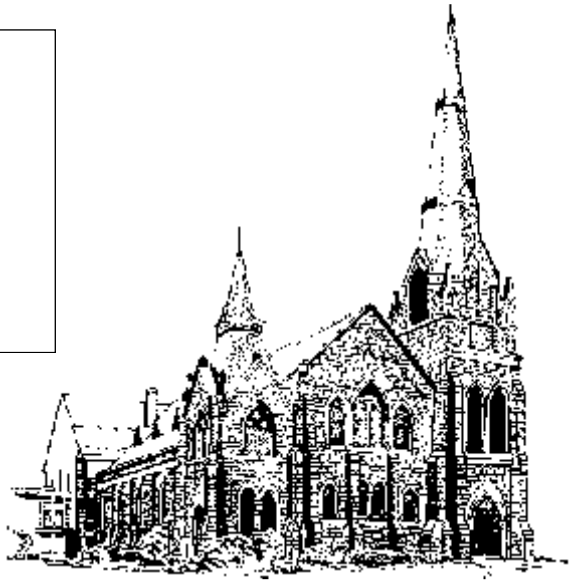


THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH AT CALDWELL

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, October 29, 2023
9:30 am
Twenty Second Sunday after Pentecost

REFLECTION

"Inscribed on the very heart of God's grace is the rule that we can be its recipients only if we do not resist being made into its agents; what happens to us must be done by us. Having been embraced by God, we must make space for others and invite them in—even our enemies."

Miroslav Volf

PRELUDE

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

Gordon Young

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOMING ONE ANOTHER

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather to pray and to praise, to lift our hearts to God;

We gather for rest, renewal, and reassurance for our daily lives.

We gather with one another to share God's love, to pray for each other,

And to build up one another in Christ.

We gather to worship, to be lifted up, and to be encouraged;

True worship is the giving of our lives to God by loving one another.

Come, join your hearts in worship,

And follow Jesus Christ, who laid down his life for us.

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.
2. Before our Father’s throne we pour our ardent prayers.
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.
3. We share our mutual woes; our mutual burdens bear.
And often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.
4. When we are called to part, it gives us inward pain;
but we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.
5. From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;
and perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**For the times we are afraid of the stranger,
for the times we refuse the stranger,
For the times we stereotype the stranger
Lord, forgive us.**

**For the times we are too busy trying to impress our guests
the times we think we are being hospitable,**

**For the times we miss the gift of the stranger,
for the times we close our door in fear,
for the times we miss your face in the other,
Lord, have mercy. Forgive us. Amen**

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Follow God’s Wisdom, and you will find the way of God. Follow the teachings of Christ, and you will find your way to your neighbors that love you and whom you love. Follow the Holy Spirit, and you will be opened to new ways of peace, love, and joy. Repent, turn back to God, and know that God is with you.

Through Jesus, we are forgiven of your sins. We are loved. We belong to Christ. Amen.

*HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 582

“Glory to God”

GLORY TO GOD

1. Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.
2. World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. 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.

MINUTE FOR MISSION

The Christmas Musical

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Hebrews 13:1-2

Page 213, NT

SPECIAL MUSIC

"A Mighty Fortress"

Martin Luther

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 14:1, 7-14

Page 72, NT

SERMON

"Community Building Practices: Hospitality"

Rev. William Schram

*HYMN NO. 301

"Let Us Build a House"

TWO OAKS

1. Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

Refrain: all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

2. Let us build a house where prophets speak, and word are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: ***Refrain***
3. Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine, and wheat;
a banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: ***Refrain***
4. Let us build a house where hand will reach beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger: ***Refrain***
5. Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: ***Refrain***

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS 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.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Blessed Assurance”

Cynthia Dobrinski

INVITATION TO GIVING

*HYMN NO. 460

“Break Thou the Bread of Life”

BREAD OF LIFE

1. Break thou the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,
as thou didst break the loaves beside the sea.
Beyond the sacred page I seek thee, Lord.
My spirit pants for thee, O living Word!
2. Bless thou the truth, dear Lord, now unto me,
as thou didst bless the bread by Galilee.
Then shall all bondage cease, all fetters fall.
And I shall find my peace, my all in all.

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

“May the Peace of God Go With You”

Hal H. Hopson

POSTLUDE

“A Mighty Fortress is Our God”

Wilbur Held

* Please rise in body or spirit

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

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

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