

Calvary Church

A Reconciling Congregation



*"What did you go out into
the wilderness to look at?"*

- Matthew 11:7b

December 11, 2022

3rd Sunday of Advent

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

GATHERING

Prelude: "Come Light" (*Greg Thompson / Bifrost Arts Music*)

*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
- **Stewardship pledge form:** tinyurl.com/calvary-2023
- **White Basket and special offerings:** Dec 11 (New Sanctuary Movement / ODECOIN), Dec 18 (PA Interfaith Power & Light / ODECOIN)
- **Worship volunteers:** tinyurl.com/worship-help

Calendar

Today

- **Following worship (1-2:30ish pm):** 2nd Sunday Potluck – White Elephant Gift Exchange
- **7:30-8:30 pm:** Spiritual Reflection Group – Online Advent Retreat
 - info at allmeansall.org/spiritual-reflection-group

Tuesday, Dec 13

- **12-1 pm:** Midweek Prayer
 - info at allmeansall.org/midweek-prayer
- **7 pm:** Trustees

Sunday, Dec 18

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

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

- info at allmeansall.org/blue

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

- info at allmeansall.org/blue

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

- info at allmeansall.org/christmas

Sunday, Dec 25: Christmas Day

- NO worship – Merry 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 (office@allmeansall.org).

CENTERING & CONNECTING

Breathing Our Way In / Breath Prayer

Singing Our Way In: "Waiting for You" (*Christopher Grundy*)

We are waiting for you
Knowing that you always abide
We are waking to your presence
And our hearts are open wide
Open wide

Call to Worship / Lighting the Advent Candle (*Beth Merrill Neel – adapted, based on a poem by Rumi*)

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: Perhaps we have come in search of joy this day.
Does it move from unmarked box to unmarked box?
Is it found in the water that changes to wine? Is it within

us, or outside of us?

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

One: What I know is this: joy comes from God. A gift to be celebrated and shared.

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

One: Gracious God, whose joy infuses all of creation, come to us as joy.

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 joy to erupt, that we might bring joy to the world. Prepare new ways in us for your light to shine, that we might 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

Offering Ourselves & Our Gifts / Passing the Peace

One: The peace of God be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

GROUNDING

Community Prayer *(Joanna Harader – adapted)*

Holy God of joy, we rejoice in the reality of who you are. We live within the joy of your love for us. Our contentment comes and goes. Our happiness ebbs and flows. Our feelings depend upon circumstances in our lives – our environment, our health and wellbeing, our brain chemistry – and circumstances in the world around us. But our joy is deeply rooted in our identity as your beloved children. And we give you thanks. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Special Music

Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus **2** it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. **3** Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. **4** Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. (God) will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. (God) will come and save you." **5** Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; **6** then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in

the wilderness, and streams in the desert; **7** the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

8 A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

9 No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. **10** And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Choral Alleluia

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 11:2-10

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples **3** and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?"

4 Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: **5** the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. **6** And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

7 As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? **8** What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. **9** What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. **10** This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'"

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

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Choral Alleluia

Sermon: "Managing Expectations"

Song: "Joy Shall Come" (*tune: trad. Hebrew / lyrics: Isaiah 35:1-6*)

Joy shall come, even to the wilderness,
and the parched land shall then know great gladness;
as the rose, as the rose shall deserts blossom,
deserts like a garden blossom.
For living springs shall give cool water,
in the desert streams shall flow;
for living springs shall give cool water,
in the desert streams shall flow.

SHARING

Prayers of the People / Joys & Concerns

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

Sung Response (*tune: UMH #237, trad. French / lyrics: John Pritchard*)

God in Christ among us, hold us now, we pray.
Gather all our sorrows and our joys today.
Into us breathe the loving gift we need.
Let your Holy Spirit guide us as we leave.

ENGAGING

Closing Song: "This Little Light of Mine" (*African-American spiritual*)

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine (3x)
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Everywhere I go ...
All through the night ...
This little light of mine ...

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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