

# Calvary United Methodist Church

*A Reconciling Congregation*



*"With joy you will draw water  
from the wells of salvation."*

*- Isaiah 12:3*

**December 12, 2021**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

# CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

## GATHERING

**Prelude:** "Joy" (*Rend Collective*)

## **Welcome / Announcements**

### Announcements

- **Winterization Work Day postponed**
- **Advent themes:** Nov 28 (Hope), Dec 5 (Peace), Dec 12 (Joy), Dec 19 (Love)
- **Lectionary Discussion Group and On Being Discussion Group** (*both online and ongoing*)
  - contact Pastor Tim if interested

### Calendar

#### **Today**

- **1ish pm (following worship):** Hot Chocolate (etc.) on the Steps
- **8-9 pm:** Spiritual Reflection Group / Online Advent Retreat (*weekly through Advent*)
  - info at [allmeansall.org/spiritual](http://allmeansall.org/spiritual)

**Monday, Dec 13, 7-8 pm:** Online Advent Retreat (*weekly through Advent*)

- info at [allmeansall.org/advent](http://allmeansall.org/advent)

**Tuesday, Dec 14, 12-12:30 pm:** Midweek Prayer

- info at [allmeansall.org/faith-spirituality](http://allmeansall.org/faith-spirituality)

**Tuesday, Dec 21, 7:30 pm:** Longest Night Service (*West Philadelphia Mennonite Fellowship*)

- stay tuned for Zoom link next week

**Wednesday, Dec 22, 5:30-7:30 pm:** Calvary Kids Christmas Party

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

**Sunday, Dec 26, 11:15 am:** Virtual Worship

- join us for a simpler service celebrating Christmas!

## Visiting With Us?

We're glad you're here, for whatever reason you chose to join us! We invite you to fill out a Visitor Form at **[allmeansall.org/visitors](http://allmeansall.org/visitors)**; for those worshipping in person, someone will share a form with you during the service.

We strive to make our worship space (in person and virtual) as welcoming and accommodating of different needs as possible. If you have any concerns or questions regarding accessibility, 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](mailto:office@allmeansall.org)).

## **Singing Our Way In:** "The Breath of God" (*Rickie Byars*)

The breath of God is breathing me  
And breathing in the breath of God  
I know that all is well.

The light of God is light in me . . .  
The joy of God is joy in me . . .

## **Invitation to Holy Presence / Breath Prayer**

### **Call to Worship / Lighting the Advent Candle**

One: A reading from the prophet Zephaniah: "Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, (God) has turned away your enemies. . . . The LORD, your God, is in your midst, . . . (God) will rejoice over you with gladness . . . (and) renew you in (God's) love; (God) will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival."

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 dis-ease, 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 poverty and hunger, violence and injustice, 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 climate change and chaos, rising sea levels and rising temperatures, O God, we watch and wait, expectantly, for your light.

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

Sung Response: "Light a Candle Bright and Tall"

*(tune: UMH #92 / lyrics: David Wood)*

*Light a candle bright and tall  
For the Joy this season brings.  
Joy like fountains brimming full.  
Through our world now let it ring!  
Shine within our hearts today  
Come, O Joy, to us, we pray.*

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 Hymn: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

(UMH #211)

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)*

## Passing the Peace

One: The peace of God be with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

## CENTERING

**Community Prayer** *(Henri Nouwen, adapted)*

O God, master of both the light and the darkness, send your Spirit upon our Advent waiting and preparation for Christmas. We look forward to your coming among us. We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your voice. We who are anxious over many things seek the peace of your presence. We whose hearts are heavy

seek the joy of your presence. We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kin-dom.

We are your people, walking in darkness yet walking in hope, ever seeking the light. O come, o come, Emmanuel. Amen.

## **Silent Prayer**

## **Special Music** *(Calvary Choir)*

### **Scripture Lesson:** Isaiah 12:2-6

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might; (God) has become my salvation. **3** With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. **4** And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on (God's) name; make known (God's) deeds among the nations; proclaim that (God's) name is exalted. **5** Sing praises to the LORD, for (God) has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. **6** Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

## **Choral Alleluia**

### **Scripture Lesson:** Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. **5** Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. **6** Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. **7** And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

## **Choral Alleluia**

**Sermon:** "Joy-Full"

**Hymn of Response:** "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You"

*(UMH #89, with alternate lyrics)*

Joyful, joyful, we adore (you),  
God of glory, (source) of love;  
hearts unfold like flowers before (you),  
opening to the sun above.

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,  
drive the storms of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
fill us with the light of day.

All (your) works with joy surround (you),  
earth and heaven reflect (your) rays,  
stars and angels sing around (you),  
center of unbroken praise.

Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird and flowing fountain  
(teach us what our praise should be).

(You) are giving and forgiving,  
ever blessing, ever blest,  
wellspring of the joy of living,  
ocean depth of happy rest!  
(God Creator, Christ our brother,  
all who love belong to you);  
teach us how to love each other,  
(by that love our joy renew).

Mortals, join the mighty chorus  
which the morning stars began;  
love divine is reigning o'er us,  
binding all within its span.  
Ever singing, march we onward,  
victors in the midst of strife,  
joyful music leads us sunward  
in the triumph song of life.

## **SHARING**

### **Offering our Tithes and Gifts / Offertory**

### **Prayers of the People / Joys and Concerns**

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

### **Prayer Response** *(tune: UMH #175 / lyrics: John Pritchard)*

O living God, we wait for you,  
each wound, each rift to heal,  
each empty heart and life to fill,  
each day with joy to seal.

### **Closing Hymn: “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 . . .  
All around West Philly . . .  
This little light of mine . . .

## **ENGAGING**

### **Benediction**

### **Singing Our Way Out: “Let the Church Say Amen”**

Let the church say, “Amen” *(repeat)*  
God has spoken, let the church say, “Amen”

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## **Calvary United Methodist Church**

*at the corner of 48<sup>th</sup> & Baltimore / spirituality & justice*

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