

# Calvary Church

*A Reconciling Congregation*



*“Master, I knew that you were a  
harsh man, reaping where you  
did not sow, and gathering where  
you did not scatter seed ...”*

**- Matthew 25:24b**

**November 19, 2023**

*25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

# CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Native American Heritage Month

## GATHERING

**Gathering Song:** "Truth to Power" (*One Republic*)

## **Welcome & Announcements**

(also available at [allmeansall.org/announcements](http://allmeansall.org/announcements))

### • **Advent @ Calvary**

- **Bible Study:** Liberation & The Birth of Jesus
  - Sundays, 9:30-10:30 am (Dec 3-17)
  - [allmeansall.org/bible-study](http://allmeansall.org/bible-study)
- **Online Advent Retreat – Spiritual Reflection Group**
  - Sundays, 8-9 pm (Dec 3-17, Jan 7)
  - [allmeansall.org/spiritual-reflection-group](http://allmeansall.org/spiritual-reflection-group)

• **Spring Retreat:** June 7-8/9, 2024

• **New Sanctuary Movement:** collecting new and gently used sweatshirts (S/M/L) and tennis shoes/sneakers (women's 5-9 / men's 7-11)

• **HVAC Matching Gift Campaign:** [allmeansall.org/hvac](http://allmeansall.org/hvac)

• **Previous sermons:** [allmeansall.org/sermons](http://allmeansall.org/sermons)

• **Previous bulletins:** [allmeansall.org/bulletins](http://allmeansall.org/bulletins)

## Calendar

**Monday, Nov 20, 7:45-8:45 pm:** Adult Ed Book Study

**Tuesday, Nov 21**

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

**Sunday, Nov 26, 11:15 am-12:45 pm:** Hybrid Worship

**Sunday, Dec 3:** 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

- **9:30-10:30 am:** Advent Bible Study (*hybrid*)
- **11:15 am-12:45 pm:** Hybrid Worship
- **8-9 pm:** Online Advent Retreat – Spiritual Reflection Group (*virtual*)

## 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:** "Prayer Chant (We Resist)" *(Mark Miller)*

We resist, we refuse, to let hatred in.

We rise up, we won't back down.

We're in this 'til the end. *(repeat)*

Pray for your enemies, welcome the stranger,  
show love to your neighbor.

We're in this 'til the end.

#### **Call to Worship** *(Beth Merrill Neel – adapted)*

One: God has set this day before us,

**ALL: a day set apart, a day of rest and praise.**

One: God has set our lives before us,

**ALL: a span of years in which we are called to love and learn and serve.**

One: God has set God's seal upon our hearts,

**ALL: so that we might live fully in deep love.**

One: Let us worship our God, the very Spirit of Love.

**ALL: Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Opening Song: "Spirit of God"** (TFWS #2117, Steve Garnaas-Holmes – adapted)

Spirit of God, bright Wind, breath that bids life begin,  
glow as you always do; create us anew.

Give us the breath to sing, lifted on soaring wing,  
held in your hands, borne on your wings.

Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come! (2x)

Spirit of God, bright Dove, grant us your peace and love,  
healing upon your wings for all living things.

For when we live your peace, captives will find release,  
held in your hands, borne on your wings.

Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come! (2x)

Spirit of God, bright Hands, even in far-off lands  
you hold all the human race in one warm embrace.

No matter where we go, you hold us together so,  
held in your hands, borne on your wings.

Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come! (2x)

Spirit of God, bright Flame, send us in your holy name,  
the power to heal, to share your love everywhere.

(Though we may fail and fall, we know that we are all)  
held in your hands, borne on your wings.

Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come! (2x)

Spirit of God, in all, we gladly hear your call,  
the life in our hands that sings, the power of your wings.

Born of your grace we rise, love shining in our eyes,  
held in your hands, borne on your wings.

Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come! (2x)

### **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)

Your love, O God, is an active love: engaged, involved,

immersed. Your love, O God, is seen in what you do, not just in what you say: in the blessing of children, in the meals with outcasts, in the touching of the untouchable, in the call to justice, in your presence, and in your opening of the way to life to all who will come.

And your love, O God, is expressed through people like us: as we share what we have in simplicity and generosity; as we share wholeness in care for the sick and broken; as we share hospitality by being truly present to the lonely, the broken-hearted, the marginalized; as we share peace in kindness, listening and acceptance with those who challenge, confront and threaten us; as we confront power with truth, yearning to turn love to justice.

As you have loved us in incarnate action, O God, may we learn to be little incarnations through whom your love is expressed and experienced in action. Amen.

## Silent Prayer

## Special Music

**Scripture Lesson:** Psalm 90:1-6, 12 (*A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church, Wilda C. Gafney*)

MOTHER OF THE MOUNTAINS, you have been our refuge from one generation to another. **2** Before the mountains were born, or you writhed the land and the earth into birth, from age to age you are God. **3** You turn mortal flesh back to the dust and say, "Turn back, you who are woman-born." **4** For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, and like a watch in the night. **5** You sweep them aside; they are an illusion; in the morning flourishing and in the evening wilting and withering. **6** In the morning it is green and flourishes; in the evening it is dried up and withered. ... **12** So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to Wisdom.

## Choral Alleluia

### Scripture Lesson: Matthew 25:14-30

"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; **15** to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. **16** The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. **17** In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. **18** But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

**19** After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. **20** Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' **21** His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

**22** And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' **23** His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

**24** Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; **25** so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.'

**26** But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? **27** Then you ought to



have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. **28** So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. **29** For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. **30** As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

## Choral Alleluia

**Sermon:** "Truth to Power"

**Song:** "Will the Circle Be Unbroken" (AAHH #598, tune: Charles H. Gabriel / lyrics: Ada R. Habershon; adapted by Charon Hribar)

As we work to build this movement,  
there's a sound you can't control.  
It's a cry for love and justice  
that, when you hear it, makes you whole.

**Will the circle be unbroken by and by, yes, by and by?  
(There's) a better way (a-waiting if we try, oh, if we try).**

If we listen for the Spirit in these walls to pave our way,  
we'll be guided by a vision  
and we won't be led astray. (*chorus*)

In these times, when we are hurting,  
give us strength to know You're near.  
Help us speak the truth to power,  
and denounce (the) use of fear. (*chorus*)

Now we sing the songs of freedom,  
hymns of faith that make us strong.  
They're the ones (ancestors) taught us;  
hear the angels sing along. (*chorus*)

## **SHARING**

### **Prayers of the People / Joys & Concerns**

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

### **Sung Response** *(tune: UMH #145 / lyrics: John Pritchard)*

Hear us, Creator. Hear us, O Lover.

Hear us, O Spirit moving within.

Hear all our longing; hear all our sorrow.

Hear every joy and praise that we bring.

## **ENGAGING**

**Closing Song:** "Sent Out in Jesus' Name (Enviado Soy de Dios)" *(TFWS #2184, tune: trad. Cuban / lyrics: anonymous – adapted)*

Sent out in Jesus' name, our hands are ready now  
to make the earth the place  
in which the (kindom) comes.

The angels cannot change a world of hurt and pain  
into a world of love, of justice and of peace.

The task is ours to do, to set it really free.

O help us to obey and carry out your will.

## **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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## **Calvary United Methodist Church**

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

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**Norris Person** (accompanist): [music@allmeansall.org](mailto:music@allmeansall.org)