

Calvary Church

A Reconciling Congregation



When I Was Hungry & Thirsty, Timothy P. Schmalz

*“Truly I tell you all, as much as you
all did for one of the least of these
my kindred, you all did it to me.”*

- Matthew 25:40b

November 26, 2023

Reign of Christ Sunday

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Native American Heritage Month

GATHERING

Gathering Song: "Wandering Shepherd" (*Dan Fogelberg*)

Welcome & Announcements

(also available at 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
- **Online Advent Retreat – Spiritual Reflection Group**
 - Sundays, 8-9 pm (Dec 3-17, Jan 7)
 - 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

• **Previous sermons:** allmeansall.org/sermons

• **Previous bulletins:** allmeansall.org/bulletins

Calendar

Tuesday, Nov 28

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

Sunday, Dec 3: 1st Sunday of Advent

- **9:30-10:30 am:** Advent Bible Study (*hybrid*)
- **11:15 am-12:45 pm:** Hybrid Worship
 - hanging of the greens & decorating the Calvary Christmas tree
- **4-6 pm:** Confirmation Class
- **8-9 pm:** Online Advent Retreat – Spiritual Reflection Group (*virtual*)

Tuesday, Dec 5, 6:30 pm: Community Care Team

Wednesday, Dec 6, 7:30-8:30ish pm: Spirituality on Tap

- Gojjo / 4540 Baltimore Ave
- allmeansall.org/spirituality-on-tap

Sunday, Dec 10: 2nd Sunday of Advent

- **11:15 am-12:45 pm:** Hybrid Worship
- **1-2:30 pm:** 2nd Sunday Potluck – Christmas Edition
 - please bring a dish and/or drinks to share, as well as a free/low-cost item (under \$5) – wrapped – for our gift exchange, if you can

Thursday, Dec 21, 7 pm: Blue Christmas Service

Sunday, Dec 24: 4th Sunday of Advent / Christmas Eve

- **11:15 am-12:45 pm:** Hybrid Worship
- **7 pm:** Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols (*hybrid*)
 - joint service with WPMF

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: "Be Still and Know That I Am God"
(TFWS #2057, John Bell)

Be still and know that I am God.

Be still and know that I am God.

Call to Worship *(based on Psalm 100)*

One: Make a joyful noise to the HOLY ONE, all the earth.

ALL: Worship the HOLY ONE with gladness; come into God's presence with singing.

One: Know that the HOLY ONE is God. It is God who made us, and we belong to God;

ALL: We are God's people, and the sheep of God's pasture.

One: Enter God's gates with thanksgiving, and God's courts with praise. Give thanks to God! Bless God's holy name.

ALL: For the HOLY ONE is good; God's steadfast love endures forever, and God's faithfulness to all generations. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Opening Song: "Great God, Your Love Has Called Us Here" *(tune: UMH #579, Henry Carey / lyrics: Brian Wren)*

Great God, your love has called us here,
as we, by love, for love were made.

Your living likeness still we bear,
though marred, dishonored, disobeyed;
we come, with all our heart and mind,
your call to hear, your love to find.

We come with self-inflicted pains
of broken trust and chosen wrong,
half-free, half-bound by inner chains,
by social forces swept along,
by powers and systems close confined,
yet seeking hope for humankind.

Great God, in Christ you call our name,
and then receive us as your own;
not through some merit, right or claim,
but by your gracious love alone;
we strain to glimpse your mercy seat,
and find you kneeling at our feet.

Then take the towel, and break the bread,
and humble us, and call us friends;
suffer and serve till all are fed,
and show how grandly love intends,
to work till all creation sings,
to fill all worlds, to crown all things.

Great God, in Christ you set us free
your life to live, your joy to share;
give us your Spirit's liberty
to turn from guilt and dull despair,
and offer all that faith can do,
while love is making all things new.

Offering Ourselves & Our Gifts / Passing the Peace

One: The peace of God be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

GROUNDING

Community Prayer *(Fred Drummond – adapted)*

God of the coming kindom, open our eyes to see as you see and weep as you weep. Open our hearts to care and compassion for those broken and without hope. Open our hands to hold what we have lightly and to share cheerfully. Open our mouths to speak for the voiceless and shout for mercy and peace. Open our ears to the gentle whispers of your Spirit that we may faithfully follow your lead.

