

Calvary Church

A Reconciling Congregation



*"When Joseph awoke from sleep,
he did as the angel of the
Lord commanded him ..."*

- Matthew 1:24a

December 18, 2022

4th Sunday of Advent

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

GATHERING

Prelude: "The Trumpet Child" (*Over the Rhine*)

*You're invited to be in silence during the Prelude,
as we transition together into this sacred time and space.*

Welcome / Announcements

- **Stewardship pledge form:** tinyurl.com/calvary-2023
- **Offerings:** White Basket – PA Interfaith Power & Light / Red Basket – ODECOIN
- **Worship volunteers:** tinyurl.com/worship-help

Calendar

Today

- **5-7 pm: Calvary Kids / Youth Group Christmas Party**
- **7:30-8:30 pm:** Spiritual Reflection Group – Online Advent Retreat
 - info at allmeansall.org/spiritual-reflection-group

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

- info at allmeansall.org/blue

Tuesday, Dec 20

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

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, with West Philadelphia Mennonite Fellowship*)

- info at allmeansall.org/christmas

Sunday, Dec 25: NO worship – Merry Christmas!

Sunday, Jan 1, 11:15 am-12:45 pm: Hybrid Worship, with Communion

Sunday, Jan 8

- **1-2ish pm (following worship):** 2nd Sunday Potluck

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: "Open Unto Me" (*tune: Richard Bruxvoort Colligan / lyrics: Anne Thurman, based on Howard Thurman prayer*)

Open unto me light for my darkness

Light for my darkness open unto me

Open unto me light for my darkness

Open unto me, O God

Open unto me strength for my weakness ...

Open unto me peace for my turmoil ...

Open unto me joy for my sorrow ...

Call to Worship / Lighting the Advent Candle (*inspired by Psalm 80*)

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: Holy One, healer of the world, open us to receive your unfailing love.

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

One: Holy One, bearer of brokenness, embolden us to share your love with others.

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

One: Gracious God, whose love is at the heart of our being, all being, come to us as love.

ALL: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

One: As we light this Advent candle, ready us for your promised coming. Prepare new ways in us, in our hearts, for your love to grow. 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 *(Steve Garnaas-Holmes – adapted)*

God of mystery, Spirit of birth, in dark times you come to us – in scripture, in strangers, in dreams. Speak to us now. Let us hear your promise, and trust in our bones the coming of your blessing and your sure presence among us. O come, O come, Emmanuel. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Special Music

Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 7:10-16

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, **11** Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. **12** But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. **13** Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? **14** Therefore the Lord ... will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. **15** He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. **16** For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

Choral Alleluia

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. **19** Her husband Joseph, being a

righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. **20** But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. **21** She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." **22** All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: **23** "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." **24** When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, **25** but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Choral Alleluia

Sermon: "It Takes a Village"

Song: "Christmas Come Close" (*tune: Lim Swee Hong / lyrics: Shirley Erena Murray*)

Christmas come close in a child's crumpled face,
to the ragged and raw in a harsh birthing place,
in a surging of joy, in a bundle held tight,
in a breath, in a cry through the dark of the night.

Christmas come close to the place where we are,
in our longing for peace, for a sign, for a star,
for a certainty born in uncertainty's space,
for a mystery grasped that our blindness can trace.

Christmas come close to the world that is bleak,
giving hope a new home, making prophecy speak:
so the angels will sing, and the wise will be heard,
and the powers will take heed of this child and his word.

Christmas come close into focus and frame,
to humanity's heart for the child to make claim:
for the poor to be served, for the rich to kneel low,
for Magnificat now in the Christmas we know.

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: "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me" *(TFWS #2153, African-American spiritual)*

I'm gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime! *(repeat)*

I'm gonna work so ...
I'm gonna pray so ...

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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