

Calvary Church

A Reconciling Congregation



*"Then Mary said, 'Here am I,
the servant of God; let it be
with me according to your word.'"*

- Luke 1:38a

December 17, 2023

3rd Sunday of Advent

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Nurturing Resilience, Practicing Active Hope

GATHERING

Gathering Song: "This Joy" (*Resistance Revival Chorus*)

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
- **Spring Retreat:** June 7-8/9 (location TBD)
- **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 17: 3rd Sunday of Advent

- **4-6 pm:** Confirmation Class
- **8-9 pm:** Online Advent Retreat – Spiritual Reflection Group (*virtual*)
 - allmeansall.org/spiritual-reflection-group

Tuesday, Dec 19, 12-1 pm: Midweek Prayer (*virtual*)

- allmeansall.org/midweek-prayer

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*)
 - allmeansall.org/christmas

Sunday, Dec 31, 11:15 am-12:45 pm: Hybrid Worship

Wednesday, Jan 3, 7:30-8:30ish pm: Spirituality on Tap

- Gojjo / 4540 Baltimore Ave
- allmeansall.org/spirituality-on-tap

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: "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, open wide

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: "People, Look East" (*UMH #202, tune: trad. French carol / lyrics: Elanor Farjeon – adapted*)

People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.

Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.

People, look east: Love, the Guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there.

Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flower may flourish.

People, look east: Love, the Rose, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim,
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.

People, look east: Love, the Star, is on the way.

Angels announce with shouts of mirth
(One) who brings new life to earth.

Set every peak and valley humming
with the word, (Emmanuel's) coming.

People, look east: Love, (our Guide), is on the way.

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 so often upon our circumstances, our

physical health, our brain chemistry. But our joy is deeply rooted in our identity as your beloved children, and we give you thanks.

Open our eyes and hearts to see ourselves, to see and engage each other, as those who are beloved. Open our hands to the hard work of justice and peace in the world we share with all Creation, putting flesh again – and always – on your coming kingdom of love. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Special Music

Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 61:1-4

The spirit of the HOLY ONE is upon me, because the HOLY ONE has anointed me; God has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; **2** to proclaim the year of God's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; **3** to provide for those who mourn in Zion – to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the HOLY ONE, to display God's glory. **4** They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

Choral Alleluia

Scripture Lesson: Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, **27** to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. **28** And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! God is with you."

29 But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. **30** The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. **31** And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. **32** He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. **33** He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

34 Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" **35** The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. **36** And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. **37** For nothing will be impossible with God."

38 Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of God; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Choral Alleluia

Sermon: "Seeing with New Eyes"

Song: "We'll Be at Home" (*tune: UMH #453, William P. Doane / lyrics: John Pritchard*)

Come, God, renew the earth; bring us your peace.
Let war be learned no more, all conflicts cease.
Let lambs with wolves lie down,
in safety all be found.
We'll be at home in your shalom.

Come, God, renew our world; all things refresh.
Touch every wound and heal, broken ones bless.

Blind eyes with sight be found,
mute tongues with praise abound.
We'll be at home in your shalom.

Come, God, renew our lives; give us your grace.
Touch every heart until all know your face.
Earth's every good we'll share,
for one another care.
We'll be at home, in your shalom.

Come, God, renew all things; grant a new start.
Unlock the chains we wear; open our hearts.
Grant each a welcome place,
a friend in every face.
We'll be at home in your shalom.

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: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" *(UMH #211, tune: 15th cent. 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)*

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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