

Calvary Church

A Reconciling Congregation



“O sing to the
HOLY ONE a new song ...”
- Psalm 98:1

November 16, 2025

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Native American Heritage Month

A Musical Sunday

GATHERING

Gathering Song: "I've Got the Music in Me" (*The Kiki Dee Band*)

Welcome & Announcements

- **Congregational giving** (*rounded*)
 - Nov 3-9: \$1,488 / weekly budget: \$1,827
- **"White Basket" offerings through November:**
 - United Methodist Committee on Relief's response in the Caribbean: umcmmission.org
- **"Red Basket" special offerings through Nov 23:**
 - POWER Interfaith: powerinterfaith.org
- **Advent wreath for home?**
 - contact Jennine if interested, or with questions: jenninemiller@gmail.com
- **Previous sermons:** allmeansall.org/sermons
- **Previous bulletins:** allmeansall.org/bulletins

Calendar

Today, Nov 16, 12:45 pm: Congregational Feedback Session

Monday, Nov 17

- **6:30-7:30 pm:** Yoga (*weekly*)
 - Calvary (Chapel) – 48th St entrance
 - allmeansall.org/yoga
- **7 pm:** Congregational Feedback Session (*virtual*)
 - contact Pastor Tim to sign up, or with questions
- **7-8:30 pm:** Grief Support Group (*virtual*)
 - allmeansall.org/grief

Tuesday, Nov 18

- **3 pm:** Finance Committee
- **3 pm:** Midweek Prayer (*virtual / weekly*)
 - allmeansall.org/midweek-prayer
 - 1st, 3rd & 5th Tuesdays: 3 pm / 2nd & 4th: 6 pm

Wednesday, Nov 19

- **10-11 am:** Yoga (*weekly*)
 - see Nov 17 for details
- **12 pm:** New Sanctuary Movement ICE Vigils (*weekly, through 2025*)
 - Philadelphia ICE Office / 114 N 8th St
 - contact Pastor Tim if interested in participating, or to get involved with Calvary's NSM Team
- **4 pm:** Congregational Feedback Session (*virtual*)
 - contact Pastor Tim to sign up, or with questions

Friday, Nov 21, 7 pm: Young-ish Adults (*monthly – 3rd Fridays*)

- contact Bethany for details, to RSVP, or to be added to the YA email list: bethanycw@gmail.com

Saturday, Nov 22

- **9:30 am-12 pm:** Calvary @ Sankofa Community Farm
 - allmeansall.org/sankofa
 - contact Pastor Tim to sign up
- **1 pm:** Meditation (*weekly*)
 - Calvary (Board Room) – 48th St entrance
 - westphillyinsight.org

Sunday, Nov 23

- **11 am-12:30 pm:** Hybrid Worship
- **12:45 pm:** Congregational Feedback Session (*separate in-person and virtual options*)
 - contact Pastor Tim to sign up, or with questions
- **5:30-7 pm:** Spiritual Reflection Group Potluck
 - contact Jennine for details and to RSVP: jenninemiller@gmail.com

Sunday, Nov 30

- **11 am-12:30 pm:** Hybrid Worship (*1st Sunday of Advent*)
 - hanging of the greens / decorating the chapel
- **8-9 pm:** Spiritual Reflection Group (*virtual / weekly, through Dec 21*)
 - allmeansall.org/spiritual-reflection-group

CENTERING & CONNECTING

Breathing Our Way In

Scripture Lesson: Psalm 98

O sing to the HOLY ONE a new song, for God has done marvelous things. God's right hand and God's holy arm have gotten her victory. **2** The HOLY ONE has made known his victory; God has revealed their vindication in the sight of the nations. **3** God has remembered her steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

4 Make a joyful noise to the HOLY ONE, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises. **5** Sing praises to the HOLY ONE with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody. **6** With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the Sovereign, the HOLY ONE. **7** Let the sea roar and all that fills it, the world and those who live in it. **8** Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy **9** at the presence of the HOLY ONE, for he is coming to judge the earth. They will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.

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

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

Singing Our Way In: "To God Compose a Song of Joy"
(tune: UMH #269, American folk melody / lyrics: Ruth Duck,
inspired by Psalm 98)

To God compose a song of joy;
to God make melody,
whose arm of strength does wondrous things,
whose hand brings victory!

In every corner of the earth,
God comes to save and free;
break forth with shouts of holy joy;
all lands, make melody.

With trumpet, with the sound of horns,
with strings, yes, with the lyre,
with voices praise the sov'reign God,
a lusty, joyous choir.

Let seas in all their fullness roar;
sing, people of all lands;
let mountains join and shout for joy;
let rivers clap their hands.

The God of justice comes to save;
let earth make melody;
for God will judge with righteousness
and rule with equity.

Call to Worship *(unknown)*

One: In the beginning was God, and God created the
rhythm of Creation, and the rhythm created everything
else, and the dance began.

ALL: As the rhythm sounds, Creation happens.

One: We are a people bound together through sacred
sound.

ALL: As rhythm sounds, communion happens.

One: Our faith leads us to a world reverberating like a
thousand different thunders.

ALL: As rhythm sounds, work and play become one.

One: We are part of a rhythmic universe as we listen to one another.

ALL: As rhythm sounds, opposition ceases.

One: We are all companions of life's rhythms in our stillness and in our motion; in the sound and silence, our souls are uplifted.

