

# Calvary Church

*A Reconciling Congregation*



*"And having been warned in  
a dream not to return to Herod,  
they left for their own country  
by another road."*

*- Matthew 2:12*

**January 8, 2023**

*Epiphany Sunday (observed)*

# CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

## GATHERING

**Prelude:** "God, Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen / We Three Kings" (performed by Barenaked Ladies, with Sarah McLachlan)

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

## **Welcome / Announcements**

- **Lectio Divina Bible study:** timing TBD
  - [allmeansall.org/bible-study](http://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](http://allmeansall.org/adult-ed)
- **Story Circles:** [allmeansall.org/story-circles](http://allmeansall.org/story-circles)
  - contact Amy ([aemmettrardin@gmail.com](mailto:aemmettrardin@gmail.com)) to sign up for the next round of matches
- **Save the date for our Spring Retreat:** June 2-3 (or 4)
  - Cranaleith Spiritual Center (*NE Philly*)
  - [allmeansall.org/retreats](http://allmeansall.org/retreats)
- **Worship volunteers:** [tinyurl.com/worship-help](http://tinyurl.com/worship-help)

## Calendar

### **Today, Jan 8**

- **1-2ish pm (following worship):** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Potluck
- **7:30-8:30 pm:** Spiritual Reflection Group
  - [allmeansall.org/spiritual-reflection-group](http://allmeansall.org/spiritual-reflection-group)

### **Tuesday, Jan 10**

- **12-1 pm:** Midweek Prayer
  - [allmeansall.org/midweek-prayer](http://allmeansall.org/midweek-prayer)
- **7 pm:** Trustees

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

- [allmeansall.org/community-rhythm-circle](http://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](mailto:office@allmeansall.org)).

## CENTERING & CONNECTING

### **Breathing Our Way In / Breath Prayer**

**Singing Our Way In:** "The Star" (*tune: UMH #219, trad. English melody / lyrics: Steve Garnaas-Holmes – adapted*)

O God, may we strive to make flesh  
the Word that you are giving;  
the love of Christ, the Spirit's power,  
make holy all of our living.  
Love, love shall be the light  
by which we live: so bless our sight.  
Love, love shall be the star  
by which you guide our living.

**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, Your Light Has Come" (*tune: UMH #357, William B. Bradbury / 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** *(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:** Isaiah 60:1-6 *(A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church, Wilda C. Gafney)*

Arise daughter, shine daughter; for your light has come daughter, and the glory of the Holy One has risen upon you daughter. **2** For—watch now daughter!—Bleakness shall cover the earth, and thick bleakness the peoples; and upon you daughter, the Holy One will arise, and over you daughter, God's glory will appear. **3** Nations shall come to your light daughter, and monarchs to the brightness of your dawn daughter. **4** Lift your eyes round about daughter, and see; all of them gather, they come to you daughter; daughter, your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' hips. **5** Then, daughter, you shall see and be radiant; your heart, daughter, shall tremble and swell, because the abundance of the sea shall turn towards you daughter, the wealth of the nations shall come to you daughter. **6** A multitude of camels shall cover you daughter—young camels of Midian and Ephah—all those from Sheba shall

come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praises of the Holy One.

## Choral 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 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.

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

## Choral Alleluia

**Sermon:** "The Road Less Traveled"

**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,  
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 #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 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 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: 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 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, symbols of Christ's body given in love, for love. Pour out your Spirit on us, that we may be for the world the Body of Christ – 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:** "Let Us Break Bread Together" (UMH #618, African American spiritual)

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**

**Closing Song:** "Siyahamba / We Are Marching" (TFWS #2235-b, trad. South African – adapted)

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 praying in the light of God ...  
We are dancing in the light of God ...  
We are living in the love of God ...

## **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.

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# **Calvary United Methodist Church**

at the intersection of 48<sup>th</sup> & Baltimore / spirituality & justice

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