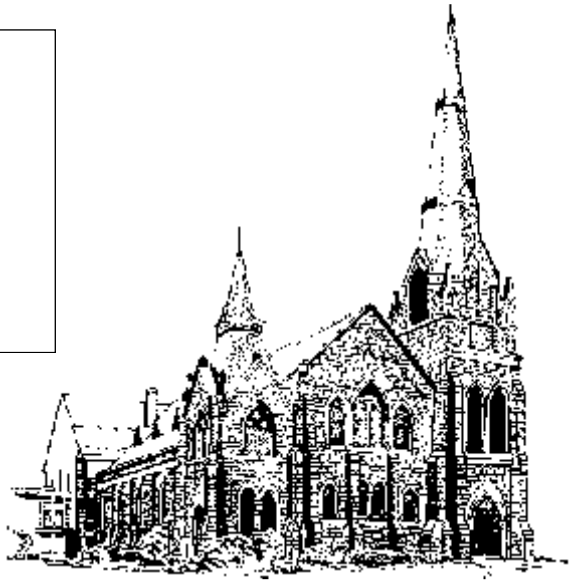


THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH AT CALDWELL

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, October 8, 2023  
9:30 am  
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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REFLECTION

*"Our communities suffocate when we fail to express how grateful we are for the goodness we find there - the ordinary expressions of fidelity and love that are easy to take for granted."*

Christine Pohl

PRELUDE

"Slane"

Wilbur Held

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOMING ONE ANOTHER

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 107:1-3, 43)

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.

**Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those he redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.**

Let those who are wise give heed to these things,

**and consider the steadfast love of the Lord.**

Let us worship God!

\*HYMN NO. 839

*“Blessed Assurance”*

ASSURANCE

1. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!

Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

***Refrain: This is my story; this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;  
this is my story; this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.***

2. Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
angels descending, bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

***Refrain***

3. Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest,  
watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

***Refrain***

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Because we live in this modern, tech-driven, twittering age, we often forget what you have done for us, God of every blessing. We pat ourselves on the back for our ability to learn new computer skills, but have forgotten that life is more than a machine. We have more than we could ever use yet, like squirrels, store up more and more. Our faith is often pushed to the back of the closet, to make room for all the fears we wear so easily.**

**Forgive us, Restorer of life. As you clothe us with your grace and mercy, may we share with those who have so little. As our hearts overflow with your love and wonder, may we offer them as gifts to everyone we meet. As you feed us with your joy and hope, may we welcome to the Table all those whose lives are filled with tears and pain. As we gather with family and friends during this season, may we continue to give thanks for the gift of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen**

\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

This is the good news: as God dresses creation in wonder, so you will be clothed in grace; as God pours out abundance upon the earth, so you will be blessed with peace and joy.

**We don't say it often enough, but thanks be to God for healing, for life, for wonder, for mercy. We are blessed, for we are forgiven. 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.

1. Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!  
For Christ the Lord has led us through the ages long!

***Refrain: In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!***

2. Long years have come and gone, and still God reigns supreme,  
empowering us to catch the vision, dream the dream!

***Refrain***

3. Let courage be our friend; let wisdom be our guide,  
as we in mission magnify the Crucified!

***Refrain***

4. Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!  
For Christ the Lord has triumphed o’er the ages long!

***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.**

## EXPRESSING OUR GRATITUDE

### INVITATION TO GIVING

1. Lord, dismiss us with your blessing; fill our hearts with joy and peace;  
let us each, your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace.  
O refresh us, O refresh us, traveling through this wilderness.
2. Thanks we give and adoration for your gospel’s joyful sound;  
may the fruits of your salvation in our hearts and lives abound.  
Ever faithful, ever faithful to your truth may we be found.
3. Savior, when your love shall call us, from our struggling pilgrim way,  
let no fear of death appall us, glad your summons to obey.  
May we ever, may we ever reign with you in endless day.

\*BENEDICTION

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

Hal H. Hopson

POSTLUDE

*Tocatta on “Darwall’s 148th”*

Gordon Young

\* Please rise in body or spirit

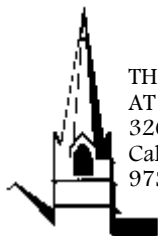
**WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS**

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:

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