

Calvary Church

A Reconciling Congregation



“In the inner stillness where meditation leads, the Spirit secretly anoints the soul and heals our deepest wounds.”

- St. John of the Cross

November 23, 2025

24th Sunday after Pentecost

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Native American Heritage Month

A Service of Stillness & Healing

GATHERING

Gathering Song: “Be Still and Know That I Am God” (TFWS #2057, John Bell – inspired by Psalm 46)

Welcome & Announcements

• Visiting with us?

- We're glad you're here! We strive to make our worship space—in-person and virtual—as welcoming and accommodating of different needs as possible. If you have questions, concerns or suggestions, please contact Pastor Tim.

• Congregational giving *(rounded)*

- Nov 10-16: \$825 / weekly budget: \$1,827

• “White Basket” offerings through November:

- United Methodist Committee on Relief's response in the Caribbean: umcmmission.org

• “Red Basket” special offering:

- POWER Interfaith: powerinterfaith.org

• Advent wreath for home?

- contact Jennine if interested, or with questions: jenninemiller@gmail.com

• Advent/Christmas schedule: allmeansall.org/advent

• Previous sermons: allmeansall.org/sermons

• Previous bulletins: allmeansall.org/bulletins

Calendar

Today, Nov 23

- **12:45 pm:** Congregational Feedback Conversation (*in person or virtually*)
- **5:30-7 pm:** Spiritual Reflection Group Potluck
 - contact Jennine for details and to RSVP: jenninemiller@gmail.com

Monday, Nov 24, 6:30-7:30 pm: Yoga (weekly)

- Calvary (Chapel) – 48th St entrance
- allmeansall.org/yoga

Tuesday, Nov 25, 6 pm: Midweek Prayer (virtual / weekly)

- allmeansall.org/midweek-prayer
- 1st, 3rd & 5th Tuesdays: 3 pm / 2nd & 4th: 6 pm

Wednesday, Nov 26

- **10-11 am:** Yoga (weekly)
 - see Nov 24 for details
- **12 pm:** New Sanctuary Movement ICE Vigils (weekly)
 - Philadelphia ICE Office / 114 N 8th St
 - Calvary to host Dec 10; contact Pastor Tim if interested in participating, or to get involved with Calvary's NSM Team

Saturday, Nov 29, 1 pm: Meditation (weekly)

- Calvary (Board Room) – 48th St entrance
- westphillyinsight.org

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

Tuesday, Dec 2, 3:30 pm: Trustees (monthly)

Wednesday, Dec 3, 7-8ish pm: Spirituality on Tap (monthly – 1st Wednesdays)

- Dahlak / 4708 Baltimore Ave
- allmeansall.org/spirituality-on-tap

Saturday, Dec 6, 4-8 pm: Calvary Early Christmas Party

- 4-6 pm: The Muppets Christmas Carol
- 6-8 pm: Cookie decorating and Christmas caroling

Sunday, Dec 7, 11 am-12:30 pm: Hybrid Worship (Communion / 2nd Sunday of Advent)

Monday, Dec 8, 6 pm: Charge Conference

- Calvary (Chapel) – 48th St entrance

CENTERING & CONNECTING

Breathing Our Way In

“O Great Spirit, help me always to speak the truth quietly, to listen with an open mind when others speak and to remember the peace that may be found in silence.”

- Cherokee Prayer

“Stillness is the altar of spirit.”

- Paramahansa Yogananda

“Be still, and know that I am God!”

- Psalm 46:10a

Singing Our Way In: “Spirit of the Living God” (UMH #393, Daniel Iverson – adapted)

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. (repeat)

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on (us) ...

Call to Worship (Joanna Harader, based on Psalm 46 – adapted)

One: The earth shakes, the mountains quake—tempting our hearts to fear.

ALL: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

One: Storms rage, winds swirl—destroying schools, hospitals, homes, communities.

ALL: Still, God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

One: Violence comes to light in our communities, and violence continues around the world—causing us to wonder if our prayers for peace are futile.

ALL: Yet God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

One: For those mourning and rebuilding after the storms,

ALL: God is their refuge.

One: For those living in fear of their neighbors,

ALL: God is their strength.

One: For those dreading the hiss of a drone-fired missile,

ALL: God is present.

One: For all those distraught and displaced and
dismembered in storm-damaged, war-torn, violence-
filled places,

ALL: God is a very present help in trouble.

One: Therefore, we will not fear.

**ALL: Therefore, held in love, we will lay down our burdens
and our weapons, and worship our God. Alleluia!
Alleluia!**

Opening Song: "Down by the Riverside" (*African American
spiritual*)

Gonna lay down my burden,
down by the riverside (down by),
down by the riverside (down by),
down by the riverside;
gonna lay down my burden,
down by the riverside,
and study war no more.

*I ain't gonna study war no more,
ain't gonna study war no more,
ain't gonna study war no more (no more);
I ain't gonna study war no more,
ain't gonna study war no more,
ain't gonna study war no more.*

Gonna lay down my sword and shield ... (*Refrain*)

Passing the Peace

One: The peace of God be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

GROUNDING

Community Prayer (*David Adam – adapted*)

God, help us to relax. Weave a silence onto our lips.

Weave a silence into our minds. Weave a silence within our hearts. Close our ears to distractions. Close our eyes to attractions. Close our hearts to temptations.

