

Calvary Church

A Reconciling Congregation



*“When they saw
that the star had stopped,
they were overwhelmed with joy.”*
- Matthew 2:10

January 4, 2026

*Epiphany Sunday (observed)
2nd Sunday after Christmas*

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

GATHERING

Gathering Song: "Song of the Magi" (*Anais Mitchell*)

Welcome & Announcements

- **Visiting with us?**

- We're glad you're here! We strive to make our worship space—in-person and virtual—as welcoming and accommodating of different needs as possible. If you have questions, concerns or suggestions, please contact Pastor Tim.

- **Congregational giving** (*rounded*)

- Dec 22-28: \$30,724 / weekly budget: \$1,827

- **Congregational feedback survey:** coming this month

- **Upcoming book study:** Jesus and the Disinherited (*Howard Thurman*)

- allmeansall.org/book-study
- beginning week of Jan 12 (exact timing TBD)

- **Previous sermons:** allmeansall.org/sermons

- **Previous bulletins:** allmeansall.org/bulletins

Calendar

Today, Jan 4, 8-9 pm: Spiritual Reflection Group

- allmeansall.org/spiritual-reflection-group

Monday, Jan 5

- **6-7:30 pm:** POWER Interfaith Philly Turnout Training
 - contact Mimi for details to connect virtually, or to get involved with Calvary's POWER Team: rmijima@gmail.com
 - PLEASE NOTE: training is in preparation for POWER's Assembly on Affordability, **Feb 1, 3 pm**
- **6:30-7:30 pm:** Yoga (*weekly*)
 - Calvary (Chapel) – 48th St entrance
 - allmeansall.org/yoga

Tuesday, Jan 6, 3 pm: Midweek Prayer (weekly)

- allmeansall.org/midweek-prayer
- 1st, 3rd & 5th Tuesdays: 3 pm / 2nd & 4th: 6 pm

Wednesday, Jan 7

- **10-11 am:** Yoga (weekly)
 - see Jan 5 for details
- **12 pm:** Interfaith Prayer Vigils for Immigrant Justice (weekly / New Sanctuary Movement of Philadelphia)
 - Philadelphia ICE Office / 114 N 8th St
 - contact Pastor Tim to get involved with Calvary's NSM Team
- **7-8ish pm:** Spirituality on Tap (monthly – 1st Wednesdays)
 - Dahlak / 4708 Baltimore Ave
 - allmeansall.org/spirituality-on-tap

Thursday, Jan 8, 7 pm: POWER Interfaith West/Southwest Cluster (virtual / monthly – 2nd Thursdays)

- contact Mimi for details, or to get involved with Calvary's POWER Team: rmijima@gmail.com

Saturday, Jan 10, 1 pm: Meditation (weekly)

- Calvary (Board Room – upstairs) – 48th St entrance
- westphillyinsight.org

Sunday, Jan 11

- **11 am-12:30 pm:** Hybrid Worship (1st Sunday after the Epiphany)
- **12:45-2 pm:** 2nd Sunday Potluck (monthly)
 - allmeansall.org/2nd-sunday-potluck

Sunday, Jan 18, 11 am-12:30 pm: Hybrid Worship (2nd Sunday after the Epiphany)

Sunday, Jan 25, 2-4 pm: PA Interfaith Power & Light Annual Convening Watch Party

- Calvary (Chapel) – 48th St entrance
- allmeansall.org/convening
- contact Sparrow to join others from Calvary, or to get involved in Calvary's PA-IPL/Green Team: sprwfrancis@gmail.com

Monday, Jan 26 – Thursday, Jan 29, 7-8 pm: PA Interfaith
Power & Light Annual Convening Workshops
• allmeansall.org/convening

CENTERING & CONNECTING

Breathing Our Way In

Singing Our Way In: "We Three Kings" (UMH #254, John H. Hopkins Jr.)

*O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star. (*refrain*)

Call to Worship (Margaret K. Schwarzer, based on Isaiah 60 – adapted)

One: "Arise, shine; for your light has come." Open your eyes, for God's presence fills and surrounds.

ALL: Holy One, we open our eyes to your light, that we might see and be radiant.

One: "Arise, shine; for your light has come." Open your hearts, for God's love restores and reconnects.

ALL: Holy One, we open our hearts to your light, that we might thrill and rejoice in your abundance.

One: "Arise, shine; for your light has come." Open your lives, for God's justice calls and inspires.

ALL: Holy One, we open our lives to your light and lift our voices in praise to you. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Opening Song: "Arise, Shine Out, Your Light Has Come"
(*tune: UMH #298, Lowell Mason / lyrics: Brian Wren*)

Arise, shine out, your light has come,
unfolding city of our dreams.

On distant hills a glory gleams:
the new creation has begun.

Above earth's valleys, thick with night,
high on your walls the dawn appears,
and history shall dry its tears,
as nations stream towards your light.
From walls surpassing time and space,
unnumbered gates, like open hands,
shall gather gifts from all the lands,
and welcome all the human race.

The sounds of violence shall cease
as dwellings of salvation rise
to sparkle in eternal skies
from avenues of praise and peace.

