

# Calvary Church

*A Reconciling Congregation*



*"I have said these things to you so  
that my joy may be in you, and  
that your joy may be complete."*

**- John 15:11**

**May 5, 2024**

*6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter*

# CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Asian American, Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander Heritage Month  
Jewish American Heritage Month

## GATHERING

**Gathering Song:** "Under Pressure" (David Bowie & Queen)

## **Welcome & Announcements**

(also available at [allmeansall.org/announcements](http://allmeansall.org/announcements))

- **General Conference news:** [resourceumc.org](http://resourceumc.org)
- **Previous sermons:** [allmeansall.org/sermons](http://allmeansall.org/sermons)
- **Previous bulletins:** [allmeansall.org/bulletins](http://allmeansall.org/bulletins)

## Calendar

**Today, May 5, 8-9 pm:** Spiritual Reflection Group (also May 19)

- [allmeansall.org/spiritual-reflection-group](http://allmeansall.org/spiritual-reflection-group)

**Tuesday, May 7, 12-1 pm:** Midweek Prayer (weekly)

- [allmeansall.org/midweek-prayer](http://allmeansall.org/midweek-prayer)

**Sunday, May 12, 11 am-12:30 pm:** Hybrid Worship

- guest preacher: Rev. Naomi Washington-Leapheart

**Sunday, May 19**

- **11 am-12:30 pm:** Hybrid Worship
- **12:45-2 pm:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Potluck
  - o [allmeansall.org/potlucks](http://allmeansall.org/potlucks)

**Tuesday, May 21 - Thursday, May, 23:** Annual Conference  
(Eastern PA Conference of the United Methodist Church)

- Wildwood, NJ

**Friday, Jun 7 - Saturday, Jun 8:** Spring Retreat

- Pendle Hill (Wallingford, PA)
- [allmeansall.org/spring-retreat](http://allmeansall.org/spring-retreat)

## Visiting With Us?

We're glad you're here, for whatever reason you chose to join us! We strive to make our worship space (in-person and virtual) as welcoming and accommodating of



different needs as possible. If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, please contact Pastor Tim.

### Calvary Email List

If you're not on the Calvary email list and want to be, or think you are but aren't seeing emails from us, please contact the church office or sign up online. Our **Calvary Connections e-newsletter** goes out every Thursday night.

## **CENTERING & CONNECTING**

### **Breathing Our Way In**

**Singing Our Way In:** "Bind Us Together" (TFWS #2226, Bob Gillman – adapted)

Bind us together, (God), bind us together  
with cords that cannot be broken.

Bind us together, (God), bind us together,  
bind us together in love.

*There is only one God, (source of life and all things).  
There is only one body; that is why we sing.*

**Call to Worship** (Susan A. Blain)

One: The Spirit is coming to bless us all with a new song:

**ALL: Let our joy be complete!**

One: Gifts for the good of all, poured out on all to teach  
us a new song:

**ALL: Love one another!**

One: Strangers and neighbors, foreigners and family will  
join in the new song:

**ALL: No longer servants but friends!**

One: Come, let our worship make a joyful noise,

**ALL: Rejoicing in the friendship of God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Opening Song:** "Sing Praise to God" (tune: UMH #139 / lyrics: Joachim Neander, trans. Madeleine Marshall – adapted)

Sing praise to God,

who has shaped and sustains all Creation.

Sing praise, my soul,  
in profound and complete adoration.  
Gladsome rejoice – organ and trumpet and voice –  
joining God's great congregation.

Praise God, (companion), who lovingly offers (direction);  
who, as on eagle's wings, saves us from sinful dejection.  
Have you observed, how we are always preserved  
by God's parental affection?

Sing praise to God,  
with sincere thanks for all your successes.  
Merciful God, ever loves to encourage and bless us.  
Only conceive, what godly strength can achieve:  
strength that would touch and caress us.

Sing praise, my soul,  
the great name of your (true) God commending.  
All that have life and breath join you,  
their notes sweetly blending.  
God is your light! Soul, ever keep this in sight:  
amen, amen never ending.

