

Calvary Church

A Reconciling Congregation



*“What has come into being in
the Word was life, and that life
was the light of all people.”*

- John 1:3b-4

January 5, 2025

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

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

GATHERING

Gathering Song: "Behold the Light" (*White Sun, Samuel J*)

Welcome & Announcements

- **Healing Racism Within – A Course for White-Identified Leaders**
 - sagelycreative.com/healing-racism-sign-up
- **Previous sermons:** allmeansall.org/sermons
- **Previous bulletins:** allmeansall.org/bulletins
- **Spring Retreat:** May 16-17, 2025

Calendar

Today, Jan 5, 8-9 pm: Spiritual Reflection Group (*weekly, through Jan 26*)

- allmeansall.org/spiritual-reflection-group

Tuesday, Jan 7, 7 pm: Church Council (*virtual / bimonthly – 3rd Tuesdays*)

- rescheduled from December

Saturday, Jan 11, 1 pm: Meditation (*weekly*)

- Calvary (Board Room, upstairs on Baltimore Ave side)
– please use 48th St entrance
- witnessandintegrate@gmail.com

Sunday, Jan 12

- **11 am-12:30 pm:** Hybrid Worship
- **12:45-2 pm:** 2nd Sunday Potluck (*monthly*) and Congregational Meeting (*hybrid*)
 - allmeansall.org/2nd-sunday-potluck
 - to connect virtually to Congregational Meeting:
allmeansall.org/virtual

Monday, Jan 13, 6:30-7:30 pm: Beginner Yoga (*weekly*)

- Calvary (Chapel) – please use 48th St entrance
- allmeansall.org/yoga

Tuesday, Jan 14, 7:30 pm: Trustees (*virtual / monthly – 1st Tuesdays*)

Wednesday, Jan 15, 10-11 am: Beginner Yoga (*weekly*)

- Calvary (Chapel) – please use 48th St entrance
- allmeansall.org/yoga

Sunday, Jan 19

- **11 am-12:30 pm:** Hybrid Worship
 - guest preacher: Rev. Naomi Washington-Leapheart
- **12:30-1:30 pm:** Congregational Meeting (*hybrid*)
 - to connect virtually: allmeansall.org/virtual

Tuesday, Jan 21, 7 pm: Finance Committee (*virtual / bimonthly – 3rd Tuesdays*)

Sunday, Jan 26, 3-6 pm: POWER Interfaith Housing Justice Assembly

- location TBA
- contact Pastor Tim to join others from Calvary, or to get involved with Calvary's POWER Team

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.

CENTERING & CONNECTING

Breathing Our Way In

Singing Our Way In: "Love Came Down at Christmas" (*UMH #242, tune: trad. Irish melody / 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 where with 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 (*Joanna Harader, from Isaiah 60 – adapted*)

One: Arise, shine; for your light has come!

ALL: God's glory has risen upon us.

One: Despite the state of this world:

ALL: despite illness, despite fear;

One: despite disappointment, despite injustice;

ALL: despite sadness, despite violence;

One: despite grief, and despite despair–

ALL: God's glory will appear over and around us.

One: Lift up your eyes and look around:

ALL: See the light of God's hope and God's peace,

One: the light of God's joy and God's love.

**ALL: See the light of God's healing for us, for our
community, for our world.**

One: Let us lift up our eyes and look around.

**ALL: Then we shall see and be radiant, our hearts shall
thrill and rejoice. 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.

Offering Ourselves & Our Gifts / Passing the Peace

*"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

One: The peace of God be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

GROUNDING

Community Prayer *(Christian Aid Monthly Prayers – adapted)*

Loving God, we offer you our gold: the morning on the wing, the glow on the faces of children at play, the shining moments that brighten our lives. We offer you our frankincense: the quiet reassurance of familiar things, the grace of care and friendship, the blessing of bread and our heart's yearning in prayer. We offer you our myrrh: the ashes of our abandoned dreams, the bitter taste of our failures, the shadows through which we stumble.

Transform our inadequate gifts, that they may be an acceptable sacrifice of praise. Transform our lives to reflect your light, your justice and joy, in the life of the world. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Special Music

Scripture Lesson: John 1:1-5 (*A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church, Wilda C. Gafney*)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** The Word was with God in the beginning. **3** Everything came into being through the Word, and without the Word not one thing came into being. What has come into being **4** in the Word was life, and that life was the light of all people. **5** The light shines in the bleakness, and the bleakness did not overtake it.

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

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

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 2:1-12 (*A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church, Wilda C. Gafney*)

Now Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of King Herod. Suddenly sages from the East came to Jerusalem, **2** asking, "Where is the child who born king of the Judeans? For we have seen his star at its ascent and have come to reverence him." **3** When King Herod heard this, he was shaken, and all Jerusalem with him; **4** then calling together all the chief priests and religious scholars of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah would be born. **5** They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for it has been written by the prophet: **6** 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, by no means are 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 sages and learned from them the time when the star had appeared. **8** Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go, search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word so that I may also go and reverence him." **9** When they had heard the king, they left, and there suddenly was the star that

they had seen at its ascent going before them until it stopped over the place where the child was. **10** When they saw that the star had stopped, they rejoiced; their joy was exuberant. **11** On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they fell down and revered him. Then, opening their treasure, 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.

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: "Love Light"

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 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,
our gifts to share, God's world to heal.

SHARING

Prayers of the People / Joys & Concerns

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.

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: UM 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 love in and for which they were shared, the love in and for which Jesus came, the love in and for which Jesus always comes. 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: 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 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: 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.

Calvary United Methodist Church

at the intersection of 48th & Baltimore / spirituality & justice

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