

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, February 18, 2024
9:30 am
First Sunday in Lent

REFLECTION

"In Lent, we're reminded that, again and again, suffering and brokenness find us. We doubt again, we lament again, we mess up again. And yet,, God offers a sacred refrain: "I choose you, I love you, I will lead you to repair." Again and again, God breaks the cycle and offers us a new way forward."

Rev. Lisle Garrity

PRELUDE

"Prayer"

George Walker

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOMING ONE ANOTHER

CALL TO WORSHIP

We come, so God might open our eyes,
**that we may discover the wonders surrounding us;
that we may embrace the joy deep within us.**

We gather, so Christ might widen our hearts,
**that we may hear the sounds of brokenness around us;
that we may sing the melodies of hope.**

We are here, so the Spirit might teach us the ways of humility,
**that we may walk that street named Enduring Love;
that we may wait at the corner called Faithfulness.**

*HYMN NO. 738

“O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee”

MARYTON

1. O Master, let me walk with thee in lowly paths of service free;
tell me thy secret; help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
2. Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear, winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay, and guide them in the homeward way.
3. Teach me thy patience, still with thee in closer, dearer, company,
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong, in trust that triumphs over wrong.
4. In hope that sends a shining ray far down the future’s broadening way;
in peace that only thou canst give, with thee, O Master, let me live.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We admit we are hesitant to walk to Jerusalem and beyond with you, God of Glory. In a world where we worry about tomorrow before enjoying today, we race by your moments of silence, of learning. In that flood of worries, which can overwhelm us, we may miss that assurance that you have not cut us off from your grace. In the deserts of our desires, we may ignore that feast of hope, of joy, of life you offer to us. Forgive us and have mercy on us, Gentle Guardian of our souls. In humility, may we offer our lives to your Son. In love, may we share his grace with everyone we meet. In hope, may we wait for you all our days, as you come to us in the life and joy of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

In this place we find God's word, Christ’s way, God's love, Christ’s forgiveness. What more do we need to sustain us, pilgrims along the Way?

In every wilderness, on every road; in every moment, in every life; in every journey, in every heart, we receive the daily bread we need - God's hope, Christ’s mercy, the Spirit’s joy. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.

*HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 698

“Take, O Take Me as I Am”

TAKE ME AS I AM

Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart and live in me.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Tricky Tray

CHILDREN’S PRAYER RESPONSE

HYMN NO. 752

“Dona Nobis Pacem”

DONA NOBIS PACEM

Dona nobis pacem, pacem. Dona nobis pacem.
Dona nobis pacem. Dona nobis pacem.
Dona nobis pacem. Dona nobis pacem.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Genesis 9:8-17

Page 7, OT

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Blessed Lamb, On Calvary's Mountain”

arr. K. Lee Scott

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 1:9-15

Page 33, NT

SERMON

“Again & Again, God Meets Us”

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Loving God, you care for all of us. You calm our hearts and quell our fears. We lift up to you the young people in our care, in our Sunday Schools, our home, our local schools and our lives. We lift up to you the children we know, and those we don't and never will know. We lift up to you the students who fear for their safety and long to know they can learn in communities of peace and security. We place them in your loving hands, naming aloud and in our hearts those for whom we especially care. We thank you for your abiding love and trust in your grace and peace, now and forever, Amen.

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.

HYMN AS PEOPLE BRING PRAYER HEARTS

HYMN NO. 466

“Come and Fill Our Hearts”

CONFITEMINI DOMINO

Come and fill our hearts with your peace.
You alone, O Lord, are holy.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace, Alleluia!

INVITATION TO GIVING

*HYMN NO. 166

“Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days”

ST. FLAVIAN

1. Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray,
teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.
2. As you with Satan did contend and did the victory win,
O give us strength to persevere, in you to conquer sin.
3. And through these days of penitence, and through this Passiontide,
yes, evermore, in life and death, O Lord, with us abide.
4. Abide with us, till when this of suffering shall be past,
an Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

“Bless the Lord”

Taize

POSTLUDE

“Go Down, Moses”

arr. Fela Sowande

* Please rise in body or spirit

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Rev. William Schram
FPC Chancel Choir
Alan Smulen, Conductor
Henry Gehman, Organ and Piano
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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