### **Offering Ourselves & Our Gifts / Passing the Peace**

One: The peace of God be with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

### **GROUNDING**

**Community Prayer** *(Steve Garnaas-Holmes – adapted)*

Infinite Love, you who love us into being each moment,  
let us this day flow freely with that love, for it is not our  
love we give but yours. We seek in all and above all to  
love, to appreciate, to forgive, to encourage, to comfort,  
to thank, to assist, to bless. May we choose to be loving  
rather than to be right, to be gentle rather than tough,  
to be curious rather than judging, to meet all with  
reverence and humility and delight. And with those  
we cannot love easily, let us hold and protect with all our



being room for you to love them, even through us. O Spirit of Love, you who love us infinitely and perfectly, breathe your love in us. Amen.

## Silent Prayer

## Special Music

**Scripture Lesson:** Psalm 98 (*The Iona Community Worship Book*)  
Sing a new song to Yahweh, who has done wonderful deeds, whose right hand and whose holy arm have brought salvation. **2** Yahweh has made salvation known, has shown justice to the nations, **3** and has remembered the house of the faithful in truth and love. All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of our God. **4** Sing praise to Yahweh all the earth; ring out your joy. **5** Sing psalms to Yahweh with the harp, with the sound of music. **6** With trumpets and the sound of the horn, acclaim Yahweh. **7** Let the sea and all within it resound, the world and all its peoples. **8** Let the rivers clap their hands and the mountains ring out their joy **9** at the presence of the Just Judge who comes, who comes to rule the earth. Yahweh will rule the world with justice and the peoples with fairness.

**Choral Alleluia** (*UMH #186, Jerry Sinclair*)

**Scripture Lesson:** John 15:9-15

As God has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. **10** If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Mother-Father's commandments and abide in my Mother-Father's love. **11** I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. **12** "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. **13** No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. **14** You are my friends if you do what I command you. **15** I do not call you

servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Mother-Father.

One: The word of God for the people of God.

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

## **Choral Alleluia**

**Homily:** "Joyful Love"

**Poem** (*Steve Garnaas-Holmes – adapted*)

What if God is joy?

What if God is bliss and Jesus is gratitude  
and the Holy Spirit is gleeful wonder?

What if creating is God's play,  
and the big bang was an outburst of happiness  
and the galaxies are spun from pure delight?

What if gravity, that holds the universe together,  
is simply the pleasure of harmony,  
and every created thing's ecstatic desire  
for one another?

What if earth is God's great celebration,  
spinning and dancing and making music and beauty  
and inviting everyone in to feast and wonder?

What if being itself is such a miracle  
that God gets endless enjoyment out of it?

What if God doesn't own a throne (most uncomfortable)  
and has never handled a gavel,  
but has a million musical instruments?

What if God goes to hell every weekend  
with a load of tissues and listens to everybody  
who's locked themselves up in there  
until they've cried out all their sorrows,  
and they come out laughing and dancing?

What if what it means to come to God  
is to enter into God's joy?



What if the work of justice  
is to enable everyone to truly know joy?  
(And would that not mean that cruelty and injustice  
are most heinously sinful?)

What if even in our grief and our despair  
the root of our being is joy,  
and resurrection means passing through our sorrow  
into God's delight?

What if salvation means  
being rescued from our inability to rejoice?  
Why not? Why not? Do you think you can convince me  
that God is all somber and serious?

What if even now, as you consider this,  
and think it's kind of silly,  
God is laughing ... and waiting?

## Reflection

- *What resonates for you from the poem?*
- *How do you understand the connection between love and joy?*
- *(How) do you experience that connection in your life?*

**Song:** "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" (UMH #89, tune: Ludwig van Beethoven / lyrics: Henry Van Dyke – adapted)

Joyful, joyful, we adore (you),  
God of glory, (source) of love;  
hearts unfold like flowers before (you),  
opening to the sun above.

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,  
drive the storms of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
fill us with the light of day.

All (your) works with joy surround (you),  
earth and heaven reflect (your) rays,  
stars and angels sing around (you),  
center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
flowery meadow, flashing sea,

chanting bird and flowing fountain  
(teach us what our praise should be).

