

# Calvary Church

*A Reconciling Congregation*



*“Bear fruit worthy of repentance.”*

**- Matthew 3:8**

**December 7, 2025**

*2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent*

# CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

## GATHERING

**Gathering Song:** “We Gotta Have Peace” (*Curtis Mayfield*)

### **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.

- **Advent/Christmas offerings and opportunities**

- [allmeansall.org/advent](http://allmeansall.org/advent)

- **Congregational giving** (*rounded*)

- Nov 24-30: \$1,003 / weekly budget: \$1,827

- **“Red Basket” special offering through Dec 21**

- Reconciling Ministries Network: [rmnetwork.org / allmeansall.org/donate](http://rmnetwork.org/allmeansall.org/donate)

- **Previous sermons:** [allmeansall.org/sermons](http://allmeansall.org/sermons)

- **Previous bulletins:** [allmeansall.org/bulletins](http://allmeansall.org/bulletins)

## Calendar

### **Today, Dec 7**

- **3-4:30 pm:** Celebrate Stewardship – Philly Interfaith Environmental Gathering (*PA Interfaith Power & Light*)
  - Calvary (Chapel) – 48<sup>th</sup> St entrance
  - contact Pastor Tim if interested, or Sparrow to get involved with Calvary's PA-IPL/Green Team: [sprwfrancis@gmail.com](mailto:sprwfrancis@gmail.com)
- **3-6 pm:** Taking Action Against Authoritarianism (*New Sanctuary Movement of Philadelphia*)
  - location TBA (registration required)
  - contact Pastor Tim if interested in participating, or to get involved with Calvary's NSM Team

- **8-9 pm:** Spiritual Reflection Group (*virtual / weekly, through Dec 21*)

- [allmeansall.org/spiritual-reflection-group](http://allmeansall.org/spiritual-reflection-group)

## **Monday, Dec 8**

- **6 pm:** Charge Conference
  - Calvary (Board Room) – 48<sup>th</sup> St entrance
- **6:30-7:30 pm:** Yoga (*weekly*)
  - Calvary (Chapel) – 48<sup>th</sup> St entrance
  - [allmeansall.org/yoga](http://allmeansall.org/yoga)

## **Tuesday, Dec 9, 6 pm:** Midweek Prayer (*virtual / weekly*)

- [allmeansall.org/midweek-prayer](http://allmeansall.org/midweek-prayer)
- 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays: 3 pm / 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>: 6 pm

## **Wednesday, Dec 10**

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

## **Thursday, Dec 11, 7 pm:** POWER Interfaith West-Southwest Cluster (*monthly – 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursdays*)

- contact Mimi for details, or to get involved in Calvary's POWER Team: [rmijima@gmail.com](mailto:rmijima@gmail.com)

## **Saturday, Dec 13, 1 pm:** Meditation (*weekly*)

- Calvary (Board Room) – 48<sup>th</sup> St entrance
- [westphillyinsight.org](http://westphillyinsight.org)

## **Sunday, Dec 14**

- **11 am-12:30 pm:** Hybrid Worship (*3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent*)
- **12:45-2 pm:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Potluck – Christmas Edition (*monthly*)
  - Calvary (Fellowship Hall) – 48<sup>th</sup> St entrance
  - [allmeansall.org/2nd-sunday-potluck](http://allmeansall.org/2nd-sunday-potluck)

**Monday, Dec 15, 7-8:30 pm:** Grief Support Group (*virtual*)

- [allmeansall.org/grief](http://allmeansall.org/grief)

**Sunday, Dec 21**

- **11 am-12:30 pm:** Hybrid Worship (*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent*)
  - guest preacher: Cara Blouin
- **7 pm:** Blue Christmas Service (*hybrid*)
  - Calvary (Chapel) – 48<sup>th</sup> St entrance; use link below for details to connect virtually
  - [allmeansall.org/blue](http://allmeansall.org/blue)

## **CENTERING & CONNECTING**

### **Breathing Our Way In**

**Singing Our Way In:** “Drawing Nearer” (*Christopher Grundy*)

Even in the midst of all of this,  
trouble on the news, no peace within,  
still there is a light in the distance,  
drawing nearer, drawing nearer.

