

Calvary

United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation



Lesley Curtis

*“When you pass through the
waters, I will be with you; and
through the rivers, they shall not
overwhelm you . . .”*

- Isaiah 43:2

January 9, 2022
1st Sunday after the Epiphany

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

GATHERING

Prelude: "Beloved" (*Jordan Feliz*)

Welcome / Announcements

Announcements

- **Pastor Tim is off today**, though available in case of a pastoral emergency. Thanks to **Lesley Curtis** and **Cord Whitaker** for leading the service, and to Lesley for guest preaching!
- **Lectionary Discussion Group** and **On Being Discussion Group** (*both online and ongoing*)
 - contact Pastor Tim to sign up for either or both

Calendar

Tuesday, Jan 11

- **12-12:30 pm:** Midweek Prayer
 - info at allmeansall.org/faith-spirituality
- **6:30 pm:** Trustees

Sunday, Jan 16, 8-9 pm: Spiritual Reflection Group

(*biweekly through Feb, weekly during Lent*)

- info at allmeansall.org/srg

Sunday, Jan 30, 1 pm (following worship): Congregational Meeting

- to provide updates and answer questions regarding the future of the Calvary building

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: "I Went to Hell Last Night"

(Mika, excerpted)

There's a little bit of God in everything
From the sun in the sky to the tears that we cry
There's a little bit of God in everything
From the dirt that we hold to our diamonds and gold

When you're dark and you're sad,
and your future's just as bad

There's a little bit of God in everything
When you're hurt and you're sour,
even in your darkest hour

There's a little bit of God in everything

From the king to the fool to those turkeys back at school

There's a little bit of God in everything
From the sun in the sky to the tears that we cry

There's a little bit of God in everything
From the dirt that we hold to our diamonds and gold

There's a little bit of God in everything

Breathing Our Way In / Breath Prayer

Call to Worship *(John Pritchard)*

One: In the Spirit who gives us life, welcome.

ALL: May divine power flow through us.

One: Come, friends, to the space for honesty.

ALL: We bring who we are, hopes and hurts, strength and sorrow.

One: "Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord," said the psalmist,

ALL: and we know what it is to be in the depths, to feel hope's last thread fraying.

One: "How long, O Lord?" cried the psalmist,

ALL: and we know what it's like when struggle seems endless.

One: "Tears have been my food day and night," wailed the psalmist,

ALL: and we know how it feels to have life unravel, to feel your world crumble.

One: "Fear not; I am with you," says the Holy One,

ALL: and we hear that in flooding chaos, in fiery change, we are not alone.

One: "God's mercies never come to an end. They are fresh every morning," cried Jeremiah in the midst of devastating loss,

ALL: and we know the gifts that keep us going, the small blessings and daily graces that make and keep our lives.

One: "Though the harvest fails and the fields yield no food, nevertheless will I rejoice in the Lord," proclaims the prophet Habakkuk,

ALL: and we too say, "nevertheless." Despite all that assails us, we still know joy, the joy of God's presence, the joy that leads us to praise: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Opening Hymn: "Womb of Life"

(tune: TFWS #2128 / lyrics: TFWS #2046)

Womb of life, and source of being,
home of every restless heart,
in your arms the world's awakened;
you have loved us from the start.

We, your children, gather 'round you,
at the table your prepare.

Sharing stories, tears, and laughter,
we are nurtured by your care.

Word in flesh, our brother Jesus,
born to bring us second birth,

you have come to stand beside us,
knowing weakness, knowing earth.
Priest who shares our human struggles,
Life of Life, and Death of Death,
Risen Christ, come stand among us,
send the Spirit by your breath.

Brooding Spirit, move among us;
be our partner, be our friend.
When our memory fails, remind us
whose we are, what we intend.
Labor with us, aid the birthing
of the new world yet to be,
free of servant, lord, and master,
free for love and unity.

Mother, Brother, Holy Partner,
Father, Spirit, only Son:
We would praise your name forever,
One in three, and Three in one.
We would share your life, your passion,
share your word of world made new,
ever singing, ever praising,
one with all, and one with you.

Passing the Peace

One: The peace of God be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

CENTERING

Community Prayer *(John Pritchard)*

Yours, O God, are the far-flung galaxies, the oceans' depths, microscopic life, the giant sequoia and great blue whale. Yours are the dance of life and all that makes life possible, including ours. Yours is the gift of this day, to us, to vast stretches of creation that are oblivious to us. Yours is the gift, and we give you thanks, even as

we acknowledge that living the gift you give can be hard, sometimes unimaginably hard.

And so we come together, to sigh from the burden but also for a moment's relief, to be held and to hold each other, to seek your presence and the strength to go on.

Grant us a glimpse, O God, of you with us, of you sustaining us, of your goodness flourishing around and within us. Grant us a taste, O God, of the love that upholds us always, of the wonder that surrounds us always, of the joy at the heart of all things always. Grant us to rest in you and to find ourselves restored. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Special Music

Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 43:1-7

But now thus says the LORD, (God) who created you, O Jacob, (God) who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. **2** When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. **3** For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. **4** Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. **5** Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; **6** I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth - **7** everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

Choral Alleluia

Scripture Lesson: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, **16** John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. **17** His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

21 Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, **22** and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. 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: "The Holder and the Held – Witnessing with Love"

Hymn of Response: "I've Got Peace Like a River"

(TFWS #2145)

I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river
I've got peace like a river in my soul. *(repeat)*

I've got joy like a fountain . . .

I've got love like an ocean . . .

I've got peace like a river . . .

SHARING

Offering our Tithes and Gifts

We appreciate your keeping up with pledged and other giving while we worship virtually – via check/money order, online (allmeansall.org/donate) or cash (in person at the church office)!

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: “Guide My Feet” *(TFWS #2208)*

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 . . .
Guide my feet . . .

ENGAGING

Benediction

Singing Our Way Out: “Let the Church Say Amen”

(Andraé Crouch)

Let the church say, “Amen” *(repeat)*
God has spoken, let the church say, “Amen”

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