with your grace; restore our hopes with your vision of tomorrow; refresh our spirits with your joy which comes to us new in each moment in the gift of your Child, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen**

\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

This moment, this morning, this day, and in all the days to come, God's compassion and hope fill our lives. What joyous good news!

**Our hope is not in vain. Jesus forgives our sins, and is the redeemer for all people. Thanks be to God. 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.

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.

SPECIAL MUSIC

*“Lead Me, Guide Me with Precious Lord, Take My Hand”* arr. Paul Ferrin

SECOND GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 23:1-7, 23-26

Page 24, NT

SERMON

*“Surprised By Change”*

Rev. William Schram

\*HYMN NO. 775

*“I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”*

WALK WITH ME

1. I want Jesus to walk with me;  
I want Jesus to walk with me;  
all along my pilgrim journey,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.
2. In my trials, Lord, walk with me;  
in my trials, Lord, walk with me;  
when my heart is almost breaking,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.
3. When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;  
when I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;  
when my head is bowed in sorrow,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

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. 625

*“How Great Thou Art”*

HOW GREAT THOU ART

1. O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder  
consider all the worlds thy hands have made,  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
thy power throughout the universe displayed:  
***Refrain: Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:  
How great thou art! How great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:  
How great thou art! How great thou art!***
2. When through the woods and forest glades  
I wander and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,  
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur  
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze:  
***Refrain***

3. And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,  
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,  
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,  
he bled and died to take away my sin:

***Refrain: Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:  
How great thou art! How great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:  
How great thou art! How great thou art!***

4. When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration, and there proclaim,  
“My God, how great thou art!”

***Refrain***

\*BENEDICTION

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

Hal H. Hopson

POSTLUDE      “*God of Grace/ CWM Rhondda*”

arr. Paul Manz

\* Please rise in body or spirit

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### **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](http://www.firstprescaldwell.org)**