



CALDWELL

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

God Invites. We Welcome. All.

April 27, 2025

Earth Care Sunday

Eleven O'clock

Rev. Dr. John Cleghorn, Minister

Rev. Dr. Dorothy J. Killian, Interim Minister

Rev. Justin Martin, Minister of Youth & Online Outreach

Smitty Flynn, Volunteer Choir Director

Anne Hunter Eidson, Minister of Music

Manley Roberts, Volunteer Pianist

Rev. Dr. Diane Mowrey, Parish Associate Minister

Service of the Worship of the Lord

(The congregation reads the words in bold-face type except for the headings.)

We Gather in God's Name

Prelude

Jeff Cowden, piano

Processional

Caldwell Gospel Choir

Welcoming of Visitors and Announcements

Rev. Dot Killian

We Prepare Our Hearts and Minds

Call to Worship

Rev. Jeannette Hickman

Oh, God! We have memories and dreams of fireflies and butterflies,

Fresh mown grass and baby chicks.

Wading in creeks and days at the beach,

Watching plants sprout and azaleas come out,

visiting a city park

and lying under a canopy of giant oak.

Hurray! For the delight they have bought us

the beauty around us.

Our hearts overflow, our spirits soar.

We are so grateful. We thank You for living.

Opening Prayer

*Hymn of Praise 22

God of the Sparrow

Jaroslav J. Vajda

*Verse 1: Solo; **Verses 2-6: All***

We Confess and Remember God's Mercy.

Prayer of Confession

Felicia Pine

Together, we pray aloud before God and each other, saying:

Creator God, we confess that we have not fully opened our eyes to the devastation in our world, as creation waits for us. We have not put the needs of the most vulnerable above the greed of the powerful, as creation waits for us. We have moved to do what is easy instead of doing what is necessary and right, as creation waits. We have prioritized the convenience of self over the needs of our community, as creation waits. We have not removed the

pollution we can from our seas, land, air, bodies and hearts, as creation waits. In all these things and more, creation waits for us to assume our roles as its servants and protectors. With Your help, we will answer creation's call. Amen.

In silence we continue to examine our hearts and minds before God.

We Remind Ourselves We Are Forgiven and Pass the Peace

God the Creator brings you new life, forgives and redeems you.

We take hold of this forgiveness and will live our lives in the Spirit of Jesus.

We share the peace of Christ with those around us by saying to one another, "The Peace of Christ be with you," and by responding, "And also with you."

Anthem: Gospel Choir

A Time With Our Children (*children come forward*) Revs. Justin Martin & Amy Brooks Paradise

Children (age 3 to 5th grade) go to Sunday School. First-time visitors with young children are asked to walk with them to Sunday School, sign them in and see where their classes are located. They will rejoin you in the sanctuary at the end of worship.

Adults: May the Lord be with you there. Children: May the Lord be with you here.

We Hear God's Word Read and Proclaimed

Prayer for Illumination

Dick Richards

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 45:18

OT, p. 635

New Testament Lesson

John 20:19-31

NT, p. 108

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Doubt and Faith Are Friends

Rev. Amy Brooks Paradise

We Respond to the Word in Various Ways

We Reflect On God's Word

Felicia Pine

*Hymn 37

Let All Things Now Living

Welsh folk melody

Contributions to our Reparations Offering can be placed on the communion table as we sing.

*Affirmation of Faith

Adapted from the PCUSA Earth Care Pledge (*a pledge that we make as a part of our Certification as an Earth Care Congregation in the PCUSA*) (2010)

We believe that peace and justice is God's plan for all creation. That the earth and all creation are God's, and that God calls us to be careful, humble

stewards of this earth. We protect and restore it for its own sake. Our worship and discipleship should celebrate God's grace and glory in creation. We will and should encourage and support each other in finding ways of keeping and healing the creation in response to God's call to earth-keeping, justice and community. In the management, maintenance and upgrade of our facilities, we are called to respect and cherish all creation, human and non-human, while meeting equitably the needs of all people. We should live mindfully that our personal and collective actions can positively or negatively affect our neighborhood, region, nation and world.

Offertory

Caldwell Gospel Choir

Contributions to our regular offering can be placed in offering plates. Other options for giving: go to www.caldwellpresby.org/giving, use the QR code on page 7, or mail a check to the church office at 1609 E. Fifth Street, Charlotte, 28204.

*Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

*Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Dot Killian

We Pray for the People (*concluding with the Lord's Prayer*)

Mark Logan

Our Father (Creator), 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 God's Got the Whole World In His Hands

African American Spiritual

- 1. God's got the whole world in His hands**
- 2. God's got the wind and the rain in His hands**
- 3. God's got the streets of the city in His hands**
- 4. God's got everybody in His hands**

*Charge and Benediction

Rev. Amy Brooks Paradise

Everyone is invited to Hope Hall for refreshments and community after worship.

MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES - THIS WEEK

Today

9:00 - 10:00 am	Coffee and Company, <i>Hope Hall</i>
9:45 am	Adult Sunday School Classes, <i>Hope Community Hall, Room 1 & Online</i>
10:45 am	The Nursery is open for infants to age 3, <i>Nursery (off of Shelby Room)</i>
11:00 am	Worship, <i>Sanctuary & Online</i>
12:30 pm	Refreshments, <i>Hope Community Hall</i>
12:30 pm	Youth Group, <i>The Third Place</i>
1:00 pm	Anti-Racism Council at Caldwell (ARCC), <i>Shelby Room & Online</i>

Tuesday

10:00 am	Weekly Staff Meeting, <i>Shelby Room</i>
1:00 - 5:30 pm	Red Cross Blood Drive at Caldwell, <i>Hope Hall</i>

Wednesday

6:30 pm	Wednesday Prayer Group, <i>Hope Hall, Prayer Room (3rd Floor)</i>
7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal, <i>Choir Room</i>

Thursday

6:00 pm	Congregational Care Committee, <i>Online</i>
7:00 pm	Narcotics Anonymous, <i>The Third Place</i>

Friday

7:00 pm	Alcoholics Anonymous, <i>Shelby Room</i>
---------	--

Those who need to attend meetings online can find links on the church calendar at caldwellpresby.org/calendar.

Please inform the ministers when you know of a member or friend who is sick, in the hospital, or would appreciate a pastoral call or visit.

A note about language: At Caldwell, we do our best to create an inclusive, welcoming and safe environment for all of God's children, however they identify. We aspire to use non-binary language in worship and church communications in reference to one another or people in general, knowing that we won't always get it right. We invite others to take up this journey, embracing anew what we say, "God Invites. We Welcome. All."

Announcements

Thank you for silencing electronics before worship begins.

Please sign and pass the Friendship Pad up and down your row or go to the online registry at caldwellpresby.org/hi. If you are interested in joining or learning more about Caldwell, see John or Dot or go to www.caldwellpresby.org/join.

We humbly acknowledge the Catawba, Sugaree and Waxhaw Indigenous peoples, who were dispossessed of the land on which we live and worship. We also acknowledge that the funds left to this church in 1922 to build our sanctuary were stained by the sin of slavery. We strive continuously for God's mercy and correction.

Music Reparations Offering: Today, we will collect our monthly offering to honor the anonymous, enslaved writers of African American spirituals, music that is central to our worship. No payment or royalties were ever offered to these composers or their descendants, so the Worship Committee determines a recipient in our community to receive this offering and provide musical opportunities to Black young people.

Rev. Amy Brooks Paradise is a Unitarian Universalist minister serving as the US Team Coordinator for GreenFaith, a global, multi-faith, climate justice organization. Rev. Amy served previously as a pastor with the UU Fellowship of Lake Norman and was the Director of Education with the Regional AIDS Interfaith Network. She recently completed her service as the Board President of MeckMIN. She lives in Huntersville with her family and enjoys cooking, gardening, reading and all things outdoors. Welcome, Rev. Amy!

Caldwell will host its third ARC Blood Drive on Tuesday, April 29, 1:00 - 5:30 pm in Hope Hall. Make your appointment at RedCrossBlood.org, enter "CaldwellPresby" in the search bar or use the QR Code to go directly to our page. Contact Karen Williams with questions at 704-293-6868.



Associate Pastor Nominating Committee Update: Your Caldwell APNC has been moving forward in the process to select a called and installed Associate Pastor. This week we have some exciting news! The Ministry Discernment Profile for a new Caldwell Associate Pastor has been completed and posted nationally across the PCUSA system. We now move into the discernment phase: receiving applications, interviewing and assessing, conducting background checks, and narrowing the field before the final selection of our next Associate Pastor. Remember, to protect the privacy of those expressing interest in the position, the work of the APNC is highly confidential. So you'll only hear additional updates in a general way until we are ready to offer the call to a candidate, which could be in a few months, or even a year. We invite your prayers. To read the full report from the APNC, see the church's online communications.

