

Calvary Church

A Reconciling Congregation



*“... and there suddenly was the star
they had seen at its ascent
going before them ...”
- Matthew 2:9b*

January 7, 2024
Epiphany Sunday

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

GATHERING

Gathering Song: "See the Light" (*Amos Lee*)

Welcome & Announcements

(also available at allmeansall.org/announcements)

- **Story Circles:** allmeansall.org/story-circles
 - email Amy to sign up: aemmettrardin@gmail.com
- **Book Study:** *Poverty, by America*
 - virtual study to begin week of Feb 18, during Lent – timing TBD by participants
 - allmeansall.org/adult-ed
- **Bible Study:** taking book/theme suggestions!
 - Spring 2024 – timing TBD by participants
 - allmeansall.org/bible-study
- **Previous sermons:** allmeansall.org/sermons
- **Previous bulletins:** allmeansall.org/bulletins

Calendar

Today, 8-9 pm: Online Advent/Christmas Retreat – Spiritual Reflection Group (*virtual*)

- allmeansall.org/spiritual-reflection-group

Monday, Jan 8, 12 pm: CCCC Transition Team

Tuesday, Jan 9

- **12-1 pm:** Midweek Prayer (*virtual*)
 - allmeansall.org/midweek-prayer

- **7 pm:** Trustees

Thursday, Jan 11, 7-8:30 pm: POWER W/SW Cluster (*virtual*)

- contact Pastor Tim for details and to get involved

Saturday, Jan 13, 10 am: Mission Link (*virtual*)

- contact Pastor Tim for details and to get involved

Sunday, Jan 14

- **11:15 am-12:45 pm:** Hybrid Worship
 - guest preacher: Rev. David Brown
- **1-2ish pm:** 2nd Sunday Potluck

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 / Breath Prayer

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.

Offering Ourselves & Our Gifts / Passing the Peace

One: The peace of God be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

GROUNDING

Community Prayer (*John van de Laar – adapted*)

Light has always led us closer to you, O God – light in the

midst of darkness, for we find you in both. Magi, braving distance and desert through the long night to find you in the baby Jesus, and bewildered shepherds, compelled by an angel's invitation, allowed light to be their guide.

And still light calls us to you; the light of beauty that whispers its truth in surprising ways and places; the light of joy that glows even in the darkness of grief and suffering; the light of compassion that kneels, and washes road-soiled, life-battered feet; the light that seeks to shine within us as love and grace into the shadowed corners of our lives, and through us as love and justice into the shadowed corners of our world.

Light has always led us closer to you, O God. Lead us again, still, through the darkness, by and into your marvelous light. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Special Music

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 2:1-18 (*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 one 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 said to 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.

13 Now after the sages had left Herod, 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 stay there until I tell you; for Herod is about to seek the child, to destroy him. **14** Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to Egypt at night, **15** and was 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 sages, he was utterly infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in Bethlehem and around it who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the sages. **17** Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah who said: **18** "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and great lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children, and she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

Choral Alleluia

Scripture Lesson: Mark 1:4-11

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. **5** And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. **6** Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. **7** He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. **8** I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. **10** And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. **11** And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Choral Alleluia

Sermon: "Guiding 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

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

Sung Response (*tune: UMH #418, African American spiritual / lyrics: John Pritchard*)

Hold us, heal us, living Spirit;
every hurt, each joy—please hear it.
Pour your life and love into us;
make us yours, we pray.

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 you gifts, in one voice, with all Creation singing your praise.

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. 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.

As they shared their final meal together ... 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 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, tangible symbols for us of Jesus' body given in love, for love. Pour out your Spirit on us, 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 those 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

Closing Song: "Guide My Feet" (TFWS #2208, African American spiritual)

Guide my feet while I run this race. (2x)
Guide my feet while I run this race,
for I don't want to run this race in vain!

Hold my hand ...

Stand by me ...

I'm your child ...

Search my heart ...

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

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