

Calvary Church

A Reconciling Congregation



"For everything there is a season ..."

- Ecclesiastes 3:1a

"See, I am making all things new."

- Revelation 21:5a

January 1, 2023

1st Sunday after Christmas

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

A Service of Prayer, Reflection & Song

GATHERING

Prelude: "Even So" (Tom Prasada-Rao)

*You're invited to be in silence during the Prelude,
as we transition together into this sacred time and space.*

Welcome / Announcements

- **Stewardship pledge form:** tinyurl.com/calvary-2023
- **Lectio Divina Bible study:** timing TBD
 - allmeansall.org/bible-study
- **Winter Adult Ed study:** Sundays/Mondays, 7:30-8:30 pm
 - *Original Blessing: A Primer in Creation Spirituality*
 - allmeansall.org/adult-ed
- **Save the date for our Spring Retreat:** June 2-3 (or 4)
 - allmeansall.org/retreats
- **Worship volunteers:** tinyurl.com/worship-help

Calendar

Tuesday, Jan 3, 12-1 pm: Midweek Prayer

- allmeansall.org/midweek-prayer

Sunday, Jan 8

- **11:15 am-12:45 pm:** Hybrid Worship, with Communion
- **1-2ish pm (following worship):** 2nd Sunday Potluck
 - please bring a dish/drinks to share if you can

Thursday, Jan 12, 7-8:15 pm: Community Rhythm Circle

- allmeansall.org/community-rhythm-circle

Sunday, Jan 15, 11:15 am-12:45 pm: Hybrid Worship

- guest preacher: Lesley Curtis

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 (office@allmeansall.org).

CENTERING & CONNECTING

Breathing Our Way In / Breath Prayer

Singing Our Way In: "Love Came Down at Christmas" (UMH #242, tune: trad. Irish / lyrics: Christina G. Rossetti)

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas;
star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,
Love incarnate, Love divine;
worship we our Jesus,
but wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token;
love be yours and love be mine;
love to God and neighbor,
love for plea and gift and sign.

Call to Worship (Rosie Venner – adapted; inspired by Matthew 11:29 & Revelation 21:5)

One: Come all who are weary of wealth, of poverty, of power, of struggle, of division.

ALL: Come all who are heavy-laden with too much, with too little, with anxiety, with fear, with anger.

One: Come all who have hope for liberation, for peace, for freedom, for the kindom.

**ALL: Hear these words, "See, I am making all things new."
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Opening Song: "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" (UMH #251,
African-American spiritual – adapted)

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.

Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. *(Refrain)*

The shepherds feared and trembled,
when lo! above the earth,
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed (dear Jesus') birth. *(Refrain)*

Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God (made Love incarnate)
that blessed Christmas morn. *(Refrain)*

Offering Ourselves & Our Gifts / Passing the Peace

One: The peace of God be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

GROUNDING

Community Prayer *(Susan Derber – adapted)*

At the dawn of a new year, O God, we come to welcome hope for a new world. Let the darkness lift, to welcome a dawn of plenty, with enough for everyone and people ready to share. Let the day begin, with new energy for the struggle to protect our children and to care for the vulnerable. Let the light shine, to open a path to safety for all who are seeking home and longing for life. Let the sun rise on new talks and new resolve to end the bombing and the terror and to find solutions that will last.

At the dawn of a new year we come to declare our hope and to welcome a new world. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Special Music: "Holy Night" (*Tom Prasada-Rao*)

Scripture Lesson: Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: **2** a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; **3** a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; **4** a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; **5** a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; **6** a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; **7** a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; **8** a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

9 What gain have the workers from their toil? **10** I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. **11** (God) has made everything suitable for its time; moreover (God) has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. **12** I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; **13** moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil.

Choral Alleluia

Scripture Lesson: Revelation 21:1-5

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. **2** And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. **3** And I

heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. (God) will dwell with them as their God; they will be (God's) peoples, and God ... will be with them; **4** (God) will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." **5** And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new."

