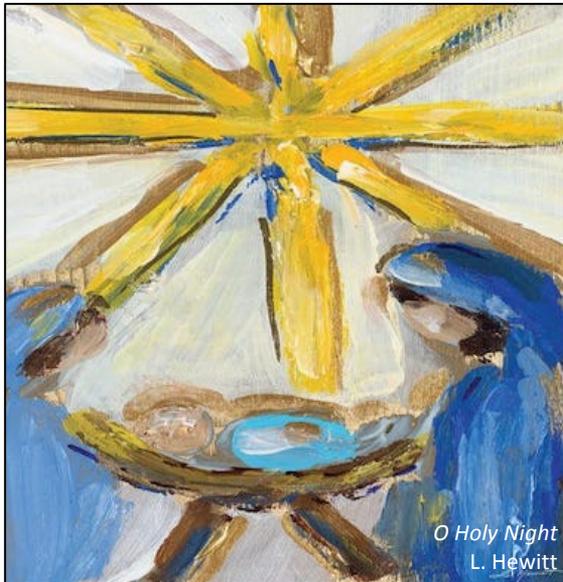


Calvary United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation



*"And the Word became flesh and
lived among us . . . "*

- John 1:14

January 2, 2022
2nd Sunday after Christmas

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

GATHERING

Prelude: "There's a Light" (*Emmylou Harris*)

Welcome / Announcements

Announcements

- **Virtual worship** through January
- **Lesley Curtis** and **Cord Whitaker** will lead worship next Sunday, and Lesley will be our guest preacher (Pastor Tim is off)!
- **Look for our stewardship invitation email** this week (including online survey)
- **Online Stephen Ministry training** (congregational care)
 - contact Pastor Tim if interested
- **Lectionary Discussion Group** and **On Being Discussion Group** (both online and ongoing)
 - contact Pastor Tim if interested
- **Spring Retreat:** Jun 10-11/12 (save the date!)

Calendar

Today, 8-9 pm: Spiritual Reflection Group

Monday, Jan 3, 7-8 pm: Online Advent Retreat

Tuesday, Jan 4, 12-12:30 pm: Midweek Prayer

- info at allmeansall.org/faith-spirituality

Visiting With Us?

We're glad you're here, for whatever reason you chose to join us! We invite you to fill out a Visitor Form at allmeansall.org/visitors; for those worshiping in person, someone will share a form with you during the service.

We strive to make our worship space (in person and virtual) as welcoming and accommodating of different needs as possible. If you have any concerns or questions regarding accessibility, 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).

Singing Our Way In: "Love Came Down at Christmas"

(UMH #242)

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.

Breathing Our Way In / Breath Prayer

Call to Worship

(Bonnie Tarwater, adapted; based on Jeremiah 31:7-9)

One: Sing aloud with gladness: God is gathering the people!

ALL: From the farthest parts of the earth we come:

One: All who struggle; all who labor with new life!

ALL: Those who are weeping, God will console;

One: Those who get lost find a clear path home.

**ALL: Let us worship the God who gathers us! Alleluia!
Alleluia!**

Opening Hymn: "Gather Us In" (TFWS #2236, with altered lyrics)

Here in this place 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 to us now and we shall awaken
We shall arise at the sound of our name*

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*

Here we will take the wine and the water
Here we will take the bread of new birth
Here you shall call your (children together)
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*

Not in the dark of buildings confining
Not in some heaven light years away
But here in this place the new light is shining
Now is the (kingdom), 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 bones*

Passing the Peace

One: The peace of God be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

CENTERING

Community Prayer *(John Pritchard, adapted)*

We join in this year just beginning, O God of Christmas, in this day for us that is new, in the worries and hopes we bring with us. We join in the expectation that you are with us and in the sometimes daily fear that you are not, as our days unfold taking scant account of you, and as our world grinds on in all its violence, pain and injustice.

We join, hoping desperately to find you, some hint of your presence and peace, some taste of your love. And so we pray, for eyes open to every sign of your presence, for ears open to every whisper of your peace, for hearts open to every drop of your love given to us, calling us.