ALL: As rhythm sounds, we are standing on sacred ground. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Special Music: "Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)" (*Hillsong*)

Passing the Peace

One: The peace of God be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

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



GROUNDING

Community Prayer (*Michael Leunig*)

We give thanks for singers. All types of singers. Popular, concert singers and tuneless singers in the bath. Whistlers, hummers and those who sing while they work. Singers of lullabies; singers of nonsense and small scraps of melody. Singers on branches and rooftops. Morning yodellers and evening warblers. Singers in seedy nightclubs, singers in the street; singers in cathedrals, school halls, grandstands, back yards, paddocks, bedrooms, corridors, stairwells and places of echo and resonance. We give praise to all those who give some small voice to the everyday joy of the soul. Amen.

Special Music: "Plowshare Prayer" (*Spencer LaJoye*)

Silent Prayer

Poem: "The Gift to Sing" (*James Weldon Johnson*)

Sometimes the mist overhangs my path,
And blackening clouds about me cling;
But, oh, I have a magic way
To turn the gloom to cheerful day—
I softly sing.

And if the way grows darker still,
Shadowed by Sorrow's somber wing,
With glad defiance in my throat,
I pierce the darkness with a note,
And sing, and sing.

I brood not over the broken past,
Nor dread whatever time may bring;
No nights are dark, no days are long,
While in my heart there swells a song,
And I can sing.

Special Music: "I Choose Love" (*Mark Miller*)

Poem: "Caged Bird" (*Maya Angelou*)

A free bird leaps
on the back of the wind
and floats downstream
till the current ends
and dips his wing
in the orange sun rays
and dares to claim the sky.

But a bird that stalks
down his narrow cage
can seldom see through
his bars of rage
his wings are clipped and
his feet are tied

so he opens his throat to sing.

The caged bird sings
with a fearful trill
of things unknown
but longed for still
and his tune is heard
on the distant hill
for the caged bird
sings of freedom.

The free bird thinks of another breeze
and the trade winds soft through the sighing trees
and the fat worms waiting on a dawn bright lawn
and he names the sky his own.

But a caged bird stands on the grave of dreams
his shadow shouts on a nightmare scream
his wings are clipped and his feet are tied
so he opens his throat to sing.

The caged bird sings
with a fearful trill
of things unknown
but longed for still
and his tune is heard
on the distant hill
for the caged bird
sings of freedom.

Special Music: "Empty Cave" (*Aidan Selmer*)

Poem: "The Hidden Singer" (*Wendell Berry*)

The gods are less for their love of praise.
Above and below them all is a spirit that needs nothing
but its own wholeness, its health and ours.
It has made all things by dividing itself.
It will be whole again.
To its joy we come together—

the seer and the seen, the eater and the eaten,
the lover and the loved.

In our joining it knows itself. It is with us then,
not as the gods whose names crest in unearthly fire,
but as a little bird hidden in the leaves
who sings quietly and waits, and sings.

Special Music: "Nearer, My God, to Thee" (UMH #528, tune:
Lowell Mason / lyrics: Sarah F. Adams)

Scripture Lesson: Psalm 98 (*The Iona Community*)

Sing a new song to God, who has done wonderful things,
whose right hand and holy arm have brought salvation.
God has made salvation known, shown justice to the
nations, and remembered the house of the faithful in
truth and love. All the ends of the earth have seen the
saving power of God. Sing praise to God, all the earth;
ring out your joy. Sing psalms to God with the harp, with
the harp and the sound of music. With trumpets and the
sound of the horn acclaim the mighty God. Let the sea
and all within it thunder; the world and all its peoples. Let
the rivers clap their hands and the mountains ring out
their joy at the presence of the One who comes, who
comes to rule the earth. God will rule the world with
justice and the people with fairness.

Choral Alleluia

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

Song: "My Life Flows On (How Can I Keep from Singing)"
(TFWS #2212, Robert Lowry – adapted)

My life flows on in endless song,
above earth's lamentation.
I hear the clear, though far-off hymn
that hails a new creation.

*No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.*

*Since love is Lord of heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?*

Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear that music ringing.

It finds an echo in my soul.

How can I keep from singing? *(Refrain)*

What though my joys and comforts die?
I know (God's Spirit) liveth.

What though the darkness gather round?

Songs in the night (God) giveth. *(Refrain)*

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing!

All things are mine since I am (God's)!

How can I keep from singing? *(Refrain)*

SHARING

Prayers of the People

Sung Response *(tune: UMH #408, trad. English / lyrics: John Pritchard)*

O Open Arms, now hold our cares,
the aches we've named, the joys we've shared.
And hold us, too; into us breathe –
your grace, your life, let us receive.

ENGAGING

Special Music: "Till the Day Should Break" *(Aidan Selmer)*

Benediction

Singing Our Way Out: "Pool of Love" *(Alexa Sunshine Rose, Murray Kyle)*

May the pool of love we have gathered here
Spread its wings and fly far and near
From the depths of our hearts to the farthest star
May our love bless everyone

Calvary United Methodist Church

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

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Norris Person (Music Minister): music@allmeansall.org

Shakirah Holloway (Office Administrator / Treasurer)

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

Geraldine (Gerry) Felix (Church Council Chair)

Annie Haviland (Finance Committee Chair)

Jennine Miller (Staff-Parish Relations Committee Chair)

Carl Ballinger (Trustees Chair)

For full leadership roster: allmeansall.org/leadership

