

Calvary Church

A Reconciling Congregation



*“Hope is an ability to work for
something because it is good,
not just because it stands
a chance to succeed.”*

- Václav Havel

December 1, 2024

1st Sunday of Advent

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

GATHERING

Gathering Song: "New World Coming" (*Nina Simone*)

Welcome & Announcements

- **Thanks to our guest preacher:** Cara Blouin
- **Advent & Christmas at Calvary:** allmeansall.org/advent
- **Previous sermons:** allmeansall.org/sermons
- **Previous bulletins:** allmeansall.org/bulletins

Calendar

Today, Dec 1, 8-9 pm: Spiritual Reflection Group (*virtual / weekly, through Dec 22*)

- allmeansall.org/spiritual-reflection-group

Monday, Dec 2, 5:30-9 pm: POWER Testifies Against the 76ers Arena

- Philadelphia City Hall (meet at NE corner)
- register at: tinyurl.com/power-interfaith

Tuesday, Dec 3, 12-1 pm: Midweek Prayer (*virtual / weekly*)

- allmeansall.org/midweek-prayer

Saturday, Dec 7, 10 am-3 pm: Holiday Rummage Sale & Bazaar

- volunteers needed Friday evening and Saturday
- contact Shakirah to sign up: office@allmeansall.org

Sunday, Dec 8

- **10:15-10:55 am:** Choir rehearsal (*in prep for Dec 15*)
- **9:15-10:15 am:** Bible Study – Matthew & Luke (*hybrid / weekly, through Dec 22*)
 - Calvary (office) if joining in person
- **11 am-12:30 pm:** Hybrid Worship (*2nd Sunday of Advent*)

Tuesday, Dec 10, 7:30 pm: Trustees

Thursday, Dec 12

- **7-8:30 pm:** POWER West/Southwest Cluster (*virtual / monthly – 2nd Thursdays*)
 - contact Pastor Tim for details, or to get involved with Calvary's POWER Team
- **8-9ish pm:** Spirituality on Tap (*rescheduled from Dec 5 / monthly – 1st Thursdays*)
 - Carbon Copy / 701 S. 50th St
 - allmeansall.org/spirituality-on-tap

Sunday, Dec 15

- **10:15-10:55 am:** Choir rehearsal (*in prep for Dec 15*)
- **11 am-12:30 pm:** Hybrid Worship (*3rd Sunday of Advent*)
 - Calvary Kids during worship (ages 7-11/12)
- **12:45-2 pm:** 2nd Sunday Potluck – Christmas Party
 - featuring white elephant gift exchange
 - allmeansall.org/potlucks
- **6:30 pm:** Calvary Christmas Benefit Concert (*Big Push*)
 - allmeansall.org/concert

Tuesday, Dec 17, 7 pm: Church Council

Saturday, Dec 21, 7-8 pm: Blue Christmas Service (*hybrid*)

- allmeansall.org/blue

Sunday, Dec 22, 11 am-12:30 pm: Hybrid Worship (*4th Sunday of Advent*)

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

- allmeansall.org/christmas

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.

CENTERING & CONNECTING

Hanging the Greens / Decorating the Tree

Breathing Our Way In

Singing Our Way In: "Drawing Nearer" (*Christopher Grundy*)

Even in the midst of all of this,
trouble on the news, no peace within,
still there is a light in the distance,
drawing nearer, drawing nearer.

So, open up our eyes to see your light.
Open up our arms, they're clenched so tightly.
Come in like a thief and steal our hearts
like a baby, like a baby.

Even in the midst of all of this ...

Call to Worship / Lighting the Advent Candle (*Jon Humphries, Susan Wickham – adapted*)

One: God of hope, peace, joy and love, we wait. We
remember. We ready ourselves. We pray.

ALL (sung): O come, o come, Emmanuel ...

One: As we light this candle to begin our Advent journey,
we pray hope. Active hope. Rugged hope. Hope for the
hopeless. Hope for the hopeful. Hope for all.

ALL (sung): O come, o come, Emmanuel ...

One: Hope for healing. Hope for meaning. Hope for
peace.

ALL (sung): O come, o come, Emmanuel ...

One: Hope for now. Hope for the future. Hope forever.

**ALL (sung): Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to us
and in our hearts will dwell.**

One: Alleluia!

ALL: 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.

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

Offering Ourselves & Our Gifts / Passing the Peace

*"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

One: The peace of God be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

GROUNDING

Community Prayer *(Ted Loder)*

O God of all seasons and senses, grant us the sense of
your timing to submit gracefully and rejoice quietly in the
turn of the seasons. In this season of short days and long
nights, of grey and white and cold, teach us the lessons
of endings; children growing, friends leaving, loved ones
dying, grieving over, grudges over, blaming over, excuses
over.

