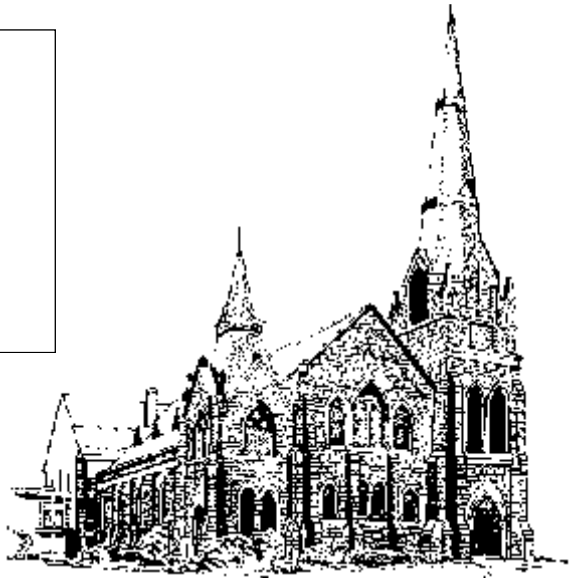


THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH AT CALDWELL

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 4, 2024
9:30 am
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

REFLECTION

"The fall of Adam and Eve is a template for the sins we all commit. Yet in the cycle of temptation-sin lies a glimmer of hope. The possibility that the cycle can be broken."

Larry Broding

PRELUDE

"Violin Sonata Op. 5 No. 1 Allegro"

Arcangelo Corelli

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOMING ONE ANOTHER

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Word of the Lord came,
hope for all people cradled in his arms.
the Word of the Lord comes,
**calling us out of our comfort zones,
to go where grace is needed most.**
The Word of the Lord will come,
**gathering all the outsiders and insiders
into one community of the kingdom.**

*HYMN NO. 649

“Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

AMAZING GRACE

1. Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.
2. ‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!
3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come.
Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
4. The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.
5. When we’ve been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
we’ve no less days to sing God’s praise than when we’d first begun.

*PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

Our comfortable lives convince us we do not need to follow Jesus, Steadfast God. Our work provides for our wants, so we have no need for your grace. Our friends are found through social media, so we do not need your community. Our fear of the beliefs and cultures of others makes us sure that we do not need to share your grace with them. Forgive us for dragging our feet as Jesus' disciples, Compassionate God. May we get up from our comfort zones and step out in faith. May we go to all the uncomfortable places to bring hope. May we proclaim with our lips, but especially with our lives, that the kingdom of love is near, brought by Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Now, after we confess, we hear the good news proclaimed: Christ hears our words, Christ sees our changed hearts, God's steadfast love is poured out upon us!
We will trust in Christ, in whom our salvation rests. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

*HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 586

“Alleluia”

ALLELUIA 7

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Genesis 3:1-13

Page 2, OT

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Bread in Mercy Broken”

Garry A. Cornell

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 7:13,14

Page 7, NT

SERMON

“Dealing With our Stuff: Sin and Shame”

Rev. William Schram

1. Lord, we have come at your own invitation, chosen by you, to be counted your friends yours is the strength that sustains dedication; ours, a commitment we know never ends.
2. Here, at your table, confirm our intention; give it your seal of forgiveness and grace; teach us to serve without pride or pretension, Lord, in your kingdom, whatever our place.
3. When, at your table, each time of returning, vows are renewed and our courage restored, may we increasingly glory in learning all that it means to accept you as Lord.

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

JOYS AND CONCERNS

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving may the God of the outsiders be with you.

And also with you.

Open your hearts to God, dear friends.

We pour them out to the One who redeems us.

Sing songs of gladness to our God.

We join in the chorus of all who believe.

All your wonders were gifts for your children, but we chose to stew in sin's acid. You longed to rescue us from death's belly, sending even the most reluctant prophets to proclaim the nearness of your compassion, but we refused to change our minds, sure we could excuse our way out of sin's grasp. Persistent to a fault, you sent Jesus to proclaim your good news. We sing songs of joy to you:

Holy, holy, holy are you, God of steadfast love. All creation waits in trust for you. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the One who brings the kingdom near. Hosanna in the highest!

Jesus came at the time appointed by you. He refused to let our fears prevail against his life of grace, continuing to draw us near to your kingdom. He went farther than we dared imagine, walking for three days in death's cool shadows, before coming forth into the bright joy of the resurrection.

Christ died, claiming the promises of hope; You raised Christ, claiming him from death; Christ will return, claiming us for you.

Now is our time fulfilled as we gather at this Table, the bread and the cup made sacred by the presence of your Spirit. We will sing our praises to you forever, God in Community, Holy in One. Amen

CONSECRATION

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.

DISTRIBUTION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We ate of the bread, praying that its grace might strengthen us so we would become as persistent as you in confronting sinfulness in ourselves and others, reaching out to lift the fallen. We drank from the cup, trusting that its hope will spill out from us upon the lonely and the lost. Amen

INVITATION TO GIVING

*HYMN NO. 546

"Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing"

SICILIAN MARINERS

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

"Amen"

POSTLUDE

Toccata on "Kirken"

Gordon Young

* Please rise in body or spirit



The flowers this morning are given to the glory of God....
....in memory of Mary Wefferling by Lewis Wefferling

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Rev. William Schram
Valerie Shondel, Director of Music
FPC Chancel Choir
Will Downey, Violin
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