

# Calvary Church

*A Reconciling Congregation*



*“Above all, clothe yourselves  
with love, which binds everything  
together in perfect harmony.”*

**- Colossians 3:14**

**December 29, 2024**

*1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas*

# CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

## GATHERING

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

## **Welcome & Announcements**

- **Healing Racism Within – A Course for White-Identified Leaders**
  - [sagelycreative.com/healing-racism-sign-up](https://sagelycreative.com/healing-racism-sign-up)
- **Previous sermons:** [allmeansall.org/sermons](https://allmeansall.org/sermons)
- **Previous bulletins:** [allmeansall.org/bulletins](https://allmeansall.org/bulletins)
- **Spring Retreat:** May 16-17, 2025

## Calendar

**Thursday, Jan 2, 8-9ish pm:** Spirituality on Tap (*monthly – 1<sup>st</sup> Thursdays*)

- Carbon Copy / 701 S. 50<sup>th</sup> St
- [allmeansall.org/spirituality-on-tap](https://allmeansall.org/spirituality-on-tap)

**Saturday, Jan 4, 1 pm:** Meditation (*weekly*)

- Calvary (Board Room, upstairs on Baltimore Ave side)  
– please use 48th St entrance
- [witnessandintegrate@gmail.com](mailto:witnessandintegrate@gmail.com)

**Sunday, Jan 5**

- **11 am-12:30 pm:** Hybrid Worship  
(*Communion / Epiphany Sunday*)
- **8-9 pm:** Spiritual Reflection Group (*weekly, through Jan 26*)
  - [allmeansall.org/spiritual-reflection-group](https://allmeansall.org/spiritual-reflection-group)

**Tuesday, Jan 7, 7 pm:** Church Council (*rescheduled*)

**Sunday, Jan 12**

- **11 am-12:30 pm:** Hybrid Worship
- **12:45-2 pm:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Potluck (*monthly*)
  - [allmeansall.org/2nd-sunday-potluck](https://allmeansall.org/2nd-sunday-potluck)

**Monday, Jan 13, 6:30-7:30 pm:** Beginner Yoga (*weekly*)

- Calvary (Chapel) – please use 48<sup>th</sup> St entrance
- [allmeansall.org/yoga](http://allmeansall.org/yoga)

**Tuesday, Jan 14, 7:30 pm:** Trustees

**Wednesday, Jan 15, 10-11 am:** Beginner Yoga (*weekly*)

- Calvary (Chapel) – please use 48<sup>th</sup> St entrance
- [allmeansall.org/yoga](http://allmeansall.org/yoga)

**Sunday, Jan 26, 3-6 pm:** POWER Interfaith Housing Justice Assembly

- location TBA
- contact Pastor Tim to join others from Calvary, or to get involved with Calvary's POWER Team

### 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:** "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** (*Psalms 90:1-2*)

One: God, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

**ALL: Before the mountains were brought forth,**

One: or ever you had formed the earth and the world,

**ALL: from everlasting to everlasting, you are God.**

**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.

## 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** (*Maren C. Tirabassi – adapted*)

Creative God, you make all things new in heaven and on earth. We come to you on the threshold of a new year with new desires and old fears, new decisions and old controversies, new dreams and old weaknesses. Because you are a God of hope, we know that you create all the possibilities of the future. Because you are a God of love, we know that you accept all the mistakes of the past. Because you are the God of our faith, we enter your gates with thanksgiving and praise, we come into your presence with gladness and a joyful noise, and we serve and bless you. Amen.

### **Silent Prayer**

**Scripture Lesson:** Colossians 3:12-16

Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. **13** Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as God has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. **14** Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. **15** And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. **16** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

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

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

**Poem:** "To the New Year" (W.S. Merwin)

With what stillness at last  
you appear in the valley  
your first sunlight reaching down  
to touch the tips of a few  
high leaves that do not stir  
as though they had not noticed  
and did not know you at all  
then the voice of a dove calls  
from far away in itself  
to the hush of the morning  
so this is the sound of you  
here and now whether or not  
anyone hears it this is  
where we have come with our age  
our knowledge such as it is  
and our hopes such as they are  
invisible before us  
untouched and still possible

**Choral Alleluia**

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

**Silent Prayer & Reflection**

"Divine Surrendering" (Doe Paoro)

**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**

### **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**

### **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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# Calvary United Methodist Church

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

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**Pastor Tim Emmett-Rardin:** [pastortim@allmeansall.org](mailto:pastortim@allmeansall.org)

(in case of pastoral emergency: 215.370.7411)

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

