

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, March 10, 2024  
9:30 am  
Fourth Sunday in Lent

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REFLECTION

*“The grace of God means something like: Here is your life. You might never have been, but you are because the party wouldn't have been complete without you. Here is the world... Don't be afraid. I am with you. Nothing can ever separate us. It's for you I created the universe. I love you.”*  
Frederick Büchner

PRELUDE

*“Herzlich tut mich verlangen”*

J.P. Kimberger

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOMING ONE ANOTHER

CALL TO WORSHIP (From Ephesians 2:4-5, 8-10)

God, who is rich in mercy, out of great love saved us from our trespasses;

**God made us alive together in Christ.**

By grace we have been saved through faith;

**This is not our own doing; this is the gift of God.**

For we are what God has made us,

**Created in Christ Jesus for good works.**

It is not the result of what we do, but the result of God's grace that we do good,

**For God set this to be our way of life.**

Come, worship God, be filled with the Spirit,

**And follow Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN NO. 435      *“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”*

IN BABILONE

1. There’s a wideness in God’s mercy, like the wideness of the sea.  
There’s a kindness in God’s justice, which is more than liberty.  
There is no place where earth’s sorrows are more felt than up in heaven.  
There is no place where earth’s failings have such kindly judgement given.
2. For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind.  
And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.  
If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God’s Word,  
and our lives reflect thanksgiving for the goodness of our Lord.

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy One, we confess to You that our thoughts are not often on the sacred, on the holy, but on the things that trip us up. We compare ourselves to those with wealth and power and we desire what others have. We hold high standards for those in need, that they should be able to get by on so little, when we have so much. We spend our energy in countless ways on things that do not matter eternally while ignoring the plight of those around us. Forgive us. Call us into Your ways of Your Eternal Beloved Community, to love one another, to lift up one another, to care for each other’s needs as if they were our own. Lift up our gaze from the temporary so we may seek the eternal around us. In Your name we pray. Amen.**

\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God’s steadfast love endures forever. Let go of the temporary, and hold fast to Christ’s eternal love.

**We trust now that we are forgiven, loved, and restored. 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

CHILDREN’S PRAYER RESPONSE

HYMN NO. 752

*“Dona Nobis Pacem”*

DONA NOBIS PACEM

Dona nobis pacem, pacem. Dona nobis pacem.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Ephesians 2:1-10

Page 181, NT

SPECIAL MUSIC

*“God So Loved the World”*

John Stainer

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 3:1-9

Page 56, NT

SERMON

*“Does Repentance Have to Feel Bad?”*

Rev. William Schram

\*HYMN NO. 418

*“Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling”*

SOFTLY AND TENDERLY

1. Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me.

See, on the portals he’s waiting and watching, watching for you and for me.

***Refrain: “Come home, come home! You who are weary come home.”***

***Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, “O sinner, come home!”***

2. Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me?

Why should we linger and heed not his mercies, mercies for you and for me?

***Refrain***

3. O for the wonderful love he has promised, promised for you and for me!

Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me.

***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.**

## INVITATION TO GIVING

\*HYMN NO. 366

*“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”*

HYFRYDOL

1. Love diving, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven, to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown.

Jesus, thou art all compassion; pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast;  
let us all in thee inherit; let us find the promised rest.

Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;  
end of faith, as it’s beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

3. Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.

Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

4. Finish then thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee:

changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

\*BENEDICTION

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*“Bless the Lord”*

Taize

POSTLUDE

*Postlude on “In Babilone”*

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\* Please rise in body or spirit

### **WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS**

Rev. William Schram, Interim Pastor, Head of Staff  
Valerie Shondel, Director of Music  
FPC Chancel 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:

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