O God, grant us a sense of your timing. In this season of
short days and long nights, of grey and white and cold,

teach us the lessons of beginnings; that such waitings and endings may be the starting place, a planting of seeds which bring to birth what is ready to be born—something right and just and different, a new song, a deeper relationship, a fuller love—in the fullness of your time.

O God, grant us the sense of your timing. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Special Music

Scripture Lesson: Luke 21:25-36

"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. **26** People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

27 Then they will see 'the Child of Humanity coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. **28** Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

29 Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; **30** as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near.

31 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the realm of God is near. **32** Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. **33** Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. **34** "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, **35** like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. **36** Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Child of Humanity."

Choral Alleluia (UMH #186, Jerry Sinclair)

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

Poem: "Hope Is Not a Bird, Emily, It's a Sewer Rat" (Caitlin Seida)

Hope is not the thing with feathers
That comes home to roost
When you need it most.

Hope is an ugly thing
With teeth and claws and
Patchy fur that's seen some shit.

It's what thrives in the discards
And survives in the ugliest parts of our world,
Able to find a way to go on
When nothing else can even find a way in.

It's the gritty, nasty little carrier of such
diseases as
optimism, persistence,
Perseverance and joy,
Transmissible as it drags its tail across
your path
and
bites you in the ass.

Hope is not some delicate, beautiful bird,
Emily.

It's a lowly little sewer rat
That snorts pesticides like they were
Lines of coke and still
Shows up on time to work the next day
Looking no worse for wear.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Choral Alleluia

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

Sermon: "Hope with Claws"

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

Sung Response *(tune: UMH #294, Hugh Wilson / lyrics: John Pritchard)*

O coming Christ, to you we pray,
to you hearts open wide.
Your justice bring, to wounds healing;
in joy let all abide.

Communion / The Great Thanksgiving *(Steve Garnaas-Holmes – adapted)*

One: God is with you.

ALL: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them up to God.

One: Let us give thanks to the Faithful One, our God.

ALL: It is good and beautiful to give God our praise.

One: God of active hope, we thank you, for out of the chaos you breathed Creation; out of the shadows of slavery you brought freedom; out of the tomb you raised Jesus and raise us all to new life. And now in the darkness we gather your light, we see your power at work, and we know you are near. Entering into the brokenness of our world, you transform and bring forth life. By many signs you awaken us to your coming.

Therefore we join with all those who long for new life, whose eyes are eagerly on the door of your grace: together with them, with the whole company of the heavens and with all of Creation, we rejoice at the promise of your coming, we sing your praise, and we join the unending hymn:

ALL SING *(TFWS #2257-b, tune: Mark Miller / lyrics: UM Hymnal - adapted):*

Holy, holy, holy (One); God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest! *(3x)*

Blest is the one who comes in the name of (our God).

Hosanna in the highest! *(3x)*

One: Blessed are all who come in your name, and blessed is Jesus, your Christ, the flesh of your presence and the light of your coming. Jesus loved the neglected and healed the broken, gathered the outcast and gave hope to the despairing. Jesus walked mile after mile in

our shoes to show us another way, to bring heaven and earth together in love.

On the night ... And so we remember. As we break the bread and share the cup, we remember the love in and for which they were shared, the love in and for which Jesus came, the love in and for which Jesus always comes. We taste the same Spirit, feast on the same promise, and renew our commitment to follow the same path, proclaiming the mystery at the heart of our faith:

ALL SING (TFWS #2257-c, tune: Mark Miller / lyrics: UM Hymnal):

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Hosanna in the highest! (3x)

One: Stir up your Spirit now as we again join in this sacred meal. Awaken your Spirit in these gifts of bread and cup, in all of our bread and cups; tangible symbols of a love which not even death can deny. Stir up your Spirit on all of us gathered here in person and virtually. By your Spirit, make us to be your Body, your hands and feet and hearts in the world – transformed by your grace, grateful in your blessing, resilient in your hope, and confident in your coming. To your eternal glory and praise.

ALL SING (TFWS #2257-d, tune: Mark Miller / lyrics: UM Hymnal):

Amen. Amen. Amen.

Hosanna in the highest! (3x)

Sung Response: "Eat This Bread" (UMH #628, tune: Robert Batastini & Taizé Community / lyrics: Jacques Berthier)

Eat this bread, drink this cup,
come to me and never be hungry.

Eat this bread, drink this cup,
trust in me and you will not thirst.

ENGAGING

Benediction

Singing Our Way Out: "Go Now in Peace" (UMH #665,
Natalie Sleeth)

Go now in peace, go now in peace,
may the love of God surround you
everywhere, everywhere, you may go.

Calvary United Methodist Church

at the intersection of 48th & Baltimore / spirituality & justice

801 S. 48th Street / Philadelphia, PA 19143

215.724.1702 / office@allmeansall.org / allmeansall.org

Pastor Tim Emmett-Rardin: pastortim@allmeansall.org

(in case of pastoral emergency: 215.370.7411)

Norris Person (accompanist): music@allmeansall.org