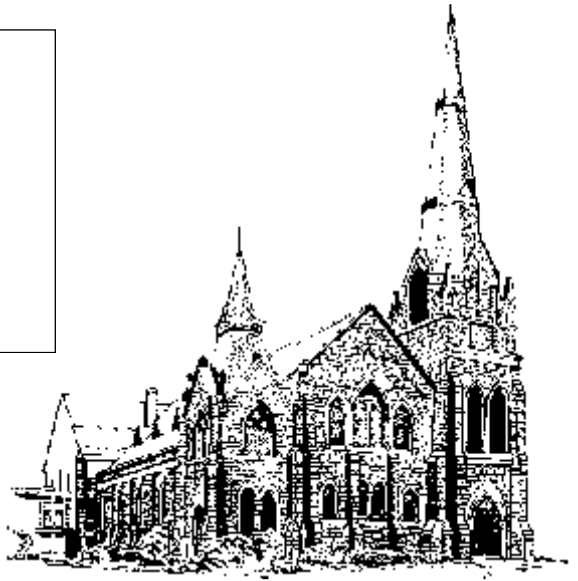


THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH AT CALDWELL

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, November 19, 2023  
9:30 am

Twenty Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

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REFLECTION

*"The salvation of this human world lies nowhere else than the human heart . . . in human responsibility. . . . Responsibility to something higher than my family, my firm, my country, my success..."*

Vaclav Havel

PRELUDE

*"We Gather Together"*

Wilbur Held

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOMING ONE ANOTHER

CALL TO WORSHIP

The world is troubled and distressed,

**Help us to reach out in faith, O God.**

We hear the literal cries of injustice, the weeping of children;

**Help us to move when fear immobilizes us, O God.**

The news causes us to despair, to feel helpless to do anything;

**Help us to trust and hope in You, O God.**

Holy Spirit, draw us in, fill us, and renew our faith in this time of worship;

**Holy Spirit, send us full of Your light, love, hope, and courage. Amen.**

1. We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;  
he chastens and hastens his will to make known;  
the wicked oppressing now cease from distressing.  
Sing praises to his name; he forgets not his own.
2. Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,  
ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine;  
so from the beginning the fight we were winning;  
thou, Lord, wast at our side; all glory be thine!
3. We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant,  
and pray that thou still our defender wilt be.  
Let thy congregation escape tribulation;  
thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

**God of Grace, we bring to you our ingratitude for all that you have done for us; our impatience when prayers seem to be ignored; our selfishness when prompted to give or share; our unfaithfulness when wandering from your way. We confess that we find it easier to say thanks when prompted than it is to lead lives guided by gratitude. We ask for your forgiveness, through Jesus Christ who gave all, that we might learn to do likewise.**  
**Amen**

\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

This saying is true, and we should believe it: that Christ Jesus came into the world to rescue sinners. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin and alive to all that is good.

**We believe and trust the Good News. In Jesus Christ 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.

MINUTE FOR MISSION

*Christmas Brunch and Crafts*

NEW TESTAMENT READING

2 Corinthians 8:1-8

Page 172, NT

SPECIAL MUSIC

*"For the Beauty of the Earth"*

John Rutter

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 10:41-45

Page 44, NT

SERMON

*"The Affordability of Generosity"*

Rev. William Schram

\*HYMN NO. 708

*"We Give Thee but Thine Own"*

SCHUMANN

1. We give thee but thine own, what e'er the gift may be;  
all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
2. May we thy bounties thus as stewards true receive,  
and gladly, as thou blessest us, to thee our first fruits give.
3. The captive to release, to God the lost to bring,  
to teach the way of life and peace; it is a Christ-like thing.
4. And we believe thy word, though dim our faith may be;  
what e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it unto thee.

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

*"Passacaglia in C"*

Fred Gramman

LITANY OF PLEDGE DEDICATION

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver (2 Cor. 9:6-7).

**Lord, grant us joy In giving. Light a passion In our hearts for building up your body and providing for the work of your kingdom.**

Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine (Prov. 3:9-10).

**Money Is not evil unless It leads us away from you, Lord. May we honor you with our wealth and use it for good.**

Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies (1 Cor. 6:19-20).

**Our lives are not our own. We cannot save ourselves. We need you to rescue us from death. We have been bought with your precious blood; may we Live not for ourselves but for you, Jesus.**

The Lord Jesus himself said: "It is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35).

**Lord, change our orientation from being getters to being givers, so that we might know the joy of your blessed life.**

Remind us who live in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put our hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put our hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Move us to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way, we will take hold of the life that is truly life (1 Tim. 6:17-19).

**Lord Jesus, we celebrate the new life we have in you. It is a life filled with love and grace! We dedicate these pledges to the building of your kingdom and ask that you would bless them to the work of your church. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO GIVING

\*HYMN NO. 643

*"Now Thank We All Our God"*

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

1. Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices;  
who, from our mother's arms, hath blessed us on our way  
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.
2. O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;  
and keep us in God's grace, and guide us when perplexed,  
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.
3. All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven,  
to Father and to Son and Spirit now be given:  
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore,  
the God who was, and is, and shall be evermore.

\*BENEDICTION

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*"May the Peace of God Go With You"*

Hal H. Hopson

POSTLUDE

*"Now Thank We All Our God"*

Wilbur Held

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\* 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:

[www.firstprescaldwell.org](http://www.firstprescaldwell.org)