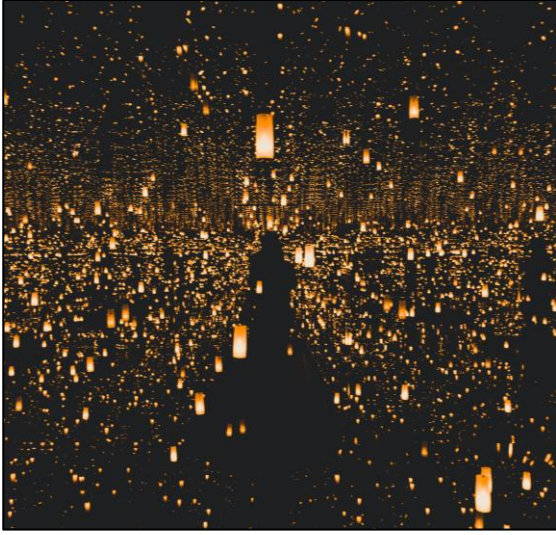


Calvary Church

A Reconciling Congregation



"You are the light of the world."

- Matthew 5:14a

December 28, 2025

1st Sunday after Christmas

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

GATHERING

Gathering Song: “Love Has Come” (*tune: trad. French carol / lyrics: Ken Bible*)

Welcome & Announcements

• **Visiting with us?**

- We're glad you're here! We strive to make our worship space—in-person and virtual—as welcoming and accommodating of different needs as possible. If you have questions, concerns or suggestions, please contact Pastor Tim.

• **Congregational giving** (*rounded*)

- Dec 15-21: \$2,458 / weekly budget: \$1,827

• **Congregational feedback survey:** coming in January

• **Upcoming book study:** Jesus and the Disinherited (*Howard Thurman*)

- allmeansall.org/book-study
- beginning week of Jan 12 (exact timing TBD)

• **PA-IPL Annual Convening Watch Party:** Sunday, Jan 25, 2-4 pm

- allmeansall.org/convening
- virtual workshops also offered Jan 26-29, 7-8 pm
- contact Sparrow to join others from Calvary, or to get involved in Calvary's PA-IPL/Green Team: sprwfrancis@gmail.com

• **Previous sermons:** allmeansall.org/sermons

• **Previous bulletins:** allmeansall.org/bulletins

Calendar

Monday, Dec 29, 6:30-7:30 pm: Yoga (*weekly*)

- Calvary (Chapel) – 48th St entrance
- allmeansall.org/yoga

Tuesday, Dec 30, 3 pm: Midweek Prayer (*weekly*)

- allmeansall.org/midweek-prayer
- 1st, 3rd & 5th Tuesdays: 3 pm / 2nd & 4th: 6 pm

Wednesday, Dec 31

- **10-11 am:** Yoga (weekly)
 - see Dec 29 for details
- **12 pm:** Interfaith Prayer Vigils for Immigrant Justice (weekly / New Sanctuary Movement of Philadelphia)
 - Philadelphia ICE Office / 114 N 8th St
 - contact Pastor Tim to get involved with Calvary's NSM Team

Saturday, Jan 3, 1 pm: Meditation (weekly)

- Calvary (Board Room – upstairs) – 48th St entrance
- westphillyinsight.org

Sunday, Jan 4

- **11 am-12:30 pm:** Hybrid Worship (Communion / 2nd Sunday after Christmas / Epiphany – observed)
- **8-9 pm:** Spiritual Reflection Group
 - allmeansall.org/spiritual-reflection-group

Monday, Jan 5, 6-7:30 pm: POWER Interfaith Philly Turnout Training

- contact Mimi for details to connect virtually, or to get involved with Calvary's POWER Team:
rmijima@gmail.com
- PLEASE NOTE: training is in preparation for POWER's Assembly on Affordability, **Sunday, Feb 1, 3 pm**

Wednesday, Jan 7, 7-8ish pm: Spirituality on Tap (monthly – 1st Wednesdays)

- Dahlak / 4708 Baltimore Ave
- allmeansall.org/spirituality-on-tap

Sunday, Jan 11

- **11 am-12:30 pm:** Hybrid Worship (1st Sunday after the Epiphany)
- **12:45-2 pm:** 2nd Sunday Potluck (monthly)
 - allmeansall.org/2nd-sunday-potluck

CENTERING & CONNECTING

Breathing Our Way In

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 (Susan Derber – adapted)

One: At the threshold of a new year, we come to
welcome hope for a new world. Let the darkness lift, to
welcome a dawn of plenty –

**ALL: with enough for everyone and every living thing, with
people ready to share.**

One: Let the day begin, with new energy for the struggle

**ALL: to protect our children, to care for the vulnerable, to
love our neighbors as we love ourselves.**

One: Let the light shine, to open a path to safety

ALL: for all who are seeking home and longing for life.

