

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH AT CALDWELL

326 Bloomfield Avenue  
Caldwell, NJ 07006  
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[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 17, 2024  
10:00 am  
Fifth Sunday in Lent

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REFLECTION

*"...faith is about the hope that the power to raise to life one who was imprisoned in death is a power that can transform everything and everyone. It inspires us with the vision of the peace and joy and hope of God's whole new world, right here and right now."*

Alan Brehm

PRELUDE

*"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"*

Dale Wood

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOMING ONE ANOTHER

CALL TO WORSHIP

God is indeed our salvation;

**We will trust and not be afraid, for God is our strength and might.**

We will draw water with joy from the wells of salvation,

**And we will say, "Give thanks to the Lord, call upon God's name,**

Proclaim God's deeds among the nations,

**Declare that God's name is exalted."**

Sing to the Lord, who has done glorious things,

**Proclaim God's name throughout the whole earth.**

\*OPENING HYMN NO. 401

*“Here in This Place”*

GATHER US IN

1. Here in this place the new light is streaming; now is the darkness vanished away;  
see in this space our fears and our dreamings brought here to you in the light of this day.  
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; gather us in, the blind and the lame,  
call us now, and we shall awaken; we shall arise at the sound of our name.
2. We are the young, our lives are a mystery. We are the old who yearn for your face.  
We have been sung throughout all of history, called to be light to the whole human race.  
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty; gather us in, the proud and the strong;  
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly; give us the courage to enter the song.
3. Here we will take the wine and the water; here we will take the bread of new birth.  
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth.  
Give us to drink the wine of compassion; give us to eat the bread that is you;  
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.
4. Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light years away:  
here in this place the new light is shining; now is the kingdom, and now is the day.  
Gather us in and hold us forever; gather us in and make us your own;  
gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Almighty God, You are our judge. You are the one who knows who we are, what we are capable of, and what we have done. Forgive us where we have fallen short. Forgive us when we have not lived into Your vision of kingdom life.. Forgive us when we unconsciously participate in in systemic sin, that destroys Your creation, harms people, and moves us away from your kingdom vision. Call us into repentance and reparation. Call us into accountability for our ways. Lead us into the paths of healing and restoration. Help us to live as to follow Jesus’ call to live as kingdom citizens now. Remind us to participate in our civic government to make changes here and now, for the work we do for others is eternal work, Almighty God, lead us in right paths, In Christ’s name’s sake. Amen.**

\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

The prophets always spoke a word of hope to the people, and there is a word of hope for you: God loves you. Jesus desires for you an abundant life. That life is only possible when we love one another, for by loving one another, we love God.  
**We receive forgiveness and renewal in Christ. We can love one another, forgive one another, and live for one another.. 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.

MINUTE FOR MISSION

*Coat Drive*

**Refrain:**

**Ubuntu! Ubuntu! Sharing our visions and dreams.  
 Ubuntu! Where justice flows like a life-giving stream.  
 The people together, joining our hearts and our hands  
 To welcome the stranger and cherish the friend  
 And to work for the peace of the land.  
 And so we do life!**

1. Sisters and brothers, made for communion  
 Bound to each other, one holy union.  
 Drawn by a vision, drawn by desire  
 Drawn to the circle round God’s holy fire.  
 Made by God’s power to live as God’s own,  
 Made to be and and be heard and to be known!

**Refrain**

2. Called now to follow Jesus our brother  
 Who gathers his children just like a mother.  
 Tenderly holding this new creation  
 Making and molding a new holy nation.  
 Marked by the water and given our name,  
 Moved by God’s Spirit, revived by holy flame.

**Refrain**

3. This is our vision; Life’s in the sharing  
 Holding back nothing, dreaming and daring.  
 To live this communion that breaks us and binds us,  
 Holds us and heal us, frees us and finds and finds us  
 God give us courage to do what we say,  
 Christ give us strength for the living of these days.

**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. 826

*“Lift High the Cross”*

CRUCIFER

***Refrain: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.***

1. Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod,  
the Lamb victorious, Christ, the Son of God.

***Refrain***

2. All newborn servants of the Crucified  
bear on their brow the seal of Christ who died.

***Refrain***

3. O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
your death has brought us life eternally.

***Refrain***

4. So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
praise to the Crucified for victory.

***Refrain***

\*BENEDICTION

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*“Bless the Lord”*

Taize

POSTLUDE

*“Preludium in g minor”*

J.S. Bach

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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

Genesis:

Sarah Solie, Abbey Clyne, Julia Pennello, Justin McBurney, Will Downey

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)**