

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH AT CALDWELL

326 Bloomfield Avenue
Caldwell, NJ 07006
973-228-0310
www.firstprescaldwell.org



Sunday, January 28, 2024
10:00 am
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

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

REFLECTION

"I like that phrase in the story, "See how he loved him. See how Jesus loved Lazarus." That is the way with us in our relationships. See how we loved that person who has died. Whether that person is a mother, a father, a brother, a sister, a child, a friend. When feelings run deep, you can see how the grieving person so deeply loved the deceased.

Pastor Edward F. Markquart

PRELUDE

"Come, Now Is The Time To Worship"

by Brian Doerksen

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOMING ONE ANOTHER

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the joys of family and friends;
in the openness of heart that widens the circle of love
we see how you love us, God of steadfast love.
In the tears of a worried father over his son's illness;
in the woman who anoints her grandbaby with talcum powder:
we see how you love us, our Resurrection and our Life.
In the touch of a wife on her husband's papery skin;
in the words we are given to offer to the empty-hearted:
we see how you love us, Breath of our souls.
Creator of life:
bring us light, we pray.
Mourner of the dead:
take away our grief, we pray.
Refresher of dry lives:
bind us to You forever

1. Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.
2. We are pilgrims on a journey; we’re together on the road.
We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.
3. I will hold the Christ-light for you in the nighttime of your fear.
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
4. I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh I’ll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow till we’ve seen this journey through.
5. When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony,
born of all we’ve known together of Christ’s love and agony.
6. Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Creator God, You created the world out of chaos, and we confess that our world right now is in chaos. It is difficult for us right now to make sense out of what is happening. Illness and death have interrupted our lives. The world human beings created has turned upside down. But You are our constant, O God. You are our compass, O Christ. You are the breath that moves us, O Spirit. Guide us in this time, where we confess we need You more than ever, to be our foundation, to guide our way, and to move us into compassion and love. In the name of Christ, who journeys with us now and always, we pray. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; God’s mercies never come to an end. The Lord is good to those who wait, to the soul that seeks God. In times of waiting, may we know God’s presence and faithfulness endure forever.
In Christ, we are forgiven, loved, and restored. Amen.

*HYMN OF RESPONSE

I am the light of the world! You people come and follow me!
If you follow and love you’ll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.

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.

FIRST GOSPEL READING

John 11:17-27

Page 99, NT

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Precious Lord”

SECOND GOSPEL READING

John 11:28-37

Page 99, NT

*HYMN NO. 465

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

CONVERSE

1. What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit; O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!
2. Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer!
3. Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge; take it to the Lord in prayer!
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield thee; thou wilt find a solace there.

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

"All The People Said Amen"

By: Matt Maher

You are not alone if you are lonely
When you're feeling frail, you're not the only
We are all the same in need of mercy
To be forgiven and be free
It's all you got to lean on
But thank God, it's all you need
Chorus: And all the people said Amen, whoa, oh-oh
And all the people said Amen
Give thanks to the Lord, for his love never ends
And all the people said Amen
If you're rich or poor, well, it don't matter
Weak or strong, we know love is what we're after
We're all broken, but we're all in this together
God knows we stumble and fall
And he so loved the world he sent his son to save us all
Chorus
Blessed are the poor spirits who are torn apart
Blessed are the prosecuted and the pure in heart
Blessed are the people lonely for another start
For this is a kingdom, the kingdom of God
Chorus

INVITATION TO GIVING

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 hands 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***

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE HYMN NO. 301 Refrain

All are welcome; all are welcome;
all are welcome in this place.

* Please rise in body or spirit

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Rev. William Schram
Valerie Shondel, Director of Music
Scott Westenberger, Worship Leader
FPC Chancel Choir
Joyful Noise
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