One: Let the sun rise on new talks and new resolve

**ALL: to end the bombing and the terror, and to find just
and peaceful solutions that will last.**

One: At the threshold of a new year, we come to assert
our faithful resilience, to practice active hope, to love a
new world into being.

**ALL: We come, following the One born among shepherds
and angels, the One whose holy light shows us the Way.
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Opening Song: "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" (UMH
#218, tune: Richard Storrs Willis / lyrics: Edmund H. Sears –
adapted)**

It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heaven's (gates to bring).

The world in solemn stillness lay,
to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains,
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow,
look now! for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road,
and hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophet seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world send back the song
which now the angels sing.

Passing the Peace

One: The peace of God be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

GROUNDING

Community Prayer (*Pat Bennett – adapted*)

Inspiring Word, move over the chaos within us, calling
forth form and order, that we may know you in our

shaping, and in the shaping, surrender our lives to yours.

Illuminating Word, pierce the darkness within us, calling forth insight and understanding, that we may know you in our seeing, and in seeing, follow the way of your kingdom.

Incarnate Word, indwell the life within us, calling forth passion and purpose, that we may know you in our living, and in living, embody you for the world. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Special Music: "This Little Light of Mine" (*Bruce Springsteen & the Sessions Band*)

Scripture Lesson: John 1:1-5, 14 (*A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church, Wilda C. Gafney*)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** The Word was with God in the beginning. **3** Everything came into being through the Word, and without the Word not one thing came into being. What has come into being **4** in the Word was life, and that life was the light of all people. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. ...

14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of a parent's only child, full of grace and truth.

Choral Alleluia (*UMH #186, Jerry Sinclair*)

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

Poems (*Jan Richardson*)

"Where the Light Begins – A Blessing for Christmas Day"

Perhaps it does not begin.

Perhaps it is always.

Perhaps it takes
a lifetime

to open our eyes,
to learn to see
what has forever
shimmered in front of us—
the luminous line
of the map
in the dark
the vigil flame
in the house
of the heart
the love
so searing
we cannot keep
from singing,
from crying out
in testimony
and praise.

Perhaps this day
will be the mountain
over which
the dawn breaks.
Perhaps we
will turn our face
toward it,
toward what has been
always.

Perhaps
our eyes
will finally open
in ancient recognition,
willingly dazzled,
illuminated at last.

Perhaps this day
the light begins
in us.

“Say the Light – A Blessing for Christmas Day”

Say the night
was long.

Say the angels
kept vigil,
and the creatures;
that the stars stood still
in their course.

Say even the shadows
held their breath,
stretched toward what
they could not see,
lending it their hiddenness
to shelter it from view.

Say at the darkest hour
the day broke
into astonished wonder,
that it arrived first
as song,
then as flesh,
then as love
radiant in its joy.
Say the light lives.

Say it will never spend itself,
that it is stubborn,
that it endures.

Say the light
is what we hold
for each other,
carrying it in the marrow,
the hollow of the heart
that splinters open in hope
to illumine
every shattered thing.

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)*

Silent Prayer & Reflection

"I Am Light" (India Arie)

Song: "Come Again, Poor Jesus" *(UMH #221, tune: Gustav Holst / lyrics: Steve Garnaas-Holmes – adapted)*

When our souls are wintry, when our hearts are cold,
come to us, dear Jesus, as you did of old.

When our hearts, unsheltered, feel the winds above,
come to us and warm us with your gentle love.

In the dark we wander, searching for our way,
waiting, lost, and longing for the light of day.

Dawn upon your children; fold us in your grace.
Child, be born among us. Show to us your face.

Shepherds on the hillside, poor, without a friend,
kept their watch in silence, vigil without end.

But then in the darkness, angels brought the word:

"God has not forgotten, and your prayers are heard."

To the simple, poor ones, Jesus came that night.

Come again, poor Jesus. Bless us with your light.

(Heart) of God, be with us in our joy and pain,
and companion us, Love, to new life again.

SHARING

Offering Our Gifts

allmeansall.org/time-talent / allmeansall.org/donate

*"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



Prayers of the People

"Thanks be to God" / "God hears 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: "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me" (*TFWS #2153, African American spiritual – adapted*)

I'm gonna live so God can use me
anywhere ... anytime!
I'm gonna live so God can use me,
anywhere ... anytime!
I'm gonna work so ...
I'm gonna pray so ...

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

Calvary United Methodist Church

*Celebrating 130 years at the intersection of
48th & Baltimore / spirituality & justice*

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(in case of pastoral emergency: 215.370.7411)

Norris Person (Music Minister): music@allmeansall.org
Shakirah Holloway (Office Administrator / Treasurer)

Beth Jemison, Bethany Weed, Cord Whitaker (Co-Lay Leaders)

Geraldine (Gerry) Felix (Church Council Chair)

Annie Haviland (Finance Committee Chair)

Jennine Miller (Staff-Parish Relations Committee Chair)

Carl Ballinger (Trustees Chair)

For full leadership roster: allmeansall.org/leadership