

Calvary Church

A Reconciling Congregation



*"... they shall beat their swords
into plowshares, and their spears
into pruning hooks ..."*

- Isaiah 2:4b

November 27, 2022

1st Sunday of Advent

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Native American Heritage Month

GATHERING

Prelude: "Plowshare Prayer" (*Spencer LaJoye*)

*You're invited to be in silence during the Prelude,
as we transition together into this sacred time and space.*

Welcome / Announcements

- **Advent/Christmas at Calvary:** allmeansall.org/advent
- **White Basket offerings:** Dec 4 (POWER), Dec 11 (New Sanctuary Movement), Dec 18 (PA Interfaith Power & Light)
- **Worship volunteers:** sign up at tinyurl.com/worship-help

Calendar

Today, 7:30-8:30 pm: Spiritual Reflection Group – Online Advent Retreat

- info at allmeansall.org/spiritual-reflection-group

Monday, Nov 28, 8 pm: Adult Ed Book Study – *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*

Tuesday, Nov 29, 12-1 pm: Midweek Prayer

- info at allmeansall.org/midweek-prayer

Saturday, Dec 3, 4 pm: Memorial Service for Francis Horst (*hybrid, with reception to follow*)

- info at allmeansall.org/francis

Sunday, Dec 4

- **11:15 am-12:45 pm:** Hybrid Worship, with Communion (*2nd Sunday of Advent*)
- **5 pm:** Church Council

Tuesday, Dec 6, 6 pm: POWER West/SW Cluster Meeting

- contact Eriks (eriksslush@hotmail.com) to get involved with Calvary's POWER Team

Thursday, Dec 8: Community Rhythm Circle

- info at allmeansall.org/community-rhythm-circle

Sunday, Dec 11

- **11:15 am-12:45 pm:** Hybrid Worship (*3rd Sunday of Advent*)
- **1-2:30ish pm:** 2nd Sunday Potluck – White Elephant Gift Exchange
 - bring money for pizza OR bring a salad, drinks, dessert (e.g. Christmas cookies!) if you can
 - bring a wrapped gift (no more than \$5!) if you can

Sunday, Dec 18

- **11:15 am-12:45 pm:** Hybrid Worship (*4th Sunday of Advent*)
- **5 pm:** Calvary Kids/Youth Group Christmas Party (*location TBD*)
 - contact Pastor Tim for details or to RSVP

Monday, Dec 19, 7 pm: Blue Christmas Service (*in-person*)

Wednesday, Dec 21, 7 pm: Blue Christmas Service (*virtual*)

Saturday, Dec 24, 7 pm: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols (*hybrid*)

- jointly with West Philadelphia Mennonite Fellowship

Sunday, Dec 25: Christmas Day

- NO WORSHIP

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 (office@allmeansall.org).

CENTERING & CONNECTING

Breathing Our Way In / Breath Prayer

Singing Our Way In: "Maranatha" (*Louise Skibsted – adapted*)
Maranatha, maranatha, come (dear) Jesus come (*repeat*)

Hanging of the Greens

Call to Worship / Lighting the Advent Candle

One: "O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!" (*Isaiah 2:5*)

ALL: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness will not overcome it.

One: In the face of loneliness and loss, depression and despair, O God, we watch and wait, expectantly, for your light.

ALL: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness will not overcome it.

One: In the face of pain and suffering, disease and disease, we watch and wait, expectantly, for your light.

ALL: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness will not overcome it.

One: In the face of poverty and hunger, violence and injustice, we watch and wait, expectantly, for your light.

ALL: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness will not overcome it.

One: In the face of climate change and chaos, rising sea levels and rising temperatures, O God, we watch and wait, expectantly, for your light.

Sung Response: "Light a Candle Bright and Tall" (*tune: UMH #578, Joachim Neander / lyrics: David Wood*)

*Light a candle bright and tall
for the Hope within our world;
Hope that heard the ages' call,
as the stars and planets whirled.
Shine within our hearts today,
come, O Hope, to us, we pray.*

One: Gracious God, stubborn Hope of the world, come to us as hope.

ALL: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

One: As we light this Advent candle, ready us for your promised coming. Prepare new ways in us for your hope to lodge, that we might be bearers of hope in a weary world. Prepare new ways in us for your light to shine, that we might walk in your light and become the lights for which we all wait.

ALL: O come, O come, Emmanuel. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Opening Song: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (UMH #211, tune: trad. French / lyrics: various)

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
and order all things far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show
and cause us in her ways to go. *(Refrain)*

O come, thou Root of Jesse's tree,
an ensign of thy people be;
before thee rulers silent fall;
all peoples on thy mercy call. *(Refrain)*

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thy justice here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight. *(Refrain)*

Stewardship Moment – Time, Talent, Tithe

Offering Ourselves & Our Gifts / Passing the Peace

One: The peace of God be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

GROUNDING

Community Prayer *(Steve Garnaas-Holmes – adapted)*

God of light, in the darkness of this world your dawn is rising. Your love is at work. Waken our spirits. Open our hearts. Speak, for in the dark we are watching and listening – with hope for what may yet be, ready to be your light in the world. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Special Music

Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. **2** In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. **3** Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that (God) may teach us (God's) ways and that we may walk in (God's) paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. **4** (God) shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. **5** O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

Choral Alleluia

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 24:36-44

"But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the (Parent).

37 For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. **38** For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, **39** and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man.

40 Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. **41** Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. **42** Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

43 But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, (they) would have stayed awake and would not have let (their) house be broken into. **44** Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Choral Alleluia

Sermon: "Plowshares Prayers"

Song: "Advent Begins in the Darkness of Night" (*tune: Benjamin Brody / lyrics: David Bjorlin*)

Advent begins in the darkness of night,
waiting and watching for signs of a light,
walking in faith that a path will appear,
daring to follow in spite of our fear.

Advent begins with our dreams yet deferred.
Love sounds ridiculous; prayer seems absurd.
But in the midst of life's centerless maze,
we lift together our protest of praise.

Advent begins in oppression's domain,
marked by the cries of confusion and pain.
Yet hope is kindled where justice is done,
mercy is nurtured and peace is begun.

Advent goes on till the promised dawn breaks,
tyrants are toppled, and God's dream awakes.
Hope is perfected and faith is made sight.
Love is our center and Christ is our light.

SHARING

Prayers of the People / Joys & Concerns

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

Sung Response *(tune: UMH #682, Thomas Tallis / lyrics: John Pritchard)*

O draw us near, companion God.
For every joy, your name we laud.
For every wound and each sigh, too,
we pray your love will see us through.

ENGAGING

Closing Song: "Guide My Feet" *(TFWS #2208, African-American spiritual)*

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 ...

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”

Calvary United Methodist Church

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