Open us, we pray, to your life and love among us, made flesh in Jesus. Open us, we pray, to your life and love made flesh in us. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Special Music

Scripture Lesson: Sirach 24:1-9

Wisdom praises herself, and tells of her glory in the midst of her people. **2** In the assembly of the Most High she opens her mouth, and in the presence of his hosts she tells of her glory: **3** "I came forth from the mouth of the Most High, and covered the earth like a mist. **4** I dwelt in the highest heavens, and my throne was in a pillar of cloud. **5** Alone I compassed the vault of heaven and traversed the depths of the abyss. **6** Over waves of the sea, over all the earth, and over every people and nation I have held sway." **7** Among all these I sought a resting place; in whose territory should I abide? **8** "Then the Creator of all things gave me a command, and my Creator chose the place for my tent. (God) said, 'Make your dwelling in Jacob, and in Israel receive your inheritance.' **9** Before

the ages, in the beginning, (God) created me, and for all the ages I shall not cease to be.

Choral Alleluia

Scripture Lesson: John 1:1-9, 14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being **4** in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. **6** There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. **7** He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. **8** He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. **9** The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Choral Alleluia

Sermon: "In the Flesh"

Hymn of Response: "A Story of Justice, Peace and Joy"
(tune: English carol / 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.

Refrain

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)*

SHARING

Offering our Tithes and Gifts

Prayers of the People / Joys and Concerns

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

Prayer Response *(tune: UMH #237 / lyrics: John Pritchard)*

God in Christ among us, hold us now, we pray.
Gather all our sorrows and our joys today.
Into us breathe the loving gift we need.
Let your Holy Spirit guide us as we leave.

Closing Hymn: "Siyahamba / We Are Marching"

(TFWS #2235-b)

Si – ya – hamb' e – ku – kha – nyen' kwen – khos',
si – ya – hamb' e – ku – kha – nyen' kwen – khos. *(repeat)*
Si – ya – hamba, hamba, si – ya – hamba
hamba, si – ya – hamb' e
ku – kha – nyen' kwen – khos *(repeat)*

We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God. (*repeat*)
We are marching, marching, we are marching,
marching, we are marching in the light of God. (*repeat*)
We are singing . . .
We are praying . . .
Si – ya – hamb' e . . .

Communion / Great Thanksgiving (*John Pritchard*)

One: God is with you.

ALL: And also with you.

One: Open your hearts.

ALL: We open them to God and to one another.

One: Let us give thanks to God.

ALL: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

One: It is right to give you thanks, wondrous God, for yours is the Spirit who makes all things and fills all things, including us, and calls them good. When the harmony you weave has been shattered, you've heard our cries and come to us and walked the long and difficult road that leads to freedom and a new start of the shalom you dream for all. Prophets filled with your Spirit have proclaimed that dream and called us continually to your ways of justice, of peace, of fullness for all, envisioning the day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, when all enjoy the fruits of their labor, when none be made afraid, when all be judged by the content of their character, not the color of their skin.

And so, with all your people on earth, with all the company of heaven, with all creation, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

ALL SING (*TFWS #2257-b*):

Holy, holy, holy Lord; 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 the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest! (3x)**

One: Holy are you, O God, and blessed is your Christ, Jesus, who was born and embodied your dream among us. He fed the hungry, healed the sick, welcomed people unwanted, and empowered people to walk, to see, to speak, to care. He resisted the ways of greed, shared what he had, and recognized your presence in everyone, even his enemies. Though he was executed for confronting those who bound your name to brutal injustice, you breathed new life into him and into his followers, who continue to carry on his work to this day and to share the meal he shared before he was arrested.

Taking bread, he blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "Take, eat. This is my body broken for you." Taking a cup, he blessed it and gave it to them, saying, "All of you drink from this, the cup that seals God's covenant." As we share this meal, we form anew Christ's body, filled with your dream, committed to your ways, proclaiming together the mystery of faith:

ALL SING (TFWS #2257-c):

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.
Hosanna in the highest! (3x)**

One: Pour out your Spirit on us who gather here and virtually, and on this bread and cup, that in sharing this meal we may taste your dream of good life for all and may rise as your people. Remake us for your ways, for living justly, fully, lovingly. Fill us with hope for the days to come and with joy as, with all creation, we taste even now your Spirit joining us as one - in strength, in hope, in praise:

ALL SING (TFWS #2257-d):

Amen. Amen. Amen.

Hosanna in the highest! (3x)

Sung Response: "Let Us Break Bread Together" (UMH #618)

Let us break bread together on our knees. (*repeat*)

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O, Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees . . .

Let us praise God together on our knees . . .

ENGAGING

Benediction

Singing Our Way Out: "Go Now in Peace" (UMH #665)

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

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