(You) are giving and forgiving,  
ever blessing, ever blest,  
wellspring of the joy of living,  
ocean depth of happy rest!  
(God Creator, Christ our brother,  
all who love belong to you);  
teach us how to love each other,  
(by that love our joy renew).

Mortals, join the mighty chorus  
which the morning stars began;  
love divine is reigning o'er us,  
binding all within its span.  
Ever singing, march we onward,  
victors in the midst of strife,  
joyful music leads us sunward  
in the triumph song of life.

## **SHARING**

### **Prayers of the People / Joys & Concerns**

"Thanks be to God" or "God hears our prayer"

**Sung Response** (tune: UMH #294, Hugh Wilson / lyrics: John Pritchard – adapted)

O Wind and Fire, O Rock and Vine,  
O Voice so still and small,  
we bring our lives, our joys and tears  
to you who embraces all.

O Wind and Fire, O Rock and Vine,  
O Voice so still and small,  
we bring our lives, our hopes and fears  
to you who embraces all.



## **Communion / The Great Thanksgiving** *(Steve Garnaas-Holmes – adapted)*

One: God is with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**ALL: We lift them up to God and to each other.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Holy One, our God.

**ALL: It is good and beautiful to give God our praise.**

One: God of love, we thank you, for you have embodied your love and your delight in us. Your Creation is a gift of love. Your grace is a gift of love. In love you set us free from all that oppresses, and choose us to join you in working for justice, that all your Beloved may know fullness of life. You call us to this meal, to feast on your love and to share in your joy. Therefore with all Creation we praise you:

**ALL SING** *(TFWS #2257-b, tune: Mark Miller / lyrics: UM Hymnal):*

**Holy, holy, holy (One); God of power and might.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest!** *(3x)*

**Blest is the one who comes in the name of (our God).**

**Hosanna in the highest!** *(3x)*

One: Blessed are all who come in your name, and blessed is Jesus, your Christ, who embodied your love. He fed the hungry, healed the broken, and gathered the outcast. In him you befriended us, that his joy may be ours. He surrendered his life for the sake of love, but you raised him from the dead, for love conquers even death.

During the final meal he shared with his disciples, his friends ... And so we remember. As often as we break the bread and share the cup, we remember. We taste the same Spirit, we feast on the same promise and renew our commitment to follow the same path, as we proclaim mystery at the heart of our faith:

**ALL SING** (TFWS #2257-c, tune: Mark Miller / lyrics: UM Hymnal):  
**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.  
Hosanna in the highest!** (3x)

One: Pour out your Spirit on these gifts of bread and cup, and whatever elements we use as tangible symbols for us of Jesus' body, Jesus' life, given in love, for love. Pour out your Spirit on us gathered, in person and virtually, that we may be for the world your body, O God – given in love, for love. May the love that is born of you radiate in our hearts and through our lives. Send us to go and bear the fruit of compassion and justice, for the healing of the world, that your joy may be in us, and our joy may indeed be complete.

**ALL SING** (TFWS #2257-d, tune: Mark Miller / lyrics: UM Hymnal):  
**Amen. Amen. Amen.  
Hosanna in the highest!** (3x)

**Sung Response:** "Eat This Bread" (UMH #628, tune: Robert Batastini & Taizé Community / lyrics: Jacques Berthier)

Eat this bread, drink this cup,  
come to me and never be hungry.  
Eat this bread, drink this cup,  
trust in me and you will not thirst.

## **ENGAGING**

### **Benediction**

**Singing Our Way Out:** "Go Now in Peace" (UMH #665, Natalie Sleeth)

Go now in peace, go now in peace,  
may the love of God surround you  
everywhere, everywhere, you may go.

**Postlude:** "Draw the Circle Wide" (tune: Mark Miller / lyrics: Gordon Light / perf. by BUMC Sonshine Choir)



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# Calvary United Methodist Church

*at the intersection of 48<sup>th</sup> & Baltimore / spirituality & justice*

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