

# Calvary Church

*A Reconciling Congregation*



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

**- Isaiah 12:3**

**December 15, 2024**

*3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent*

# CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

## GATHERING

**Gathering Song:** "Simply Because" (*Darlene McCoy*)

## Welcome & Announcements

- **Advent & Christmas at Calvary:** [allmeansall.org/advent](http://allmeansall.org/advent)
- **Healing Racism Within – A Course for White-Identified Leaders**
  - Tuesday, Dec 17 – Thursday, Dec 18, 7:30-9 pm
  - [sagelycreative.com/healing-racism-sign-up](http://sagelycreative.com/healing-racism-sign-up)
- **Previous sermons:** [allmeansall.org/sermons](http://allmeansall.org/sermons)
- **Previous bulletins:** [allmeansall.org/bulletins](http://allmeansall.org/bulletins)

## Calendar

### Today, Dec 15

- **12:45-2 pm:** "2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday" Potluck – Christmas Party
- **6:30 pm:** Big Push Christmas Benefit Concert for Calvary
  - [allmeansall.org/concert](http://allmeansall.org/concert)

### Tuesday, Dec 17

- **12-1 pm:** Midweek Prayer (*virtual / weekly*)
  - [allmeansall.org/midweek-prayer](http://allmeansall.org/midweek-prayer)
- **7 pm:** Church Council (*virtual*)

### Wednesday, Dec 18

- **7-8 pm:** Christmas Vigil (*Mennonite Action Philadelphia, et al*)
  - Philadelphia City Hall / Christmas Village in Dilworth Park
  - vigil witnessing against white Christian nationalism and Christian Zionism, and for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza
- **8-9 pm:** Spiritual Reflection Group (*virtual / also Sunday, Dec 22*)
  - [allmeansall.org/spiritual-reflection-group](http://allmeansall.org/spiritual-reflection-group)

**Saturday, Dec 21, 7-8 pm:** Blue Christmas Service (*hybrid*)  
• [allmeansall.org/blue](http://allmeansall.org/blue)

**Sunday, Dec 22**

- **9:15-10:15 am:** Bible Study – Matthew & Luke (*hybrid*)
- **11 am-12:30 pm:** Hybrid Worship (*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent*)

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

- [allmeansall.org/christmas](http://allmeansall.org/christmas)

**Sunday, Dec 29, 11 am-12 pm:** Virtual Worship (*1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas*)

- PLEASE NOTE: there will be no in-person option!

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**

### **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: We have prayed for hope and peace. As we light this candle, we pray joy. Joy for the young. Joy for the old. Joy for all people.

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

One: Joy in happiness. Joy in sadness. Joy at all times.

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

One: Joy in work. Joy in play. Joy in all things.

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

One: Alleluia!

**ALL: Alleluia!**

**Opening Song:** Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" (*UMH #89, tune: Ludwig van Beethoven / lyrics: Henry Van Dyke – adapted*)

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.

## **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** *(John van de Laar)*

In the darkest night, light radiates; in the driest wilderness,  
streams flow; in the most disorienting confusion, truth  
whispers; in the most turbulent storms, peace endures; in  
the shadow of death, life is born.

No matter what evil may do, no matter what destruction  
may come, no matter what death may threaten, we  
praise you, O God, that life and light and beauty are not  
overcome, And we commit to your call to live and

proclaim our commitment to put our faith in goodness.  
Amen.

## Silent Prayer

## Special Music

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

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and will not be afraid, for the HOLY ONE 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 on that day: "Give thanks to the HOLY ONE; 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 HOLY ONE, 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 *(UMH #186, Jerry Sinclair)*

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

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

Rejoice in the HOLY ONE always; again I will say, Rejoice. **5** Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The HOLY ONE is near. **6** Do not be anxious 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

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

**Sermon:** "Wells of Salvation"



**Song:** "To God Compose a Song of Joy" (tune: UMH #269, USA folk melody / lyrics: Ruth Duck)

To God compose a song of joy;  
to God make melody,  
whose arm of strength does wondrous things,  
whose hand brings victory!

Before the nations God reveals  
a just and righteous will,  
remembering in faithful love  
the house of Israel.

In every corner of the earth,  
God comes to save and free;  
break forth with shouts of holy joy;  
all lands, make melody.

With trumpet, with the sound of horns,  
with strings, yes, with the lyre,  
with voices praise the sov'reign God,  
O rousing, joyous choir.

Let seas in all their fullness roar,  
and people of all lands.  
Let mountains join and shout for joy,  
let rivers clap their hands.

The God of justice comes to save;  
let earth make melody!  
For God will judge with righteousness  
and rule with equity.

## **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.

## **ENGAGING**

**Closing Song:** "The Trees of the Field" (TFWS #2279, tune: Stuart Dauermann / lyrics: Steffi Geiser Ruben)

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;  
the mountains and the hills will break forth before you;  
there'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field,  
will clap, will clap their hands.

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands, (*clap 2x*)  
the trees of the field will clap their hands, (*clap 2x*)  
the trees of the field will clap their hands (*clap 2x*)  
while you go out with joy.

## **Benediction**

**Singing Our Way Out:** "Pool of Love" (Alexa Sunshine Rose, Murray Kyle)

May the pool of love we have gathered here  
Spread its wings and fly far and near  
From the depths of our hearts to the farthest star  
May our love bless everyone

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## **Calvary United Methodist Church**

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

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**Norris Person** (accompanist): [music@allmeansall.org](mailto:music@allmeansall.org)