Communion and Cans Reminder: As we celebrate communion next Sunday, please bring food and/or diapers for Nourish Up.

Join Caldwell for this year's AIDS Walk on May 31 at 9:00 am by walking and/or donating here: <https://p2p.onecause.com/aidswalkclt/team/caldwell-presbyterian-church-2>

Save the date: Greg Jarrell will once again lead us in a tour of uptown in discussion of "Charlotte's Haunted Future" following worship on June 1. More info to come.

Let's get ready to welcome our new neighbors! Visit eastershome.org to see how you can purchase household goods or make cash donations to furnish Easter's Home.

Please join us in prayer in the Caldwell Prayer Room upstairs in Hope Community Hall on Wednesday nights. Enter the church by the courtyard choir door before our start at 6:30 pm or join us virtually at meet.google.com/ojn-iath-rxi

Today's flowers are generously provided by Carol King to the glory of God and to honor those who are spreading hope.

If you would like to receive our online communications (usually two per week), email Justin at jmartin@caldwellpresby.org to sign up.

Please be aware that our worship services are streamed live, recorded and available on YouTube. They can be found by going to the Caldwell Presbyterian Church channel.

Planning on dropping by the church? Be sure to call before coming because there may not always be someone to let you in. Staff contact information is on the back page.

Rev. John Cleghorn is on vacation this week.

Things to Know About Today's Gathering

Masking indoors is welcomed. The East transept located near the doors to the handicap ramp remains designated for increased social distancing. Physical interaction stickers are also available to indicate your level of comfort with physical closeness.

Restrooms – There is a restroom in the narthex/main sanctuary entrance. Ushers are available to direct you to the other restrooms.

The Nursery, for children under 3, can be found by going through the door to the right of the pulpit, take an immediate right, and going down the hallway. Ushers are also able to direct you.

For Late Arrivals – Please come to the ramp door and ring the doorbell. An usher will let you in.

The QR code for giving:



Caldwell's Mission

- We seek to build a diverse, intentional, affirming community animated by joyful worship and called forth into social action for service to the greater good.
- We seek to hear God's call not only as individuals but also as a progressive, missional community striving to reflect the Kingdom of God in the here and now.
- We embrace the rich history of the Reformed Tradition and the storied past of our center-city church, as we welcome a diverse community of seekers – ALL ages, races and ethnicities, sexual orientations, cultural and economic backgrounds, gender identities, and family structures—ALL people.
- We are called into a meaningful, transformative community that values the unique blessings and perspectives of each member and offers a place of welcome and healing to weary souls.
- We seek dynamic servant leaders who serve humbly, embrace change, and boldly challenge injustices in the wider community.
- Most important, we seek to proclaim the Gospel in both word and deed, following the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Caldwell Session & Contact Information

Elli Dai, Administration & Personnel	<i>personnel@caldwellpresby.org</i>
Denzell Faison, Congregational Care	<i>congregationalcare@caldwellpresby.org</i>
Connie Helms, Mission & Justice	<i>missionandjustice@caldwellpresby.org</i>
Riley Kilpatrick, Worship	<i>worship@caldwellpresby.org</i>
Mark Logan, Discovery & Engagement	<i>engagement@caldwellpresby.org</i>
Tovi Martin, Ass. Pastor Nominating Cmte.	<i>apnc@caldwellpresby.org</i>
Pete McLeigh, Buildings & Grounds	<i>bandg@caldwellpresby.org</i>
Dick Richards, Clerk of Session	<i>clerk@caldwellpresby.org</i>
Hayes Wilkerson, Finance	<i>finance@caldwellpresby.org</i>
Donna Willis, Congregational Life	<i>congregationallife@caldwellpresby.org</i>
Jessica Wisner, Christian Formation	<i>christianinformation@caldwellpresby.org</i>
Jesca Yiskah-El, Congregational Life	

Staff Contact Information

- Rev. John Cleghorn (704-957-4511; *jcleghorn@caldwellpresby.org*)
- Rev. Dot Killian (803-230-2530; *dkillian@caldwellpresby.org*)
- Anne Hunter Eidson (704-622-9975; *ahuntereidson@caldwellpresby.org*)
- Rev. Justin Martin (704-305-1053; *jmartin@caldwellpresby.org*)
- Tracey Tolbert (704-605-9669; *ttolbert@caldwellpresby.org*)
- Peggy Blaine (704-576-8449; *pblaine@caldwellpresby.org*)
- Mike Jones (*mjones@caldwellpresby.org*)