

Calvary Church

A Reconciling Congregation



*“May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy.”*

- Psalm 126:5

December 10, 2023

2nd Sunday of Advent

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Nurturing Resilience, Practicing Active Hope

GATHERING

Gathering Song: "Dona Nobis Pacem (Grant Us Peace)"
(trad. / perf. by Christine Lavin & the Mistletones)

Welcome & Announcements

(also available at allmeansall.org/announcements)

- **Advent 2023:** Dec 3: Coming from Gratitude / Dec 10: Honoring Our Pain for the World / Dec 17: Seeing with New Eyes / Dec 24: Going Forth
- **New Sanctuary Movement:** collecting new and gently used sweatshirts (S/M/L) and tennis shoes/sneakers (women's 5-9 / men's 7-11)
- **Previous sermons:** allmeansall.org/sermons
- **Previous bulletins:** allmeansall.org/bulletins

Calendar

Today, Dec 10: 2nd Sunday of Advent

- **1-2:30 pm:** 2nd Sunday Potluck – Christmas Edition
- **8-9 pm:** Online Advent Retreat – Spiritual Reflection Group *(virtual)*
 - allmeansall.org/spiritual-reflection-group

Monday, Dec 11, 6:30 pm: Church Council *(rescheduled)*

Tuesday, Dec 12

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

Sunday, Dec 17: 3rd Sunday of Advent

- **11:15 am-12:45 pm:** Hybrid Worship
- **4-6 pm:** Confirmation Class
- **8-9 pm:** Online Advent Retreat – Spiritual Reflection Group *(virtual)*

Thursday, Dec 21, 7 pm: Blue Christmas Service *(hybrid)*

- allmeansall.org/blue

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*)
 - o 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.

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: "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: Last Sunday we prayed hope. As we light this candle, we pray peace. Peace for all people. Peace for all places.

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

One: Peace for all times. Peace for all situations. Peace for all circumstances.

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

One: Peace in our hearts. Peace in our minds. Peace within. Peace without.

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

One: Alleluia!

ALL: Alleluia!

Opening 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.

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)*

Our world carries the scars of the way we live, O God; the preferential treatment given to the privileged and powerful leaves the rest ignored and neglected; the desperate quest for more leaves all of us feeling less, enjoying less; the self-protective aggression we embrace to feel safe leaves us and others wounded and frightened; the indifferent disregard for the suffering, the grieving, the dying leaves us disconnected from our own humanity, from our ability to feel and to care.

We need our world turned upside down, Jesus. We need our self-importance and self-sufficiency to be undermined. We need a new way of being that is built on a whole new set of values. Humble the powerful and exalt the humble, we pray. Fill the hungry with good things, and keep the satisfied from taking even more. Give us the wisdom to let a child lead us into a world of justice and peace; into the joy of sacrifice and service and simplicity.

O come, Emmanuel, and ransom your captive people.
Amen.

Silent Prayer

Special Music

Scripture Lesson: Psalm 126

When the HOLY ONE restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. **2** Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, "The HOLY ONE has done great things for them." **3** The HOLY ONE has done great things for us, and we rejoiced. **4** Restore our fortunes, O HOLY ONE, like the watercourses in the Negeb. **5** May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. **6** Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

Choral Alleluia

Scripture Lesson: Mark 13:24-37

"But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, **25** and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. **26** Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. **27** Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. **28** From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. **29** So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. **30** Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. **31** Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. **32** "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Creator. **33** Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. **34** "It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch.

35 Therefore, keep awake – for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, **36** or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. **37** And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Choral Alleluia

Sermon: "Honoring Our Pain for the World"

Song: "Wounded World that Cries for Healing" (TFWS #2177,
tune: Hal H. Hopson / lyrics: Shirley Erena Murray)

Wounded world that cries for healing –
here we hold each other's pain,
wounded systems, bruised and bleeding
bear the load, the scars of strain;
dollars ration out compassion,
hard decisions rule the day,
Jesus of the healing Spirit,
free us to another way!

Through our nation's spent frustration,
through the corridors of stress
may there move a kindlier wisdom
all may feel, and all may bless;
tax and tithe are for a purpose
shared to shield the poor and weak;
past the symptoms of our sickness
let the voice of justice speak.

Honor those whose loving spirit
nurses hope, restores and heals,
towel and basin used in service
like the Christ who comes and kneels;
in the tending, in the mending
may we see the right and fair,

in our common quest for wholeness
heal each other by our care.

SHARING

Prayers of the People / Joys & Concerns

“Thanks be to God” or “God, hear our prayer”

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.

ENGAGING

Closing Song: “May You Run and Not Be Weary” (*tune & refrain: UMH #525, Charles Albert Tindley / lyrics: TFWS #2281, Paul Murakami & Handt Hanson*)

May you run and not be weary.
May your heart be filled with song.
And may the love of God continue
to give you hope and keep you strong.
And may you run and not be weary.
May your life be filled with joy!
And may the road you travel always lead you home.

**By and by, when the morning comes,
when the saints of God are gathered home,
we'll tell the story how we've overcome,
for we'll understand it better by and by.**

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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