Take from us the tension that makes peace impossible. Take from us the fears that cause us to withdraw and harden. Take from us the worries that blind our sight. Take from us the distress that hides your joy. Help us to know that you are with us, that we are with you; that we are in your care, that we are in your love, that you and we are one. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Special Music: "Come, All Who Are Weary" (*Porter's Gate*)

Come all who are weary
I will give you rest
Come all who are striving
Lean upon my breast
For my yoke is easy
And my burden light
O come all who are weary, come

Come all who are wounded
Crying out "How long?"
Come all who are waiting
For the break of dawn
Darkness will not hide me
Forever from your sight
O come all who are wounded, come

Come all who are weeping
All whose hope is gone
Come all who are silent
All who've lost their song
Your every tear is numbered
Your every sorrow known
O come all who are weeping, come
O come all who are weary

Wounded and weeping
All of God's children, come

Reflection

Scripture Lesson: Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. **2** Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea, **3** though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. **4** There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. **5** God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns.

6 The nations are in an uproar; the kingdoms totter; God utters God's voice; the earth melts. **7** The God of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. **8** Come, behold the works of the HOLY ONE; see what desolations God has brought on the earth. **9** God makes wars cease to the end of the earth; God breaks the bow and shatters the spear; God burns the shields with fire.

10 "Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations; I am exalted in the earth." **11** The God of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

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

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

Silent Reflection

Scripture Lesson: Psalm 46 *(A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church – Wilda C. Gafney)*

God is for us a refuge and strength, a help in trouble, easily found. **2** Therefore we shall not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains quiver in the heart of the sea; **3** its waters roar and churn, the

mountains tremble with its swell. **4** There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. **5** God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when the morning unfurls. **6** The nations roar; dominions quiver; God puts forth her voice; the earth melts. **7** The WARRIOR PROTECTRIX is with us; a stronghold for us is the God of Rebekah's line. **8** Come, behold the works of the FIRE OF SINAI; see what desolations she has set on the earth. **9** She makes wars cease to the end of the earth; she breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; she burns chariots with fire. **10** "Be still and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations; I am exalted in the earth." **11** The WARRIOR PROTECTRIX is with us; a stronghold for us is the God of Rebekah's line.

Choral Alleluia

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

Silent Reflection

Scripture Lesson: Psalm 46 *(The Message – adapted)*

God is a safe place to hide, ready to help when we need him. **2** We stand fearless at the cliff-edge of doom, courageous in seastorm and earthquake, **3** before the rush and roar of oceans, the tremors that shift mountains. Jacob-wrestling God fights for us, God-of-Angel-Armies protects us. **4** River fountains splash joy, cooling God's city, this sacred haunt of the Most High. **5** God lives here, the streets are safe, God at your service from crack of dawn. **6** Godless nations rant and rave, kings and kingdoms threaten, but Earth does anything God says. **7** Jacob-wrestling God fights for us, God-of-Angel-Armies protects us. **8** Attention, all! See the marvels of God! He plants flowers and trees all over the earth, **9** bans war from pole to pole, breaks all the weapons across his knee. **10** "Step out of the traffic! Take a long, loving look at me,

your High God, above politics, above everything.”

11 Jacob-wrestling God fights for us, God-of-Angel-Armies protects us.

Choral Alleluia: “Halle, Halle, Halleluja” (TFWS #2026, trad. Caribbean, with additional lyrics)

Halle, Halle, Halle – lu – ja! (3x)

Halleluja! Halleluja!

Silent Prayer & Reflection

Blessing: “Blessing in the Chaos” (Jan Richardson)

To all that is chaotic in you,

let there come silence.

Let there be a calming

of the clamoring,

a stilling

of the voices that

have laid their claim on you,

that have made their home in you,

that go with you

even to the holy places

but will not

let you rest.

Let there be

an opening

into the quiet

that lies beneath the chaos,

where you find the peace

you did not think possible

and see what shimmers

within the storm.

Song: “Come and Find the Quiet Center” (TFWS #2128, tune: B.F. White / lyrics: Shirley Erena Murray)

Come and find the quiet center

in the crowded life we lead,

find the room for hope to enter,
find the frame where we are freed:
Clear the chaos and the clutter,
clear our eyes that we can see
all the things that really matter,
be at peace, and simply be.

Silence is a friend who claims us,
cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us,
knows our being, touches base,
making space within our thinking,
lifting shades to show the sun,
raising courage when we're shrinking,
finding scope for faith begun.

In the Spirit let us travel,
open to each other's pain,
let our loves and fears unravel,
celebrate the space we gain:
There's a place for deepest dreaming,
there's a time for heart to care,
in the Spirit's lively scheming
there is always room to spare.

SHARING

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



Prayers of the People

"Thanks be to God" / "God hears our prayer"

Sung Response (tune: UMH #408, trad. English melody / 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

Closing Song: "The Trees of the Field" (TFWS #2279, tune: Stuart Dauermann / lyrics: Steffi Geiser Ruben)

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;
the mountains and the hills will break forth before you;
there'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field,
will clap, will clap their hands.

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands, (*clap 2x*)
the trees of the field will clap their hands, (*clap 2x*)
the trees of the field will clap their hands (*clap 2x*)
while you go out with joy.

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

