

# Calvary Church

*A Reconciling Congregation*



*“And the Spirit immediately  
drove him out into the wilderness.”  
- Mark 1:12*

**February 18, 2024**  
*1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent*

# CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

## Black History Month

### GATHERING

**Gathering Song:** "I Hope" (Meah Pace, with The Resistance Revival Chorus)

### **Welcome & Announcements**

(also available at [allmeansall.org/announcements](http://allmeansall.org/announcements))

- **Lent & Holy Week:** [allmeansall.org/lent](http://allmeansall.org/lent)
- **Lenten Prayer Chain:** [allmeansall.org/lent](http://allmeansall.org/lent)
- **Community Projects:** Harrington Elementary School, Grace Cafe, Sankofa Community Farm
  - [allmeansall.org/community-projects](http://allmeansall.org/community-projects)
- **Spring Retreat at Pendle Hill:** June 7-8 (9)
  - [allmeansall.org/retreats](http://allmeansall.org/retreats)
- **Previous sermons:** [allmeansall.org/sermons](http://allmeansall.org/sermons)
- **Previous bulletins:** [allmeansall.org/bulletins](http://allmeansall.org/bulletins)

### Calendar

**Today, Feb 18, 8-9 pm:** Spiritual Reflection Group (weekly, through Mar 24)

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

### **Monday, Feb 19**

- **11:30 am (or 1 pm)-4 pm:** Roadmap to Justice – POWER Interfaith Convention (statewide)
  - East Norriton
  - contact Pastor Tim to join others from Calvary
- **8-9 pm:** Book Study – Poverty, by America

### **Tuesday, Feb 20**

- **12-1 pm:** Midweek Prayer
  - [allmeansall.org/midweek-prayer](http://allmeansall.org/midweek-prayer)
- **7 pm:** Church Council

**Sunday, Feb 25, 11:15 am-12:45 pm:** Hybrid Worship

**Saturday, Mar 2, 11:30 am-3 pm:** Mass Poor People's Campaign & Low Wage Worker's Statehouse Assemblies  
(PA Poor People's Campaign)

- PA State Capitol (Harrisburg)
- [poorpeoplescampaign.org](http://poorpeoplescampaign.org)
- contact Pastor Tim to join others from Calvary

**Saturdays, Mar 2 & 9, 2-5 pm:** Calvary Workdays

- sign up at [office@allmeansall.org](mailto:office@allmeansall.org)

**Saturday, Mar 16, 3 pm:** Homegoing Service for Duke Campbell

### 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 or sign up online. Our **Calvary Connections e-newsletter** goes out every Thursday night.

## **CENTERING & CONNECTING**

### **Breathing Our Way In**

#### **Singing Our Way In: "I Am Enough"**

I am enough, I am beloved  
That's a promise straight from God above  
But God dwells, too, within my soul  
Casts out my fears, and makes me whole

You are enough ...

We are enough ...

### **Burying Our Alleluias**



**Call to Worship** *(A Sanctified Art)*

One: God meets us in the night—before the sun rises,  
before the wound heals,

**ALL: before there are answers, before there is closure.**

One: God meets us in the light—where joy is effervescent,  
where laughter is contagious,

**ALL: where flowers bloom from cracks in the sidewalk,  
and where people gather around the table.**

One: God meets us at the threshold—at the edge of the  
water, at the beginning of the wilderness,

**ALL: at the start of something new, on the edge of faith.**

One: And if God meets us in all those places, then surely  
God meets us in between—

**ALL: staying with us through the wilderness.**

One: We are not alone. God is all around.

**ALL: Let us worship the God of the here and now.**

**Opening Song:** “Lift Every Voice and Sing” *(UMH #519 / tune:  
J. Rosamond Johnson / lyrics: James Weldon Johnson)*

Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,  
ring with the harmonies of liberty;

let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies,  
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith  
that the dark past has taught us;

sing a song full of the hope  
that the present has brought us;

facing the rising sun of our new day begun,  
let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,  
felt in the days when hope unborn had died;

yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet  
come to the place for which our fathers sighed?

We have come over a way  
that with tears has been watered;

we have come, treading our path  
through the blood of the slaughtered,  
out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last  
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,  
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;  
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,  
keep us forever in the path, we pray.  
Lest our feet stray from the places,  
our God, where we met thee;  
lest, our hearts drunk with the wine  
of the world, we forget thee;  
shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand,  
true to our God, true to our native land.

### **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)*

Loving God, you establish your covenant with us, and you are gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. But we often struggle to be faithful to your covenant. Lead us with Jesus into the wilderness to confront our demons, to look more deeply into our shadows, and to find your blessing. By your Spirit, in the company of Christ, lead us to life. Amen.

#### **Silent Prayer**

#### **Special Music**

#### **Scripture Lesson:** Genesis 9:8-17

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, **9** "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, **10** and with every living creature

that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. **11** I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." **12** God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: **13** I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. **14** When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, **15** I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. **16** When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." **17** God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

**Sung Response:** "Open My Eyes" (*Jesse Manibusan – adapted*)

Open my ears, (God), help me to hear your voice.  
Open my ears, (God), help me to hear.

**Scripture Lesson:** Mark 1:9-15

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. **10** And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. **11** And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." **12** And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. **13** He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.



**14** Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, **15** and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

**Sung Response:** "Open My Eyes" (*Jesse Manibusan – adapted*)

Open my ears, (God), help me to hear your voice.

Open my ears, (God), help me to hear.

Open my heart, (God), help me to love like you.

Open my heart, (God), help me to love.

**Sermon:** "Wilderness Blessing"

**Song:** "Grant (Us) Your Vision" (*tune: UMH #451, trad. Irish melody / lyrics: Steve Garnaas-Holmes – adapted*)

Grant (us) your vision, O God of pure light.

May your deep wisdom and love give (us) sight.

Help (us) to see who (we) are as you see:

lovely and wounded and worth setting free.

Take (our) illusions, (our) fear(s) and (our) lies;  
shedding (our) veil(s), (God), (we) open (our) eyes,  
seeing (our) beauty, (our) wounds and (our) sin,  
past all pretending, in truth deep within.

Give (us) the eyes of your mercy and grace;

help (us) to see you in each time and place.

God, you who know (us), please guide (us), (we) pray,  
following Jesus in his loving way.

## **SHARING**

**Prayers of the People / Joys & Concerns**

"Thanks be to God" or "God hears our prayer"

**Sung Response** (tune: TFWS #2128, B.F. White / lyrics: John Pritchard)

Source of life and love o'erflowing,  
gather all the cares we bring.  
Hold our tears and hold our longing  
for a world where all can sing.  
Stir in us as hope resilient; breathe in us as life renewed.  
Bind our hearts in sure rejoicing  
in a world we share with you.

**ENGAGING**

**Closing Song:** "Guide My Feet" (TFWS #2208, African American spiritual)

Guide my feet while I run this race. (2x)  
Guide my feet while I run this race,  
for I don't want to run this race in vain!  
Hold my hand ...  
Stand by me ...  
I'm your child ...  
Search my heart ...

**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**

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