

Calvary Church

A Reconciling Congregation



*"A shoot shall come out from
the stump of Jesse, and a branch
shall grow out of his roots."*

- Isaiah 11:1

December 4, 2022

2nd Sunday of Advent

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

GATHERING

Prelude: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" (performed by The Piano Guys)

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

Welcome / Announcements

- **Advent/Christmas at Calvary:** allmeansall.org/advent
- **White basket offerings:** Dec 4 (POWER), Dec 11 (New Sanctuary Movement), Dec 18 (PA Interfaith Power & Light)
- **Worship volunteers:** sign up at tinyurl.com/worship-help

Calendar

Today

- **5 pm:** Church Council
- **7:30-8:30 pm:** Spiritual Reflection Group – Online Advent Retreat
 - info at allmeansall.org/spiritual-reflection-group

Tuesday, Dec 6

- **12-1 pm:** Midweek Prayer
 - info at allmeansall.org/midweek-prayer
- **6 pm:** POWER West/SW Cluster Meeting
 - contact Eriks (eriksslush@hotmail.com) to get involved with Calvary's POWER Team

Thursday, Dec 8, 7-8:15 pm: Community Rhythm Circle

- info at allmeansall.org/community-rhythm-circle

Sunday, Dec 11

- **11:15 am-12:45 pm:** Hybrid Worship (3rd Sunday of Advent)
- **1-2:30ish pm:** 2nd Sunday Potluck – White Elephant Gift Exchange
 - bring money for pizza, OR bring a salad, drinks or Christmas cookies if you can
 - bring a wrapped gift (no more than \$5!) if you can

Sunday, Dec 18

- **11:15 am-12:45 pm:** Hybrid Worship (*4th Sunday of Advent*)
- **5 pm:** Calvary Kids/Youth Group Christmas Party
 - location TBD
 - contact Pastor Tim for details or to RSVP

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

Wednesday, Dec 21, 7 pm: Blue Christmas Service (*virtual*)

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

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: "I've Got Peace Like a River" (*TFWS #2145, African-American spiritual*)

I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river
I've got peace like a river in my soul. (*repeat*)

I've got joy like a fountain ...
I've got love like an ocean ...

Call to Worship / Lighting the Advent Candle* (*Susan A. Blain – adapted*)

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: We dream God's dream, of a world at peace; where enemies are reconciled and children play in safety; where the poor and powerless find justice.

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

One: We remember God's promise of peace. We await the One called Prince of Peace; filled with God's Spirit, with wisdom and understanding, with love and justice.

Sung Response: "Light a Candle Bright and Tall" (tune: UMH #578, Joachim Neander / lyrics: David Wood)

*Light a candle bright and tall
for the Peace within our world;
Peace that heard the ages' call,
as the stars and planets whirled.
Shine within our hearts today,
come, O Peace, to us, we pray.*

One: Gracious God, whose peace surpasses all understanding, come to us as peace.

ALL: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

One: As we light this Advent candle, ready us for your coming. Prepare new ways in us for your peace to prosper, that we might be peacemakers in a conflicted world. 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 *(John Van de Laar – adapted)*

We celebrate, O God, the dream of peace: not only the absence of conflict, but the presence of true compassion and community. We celebrate the dream of justice: not only appropriate consequence, but radical, inclusive dignity and equality. We celebrate the dream of goodness: not only an end to corruption and evil, but the nurture of extravagant integrity and love. Here and now, O God, we give you thanks for both the dream and the reality of your shalom. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Special Music

Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-9

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. **2** The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. **3** His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; **4** but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. **5** Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

6 The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. **7** The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. **8** The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. **9** They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

Choral Alleluia

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, **2** "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." **3** This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" **4** Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. **5** Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out

to him, and all the region along the Jordan, **6** and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. **7** But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? **8** Bear fruit worthy of repentance. **9** Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. **10** Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

11 "I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. **12** His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Choral Alleluia

Sermon: "J is for ..."