The dancing air shall glow with light
and sun and moon give up their place
when Love shines out of every face:
our Good, our Glory, our Delight.

Passing the Peace

One: The peace of God be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

GROUNDING

Community Prayer (*Glenn Mitchell – adapted*)

O star-flinging God, whose light dances across eternity,
dazzle us into your presence this new year. Open our
hearts to the mystery of your love. Awaken us to your
presence, knit to the ordinary. Reveal to us what is
possible, but not yet present. Reconcile us to you and to
ourselves, that our living might be reconciling.

Stop us often, we pray, with news that is good, with hope
that holds, with truth that transforms. May the word of
your grace guide our steps like the sun by day and the

north star by night. May we travel into the unknown gift of this new year, with the sure promise of new life. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Special Music

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, **2** asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Judeans? For we observed his star in the east, and have come to pay him homage." **3** When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, **4** and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. **5** They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet: **6** 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

7 Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. **8** Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." **9** When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. **10** When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. **11** On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. **12** And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Choral Alleluia (UMH #186, Jerry Sinclair)

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 2:13-23

Now after they had left, an angel of God appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' **14** Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, **15** and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by God through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.' **16** When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. **17** Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: **18** 'A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'

19 When Herod died, an angel of God suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, **20** 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead.' **21** Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. **22** But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. **23** There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, 'He will be called a Nazorean.'

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

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Choral Alleluia

Sing alleluia, sing alleluia, sing alleluia, alleluia. *(repeat)*

Sermon: "Of Stars and Dreams"

Song: "When Heaven's Bright with Mystery" *(tune: UMH #579, Henry Carey / lyrics: Rob Johns)*

When heaven's bright with mystery
and science searches nature's art,
when all creation yearns for peace
and hope sinks deep in human hearts,
appear to us, O Holy Light;
lift from our eyes the shades of night.

When Herod barter's power and lives,
and Rachel's weeping fills the night,
when suffering's mask marks every face,
and Love's a refugee in flight,
reveal to us your word of grace,
and make us witness to your peace.

When fragile faith, like desert wind,
blows dry and empty, hope erased,
when withered grass and fading flower
proclaim again our day's brief space,
breathe on the clay of our despair
and work a new creation there.

When heaven's bright with mystery
and stars still lead an unknown way,
when love still lights a gentle path
where courts of power can hold no sway,
there with the Magi, let us kneel,

SHARING

Offering Our Gifts

allmeansall.org/time-talent / allmeansall.org/donate

"Each of you must give as
you have made up your mind,
not regretfully or under compulsion,
for God loves a cheerful giver. "

- 2 Corinthians 9:7



Prayers of the People

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

Sung Response (*tune: UMH #682, Thomas Tallis / lyrics: John Pritchard*)

O draw us near, companion God.
For every joy, your name we laud.
For every wound and each sigh, too,
we pray your love will see us through.

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: We thank you, Divine Mystery, Creator of all that is and all that shall be. Stars of your making sparkle above us, and to those who are wise and attentive they reveal your presence. With starlight and pillars of fire you have led us out of darkness and into light; through prophets and poets you have led us in wonder and love. And you have given us gifts, that we may live fully and richly in grace. As magi knelt before the Christ child and offered their gifts, we kneel in humble gratitude and offer ours, with all Creation singing your praise and joining the

unending hymn:

ALL SING (TFWS #2257-b, tune: Mark Miller / lyrics: *The United Methodist Hymnal* – adapted):

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. He bore your love to all people, including those of foreign lands and religions. He offered us gifts from the treasure chest of his faith: he forgave and taught; he fed the hungry and healed the broken; he proclaimed a new realm of grace and justice. The rulers of Empire sought him and killed him, but you raised him and his love to new life. This is the wisdom that leads us, the star that lights our way.

On the night ... And so we remember. As often as we break the bread and share the cup, we remember the life of Jesus and all that we see of you and your love in that life. We taste the same Spirit, feast on the same promise, and renew our commitment to follow the same path, proclaiming the mystery at the heart of our faith:

ALL SING (TFWS #2257-c, tune: Mark Miller / lyrics: *The United Methodist 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 on all of our bread and cups, tangible symbols for us of Jesus' body given in love, for love. Pour out your Spirit on all of us gathered here in person and virtually, that we may be for the world your body, O God—given in love, for love. Open up your treasure chest in us, that we may be a royal priesthood of your love. Guide us by

the light of your love to do justice, to practice mercy, to kneel humbly before you in every child of yours. May your dawn break upon us, to give light to all who sit in the shadow of death, and guide our feet into the way of peace.

ALL SING (TFWS #2257-d, tune: Mark Miller / lyrics: The United Methodist 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.

Calvary United Methodist Church

Celebrating 130 years at the intersection of
48th & Baltimore / spirituality & justice

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Shakirah Holloway (Office Administrator / Treasurer)

Beth Jemison, Bethany Weed, Cord Whitaker (Co-Lay Leaders)

Lesley Curtis (Church Council Chair)

Annie Haviland (Finance Committee Chair)

Jennine Miller & Kristine Morrow

(Staff-Parish Relations Committee Co-Chairs)

Holly Chowning (Trustees Chair)

For full leadership roster: allmeansall.org/leadership