And open our lives, O God, to your persistent call to love and justice, to your kindom come on earth as in heaven. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Special Music

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 25:31-45 (*A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church, Wilda C. Gafney*)

"When the Son of Woman comes in his glory with all the angels, then will he sit on the throne of his glory. **32** And gathered before him will be all the nations and he will separate them one from another just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. **33** And he will put the sheep on his right and the goats at the left. **34** Then shall the one who rules say to those at his right, 'Come, those blessed by my Abba; inherit the realm prepared for you all from the foundation of the world. **35** For I was hungry and you all gave me food; I was thirsty and you all gave me drink; a stranger and you all gathered me in. **36** Naked and you all clothed me; I was sick and you all cared for me; in prison and you all visited me.' **37** Then the righteous will answer, asking, 'Majesty, when did we see you hungry feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? **38** And when did we see you a stranger and gather you in, or naked and clothe you? **39** And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' **40** "And the one who rules will answer them, 'Truly I tell you all, as much as you did for one of the least of these my kindred, you all did it to me.'

41 "Then the one who rules will say to those on the left, 'Go from me, all you who are accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. **42** For I was hungry and you all gave me no food; I was thirsty and you all gave me no drink; **43** a stranger and you all did not gather me in, naked and you all did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you all did not care for me.'

44 Then they also will answer, asking, 'Majesty, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' **45** Then the ruler will answer them, 'Truly I tell you all, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you all did not do it for me.'"

Choral Alleluia

Reading: Frederick Buechner, from *The Faces of Jesus*

In one of the most powerful passages in the Gospels, Jesus while still on earth foretells this scene of the Last Judgment. All the nations of the earth are drawn up before the Son of Man, he says, and the Son of Man will separate them from one another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. It is the principle by which he separates them that split history in two. ...

Thus for Jesus the only distinction between (people) that ultimately matters seems to be not whether they are churchgoers or non-churchgoers, communists or capitalists, Catholics or Protestants or Jews, but do they or do they not love – love not in the sense of an emotion so much as in the sense of an act of the will, the loving act of willing another's good even, if need arise, at the expense of their own.

"Hell is the suffering of being unable to love," said old Father Zossima or, as John puts it in his first epistle, "(The one) who does not love remains in death." It is no wonder that enthroned in the ivory diptych with his mother on her knees at his side, Jesus throws up his hands in dismay. As you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me. Just as Jesus appeared at his birth as a helpless child that the world was free to care for or destroy, so now he appears in his resurrection as the pauper, the prisoner, the stranger: appears in every form of human need that the world is free to serve or to ignore.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Choral Alleluia

Silent Prayer & Meditation

"The Way Is Simple" (*Hanna Leigh*)

- For all of Jesus' teaching about the nature of the realm of God and what's required to "inherit" it, what strikes you about this final teaching?
- What does it mean to you to think of the realm of God as an inheritance? Your inheritance? One "prepared for you from the foundation of the world"?
- What do you make of the fact that neither the "blessed" nor the "accursed" recognized the divine in the "least of these"?
- How do you understand the two quotes Buechner references: "Hell is the suffering of being unable to love" and "(The one) who does not love remains in death"?

Song: "Come Now, You Blessed" (*UMH #727, tune: public domain / lyrics: Ruth Duck*)

"Come, now, you blessed, eat at my table,"
said the great judge to the righteous above.
"When I was hungry, thirsty and homeless,
sick and in prison, you showed me your love."

"When did we see you hungry or thirsty?
When were you homeless, a stranger alone?
When did we see you sick or in prison?
What have we done that you call us your own?"

"When you gave bread to earth's hungry children,
when you gave welcome to war's refugees,
when you remembered those most forgotten,
you care for me in the smallest of these."

Christ, when we meet you out on life's roadways,
Looking to us in the faces of need,
then may we know you, welcome, and show you,
love that is faithful in word and in deed.

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: "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: "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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