Song*: "The Prophets Caught a Vision" (*tune: UMH #545, Samuel Sebastian Wesley / lyrics: David Bjorlin*)

The prophets caught a vision too thrilling to ignore
of children leading nations no longer armed for war,
of weapons used for planting and wolf and lamb at play,
of wild things all conspiring, preparing God's own way.

The prophets sought a vision,
a dream of God's own reign,
where peace embraces justice and joy eclipses pain.
And though such dreams seem useless,
their purposes grow clear:

to free minds long held captive
and loose hearts gripped by fear.

God, grow in us a vision beyond our common dreams,
that wakes imaginations asleep in selfish schemes.
Then rising up together, your vision as our goal,
we work toward that great promise
a shattered world made whole.

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.

Communion / Great Thanksgiving (*Steve Garnass-Holmes & John Pritchard – adapted*)

One: Beloved, God is with you.

ALL: And also with you.

One: Open your hearts.

ALL: We open them to God and to each other.

One: Let us give thanks to our God, the faithful One.

ALL: It is good to give God thanks and praise.

One: We thank you, God, for in the beginning, in the darkness and void, you brought forth light. You brought forth life. You prepared creation for us. In the image of love, you created us. And in our brokenness, you long to make us whole, to free us from all that diminishes life. You judge the forces of oppression. You level the ridges and fill in the canyons, and make a way smooth for your people. You prepare for us a way toward justice, and guide our feet in the way of peace. And so, at your

invitation we come to this table you have prepared for us. With your people on earth, with all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join the unending hymn:

ALL SING (TFWS #2257-b, tune: Mark Miller / lyrics: UM Hymnal):

Holy, holy, holy Lord; God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest! (3x)

Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest! (3x)

One: Blessed is the one who comes in your name, and blessed is Jesus, your Christ, who embodied your love. He made room for the poor and outcast, and held sacred space for those who were broken. In his love he showed us how to live, and prepared a way to follow.

At their final meal together ... And so we remember. We break the bread and share the cup to remember, and to taste the same Spirit and feast on the same promise and renew our commitment to the same path, even as we wait, expectantly, in the mystery of faith:

ALL SING (TFWS #2257-c, tune: Mark Miller / lyrics: UM Hymnal):

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Hosanna in the highest! (3x)

One: Stir up your Spirit among us, gathered in person and virtually, as we feast on the bread and cup of promise and new life. Stir up courage in us to wait in hope. Stir up strength in us to work for justice. Stir up love in us to hold onto each other and to give each other life. Stir among us, O God, that we may become flesh in which your way of peace is born. Come, Emmanuel, waken us; renew us, evoke our praise:

ALL SING (TFWS #2257-d, tune: Mark Miller / lyrics: UM Hymnal):

Amen. Amen. Amen.

Hosanna in the highest! (3x)

Sung Response: "Let Us Break Bread Together" (UMH #618, African-American spiritual)

Let us break bread together on our knees. *(repeat)*

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O, Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees ...

Let us praise God together on our knees ...

ENGAGING

Closing Song: "May You Run and Not Be Weary" (*alternate tune & refrain: UMH #525, Charles Albert Tindley / lyrics: TFWS #2281, Paul Murakami & Handt Hanson*)

May you run and not be weary.

May your heart be filled with song.

And may the love of God continue
to give you hope and keep you strong.

And may you run and not be weary.

May your life be filled with joy!

And may the road you travel always lead you home.

Refrain

*By and by, when the morning comes,
when the saints of God are gathered home,
we'll tell the story how we've overcome,
for we'll understand it better by and by.*

Benediction

Singing Our Way Out: "Go Now in Peace" (UMH #665, Natalie Sleeth)

Go now in peace, go now in peace,
may the love of God surround you
everywhere, everywhere, you may go.