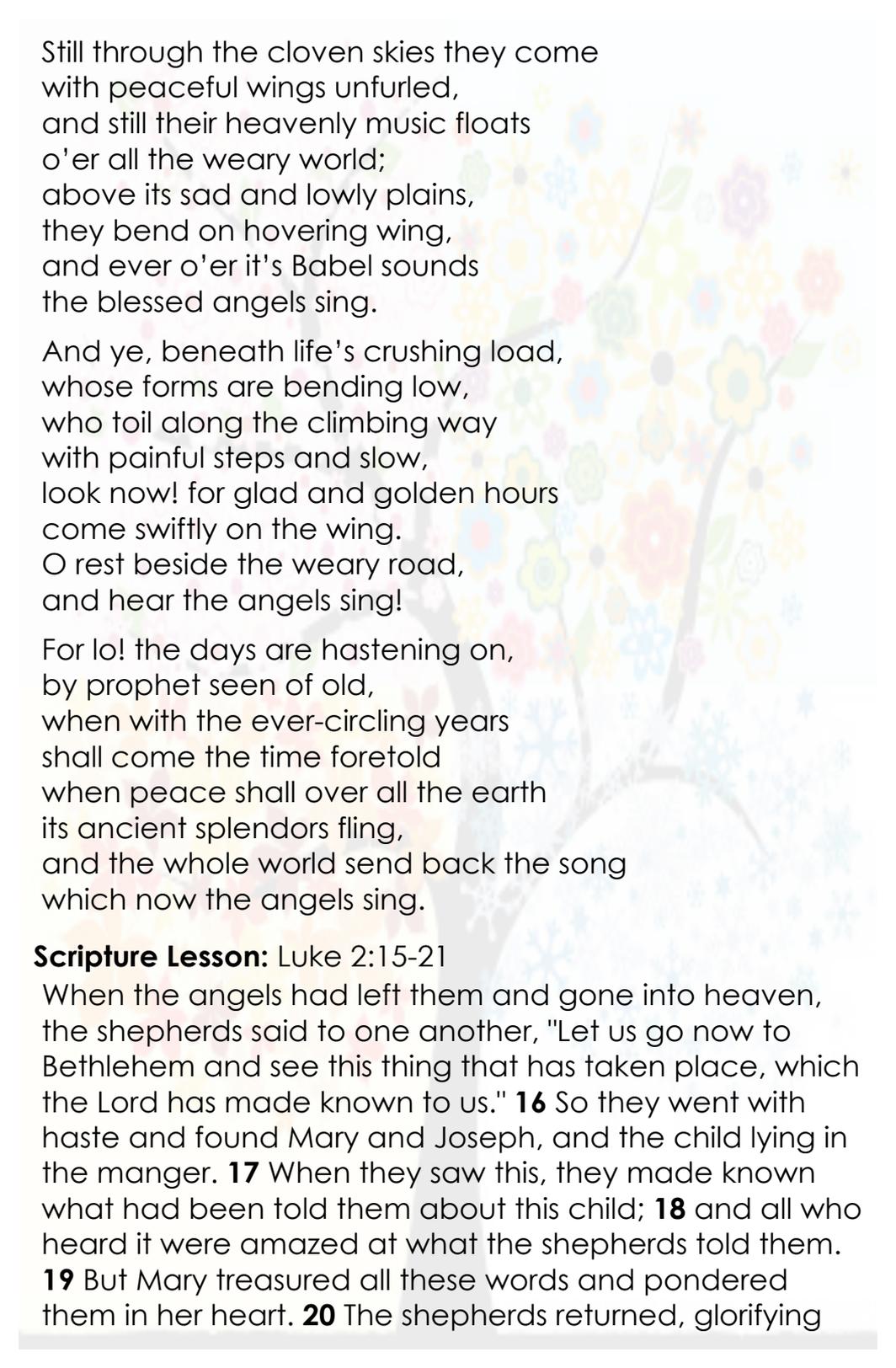
Choral Alleluia

Scripture Lesson: Luke 2:8-14

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. **10** But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: **11** to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Christ, the Lord. **12** This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." **13** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, **14** "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace, goodwill among people!"

Song: "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" (UMH #218, tune: Richard Storrs Willis / lyrics: Edmund H. Sears)

It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth,
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay,
to hear the angels sing.



Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains,
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er it's Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow,
look now! for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road,
and hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophet seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world send back the song
which now the angels sing.

Scripture Lesson: Luke 2:15-21

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." **16** So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. **17** When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; **18** and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. **19** But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. **20** The shepherds returned, glorifying

and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. **21** After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Song: “The First Noel” (*UMH #245, trad. English*)

The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter’s night that was so deep.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east, beyond them afar;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. (*Refrain*)

This star drew nigh to the northwest,
o’er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay. (*Refrain*)

Silent Prayer / Reflection

“But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.” – Luke 2:19

- The Ecclesiastes text says, “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.” Do you believe that? Why or why not? Either way, how might you describe the season in which you are living right now?
- The Ecclesiastes text also says, “God has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end?” How do you interpret that? On the threshold of a new year, what does that mean to you? How does that make you feel?

- What are you holding onto from your past that may be keeping you from being fully present to the gift of your life now?
- How do you feel when you consider your own future, the world's future? What inspires hope for you?
- What difference does or might it make for you to believe/trust that God, made known to us in Jesus, is "making all things new"?

Prayer *(Eric Milner White)*

Song: "We'll Be at Home" *(tune: UMH #453, William H. Doane / lyrics: John Pritchard)*

Come, God, renew the earth; bring us your peace.
Let war be learned no more, all conflicts cease.
Let lambs with wolves lie down, in safety all be found.
We'll be at home in your shalom.

Come, God, renew our world; all things refresh.
Touch every wound and heal, broken ones bless.
Blind eyes with sight be found,
mute tongues with praise abound.
We'll be at home in your shalom.

Come, God, renew our lives; give us your grace.
Touch every heart until all know your face.
Earth's every good we'll share, for one another care.
We'll be at home, in your shalom.

Come, God, renew all things; grant a new start.
Unlock the chains we wear; open our hearts.
Grant each a welcome place, a friend in every face.
We'll be at home in your shalom.

SHARING

Prayers of the People / Joys & Concerns

"Thanks be to God" or "God, hear our prayer"

Sung Response (tune: UMH #175, John B. Dykes / lyrics: John Pritchard)

O Loving Heart, O Blessed Arms,
hold all we bring to you—
our hopes, our fears, our joy and tears,
our pledge your will to do.

ENGAGING

Closing Song: “A Story of Justice, Peace and Joy” (tune: trad. English / lyrics: Sarah Agnew)

God give you comfort, gentle folk,
disturb you on the Way;
remember Jesus, child of Love,
was born on Christmas day
to save us all from tyranny,
for we have gone astray.

***O, story of justice, peace and joy, peace and joy.
O, story of justice, peace and joy.***

From Spirit, Wisdom, Creator,
the blessed angels came,
revealing to the shepherds:
the world has changed today!
A child is born, to Mary,
the Son of God, by name. (Refrain)

Now to our God sing praises,
all you within this place,
and with true loving kindness
each other do embrace;
thus Christ is born, and born again –
we need his light to blaze. (Refrain)

Benediction

Singing Our Way Out: "Let the Church Say Amen" (*Andraé Crouch*)

Let the church say, "Amen" (*repeat*)

God has spoken, let the church say, "Amen"

Postlude: "Joy to the World" (*Tom Prasado-Rao*)

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