So, open up our eyes to see your light.  
Open up our arms, they're clenched so tightly.  
Come in like a thief and steal our hearts  
like a baby, like a baby.

**Lighting the Advent Candle – Peace** (*Joanna Harader, John Humphries, Susan Wickham – adapted*)

One: As we continue our Advent journey, we light the candle of peace.

Let us pray. Even in the midst of all of this, O God, grant us the courage to make peace, to make way for peace. We pray peace. Peace for all people. Peace for all places. ... Peace for all times. Peace for all situations. Peace for all circumstances. ... Peace in our hearts. Peace in our minds. Peace in our bodies. ... Peace in our homes. Peace in our communities. Peace in our world. ... Peace within. Peace without. Amen.

**ALL (sung): 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.**

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.***

**Call to Worship** (J. Puls, G. Cashmore – adapted)

One: God of surprises, you call us from the narrowness of  
our traditions to new ways of being church,

**ALL: from the captivities of our culture to creative witness  
for justice,**

One: from the smallness of our horizons to the bigness of  
your vision.

**ALL: Clear the way in us, your people.**

One: Jesus, wounded healer, you call us from  
preoccupation with our own histories and hurts to the  
daily tasks of peacemaking,

**ALL: from privilege to pilgrimage,**

One: from insularity to inclusive community.

**ALL: Clear the way in us, your people.**

One: Holy, transforming Spirit, you call us from fear to  
faithfulness and from clutter to clarity,

**ALL: from a desire to control to deeper trust,**

One: from the refusal to love to a readiness to risk.

**ALL: Clear the way in us, your people, that we might all  
know the beauty and power and danger of the gospel.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Opening 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.

### **Passing the Peace**

One: The peace of God be with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

### **GROUNDING**

**Community Prayer** (*Revised Common Lectionary Prayers – inspired by Isaiah 11:1-10*)

Laboring God, with axe and winnowing fork you clear a holy space where hurt and destruction have no place, and a little child holds sway. Clear our lives of hatred and despair, sow seeds of joy and peace, that shoots of hope may spring forth and we may live in harmony with one another. Amen.

### **Silent Prayer**

### **Special Music**

**Scripture Lesson:** Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. **2** The spirit of the HOLY ONE 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 HOLY ONE. **3** His delight shall be in the fear of the HOLY ONE. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, **4** but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed 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 will feed 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 HOLY ONE as the waters cover the sea. **10** On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

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

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

**Scripture Lesson:** Matthew 3:1-12 (*A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church, Wilda C. Gafney – adapted*)

In those days John the Baptizer appeared preaching in the wilderness of Judea, **2** and saying, "Repent, for the realm of the heavens is 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 Most High; make God's paths straight.'" **4** Now John had for his clothing camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist,

and his food was locusts and wild honey. **5** Then Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the whole region of the Jordan, **6** and they were baptized in the river Jordan by him, confessing their sins.

**7** But when John saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?"

**8** Bear fruit worthy of repentance. **9** And 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** The axe is already lying at the root of the trees; therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. **11** Indeed, I baptize you with water for repentance, but after me is coming one more powerful than I; 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**

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

### **Sermon: "Trees of Life"**

**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**

### **Offering Our Gifts**

[allmeansall.org/time-talent](http://allmeansall.org/time-talent) / [allmeansall.org/donate](http://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.

**Communion / The 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 - adapted):*

**Holy, holy, holy (One); 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 (our God).**

**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.

As often as we break the bread and share the cup, we remember the life of Jesus and all that we see of you and your love in that life. We taste the same Spirit, we feast on the same promise, and renew our commitment to follow the same path, proclaiming together the mystery at the heart of our 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 and through 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:** "Eat This Bread" (UMH #628, tune: Robert Batastini & Taizé Community / lyrics: Jacques Berthier)

Eat this bread, drink this cup,  
come to me and never be hungry.  
Eat this bread, drink this cup,  
trust in me and you will not thirst.

## **ENGAGING** **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.

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## **Calvary United Methodist Church**

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

801 S. 48<sup>th</sup> Street / Philadelphia, PA 19143

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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** (Music Minister): [music@allmeansall.org](mailto: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](http://allmeansall.org/leadership)