Calvary United Methodist Church

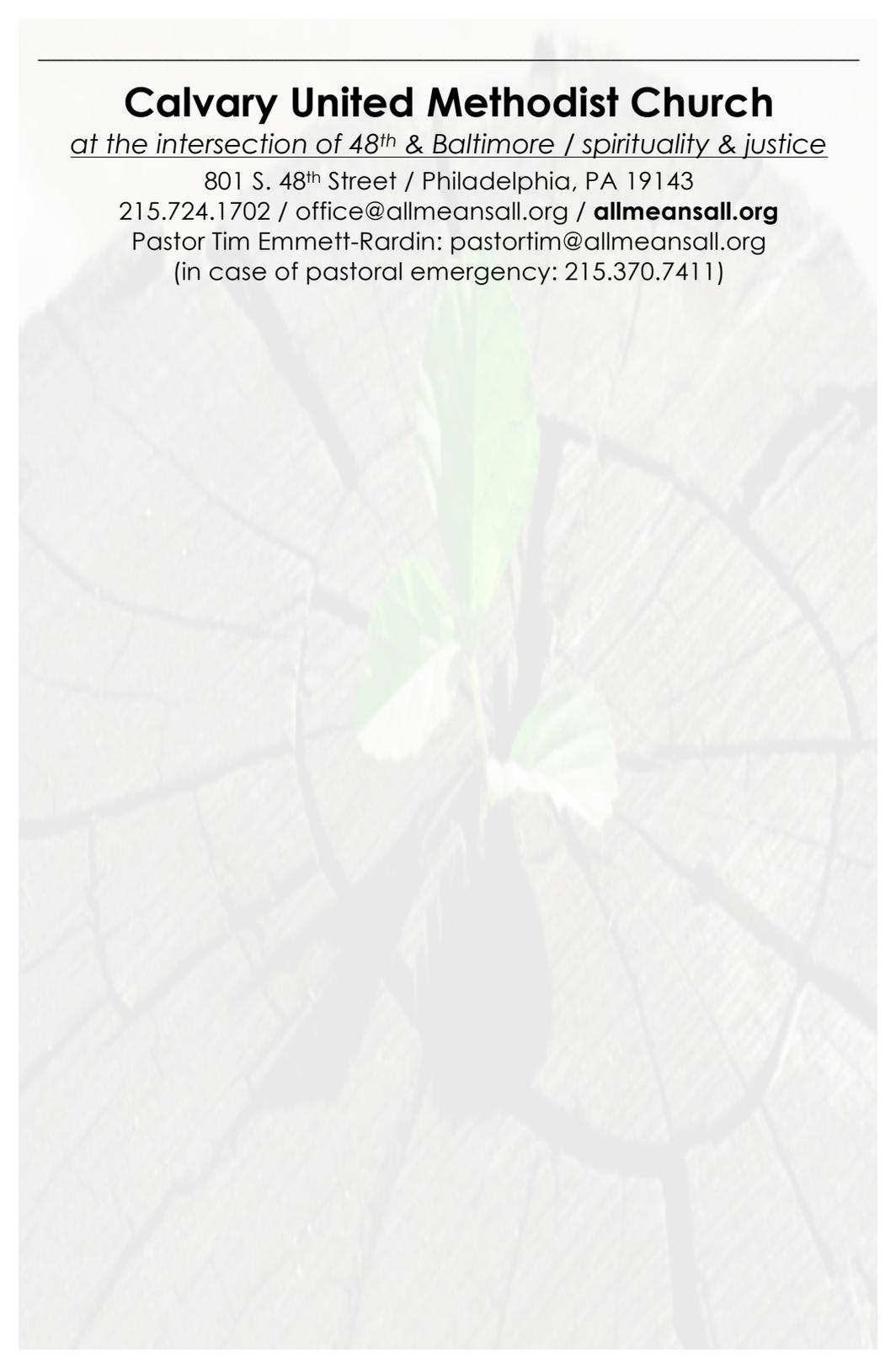
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A small, vibrant green plant with several leaves is growing out of a crack in a grey, textured stone surface. The background is a soft-focus, light grey image of the same stone texture, creating a sense of depth and natural growth.