

Calvary Church

A Reconciling Congregation



*Transfiguration of Jesus
Armando Alemdar Ara*

*"Peter responded saying to Jesus,
'Teacher, it is good for us to be here.'"*

- Matthew 17:4a

February 19, 2023

*Last Sunday after the Epiphany
Transfiguration Sunday*

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Black History Month

Service of Healing

GATHERING

Prelude: "O Freedom" (*African American spiritual / perf. by The Golden Gospel Singers*)

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

Welcome / Greeting

CENTERING & CONNECTING

Breathing Our Way In / Breath Prayer

Singing Our Way In: "Circle Chant" (*Linda Hirschorn*)

Circle round for freedom, circle round for peace.

For all of us imprisoned, circle for release.

Circle for the planet, circle for each soul.

For the children of our children, keep the circle whole.

Call to Worship (*John van de Laar – adapted*)

One: You are the pre-dawn glow that promises yet
another new beginning;

ALL: It is good for us to be here in your radiant presence.

One: You are the still dusk that brings rest to a weary
world;

ALL: It is good for us to be here.

One: You are the prophecy of divine, life-giving Word
inscribed on our hearts;

ALL: It is good for us to be here.

One: You are the law that finds its fulfillment in love;

ALL: It is good for us to be here.

One: You are the mountain where the presence of God
blazes and burns;

ALL: It is good for us to be here.

One: You are the valley where the face of God peeks out from suffering eyes;

ALL: It is good for us to be here.

One: You are the whispered rumor of a different order, the bright light that transfigures all things.

ALL: You are the One we worship. Alleluia! Alleluia!

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 *(Christine Jerrett – adapted)*

We worship you, O God, with songs of praise. We worship you with words of prayer and with ears that listen for you to speak your saving truth into our lives. We worship you in the silent spaces where we struggle for hope and for courage. We long for a glimpse of your glory: the glory that shines in the darkness; the glory that touches lives with a beauty so holy that it heals the wounded soul; the glory that gives strength to the weary.

We, who stumble and fall so often, long for your light to shine upon us. Dazzle us with your holy love, draw us into your purifying presence, speak to us your transforming truth. Then, grant us grace to live every moment changed by such glory—daring to live with hope and courage and love reflecting the life of Jesus, through whom your glory shines in the most unexpected ways. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Special Music

Scripture Lesson: Exodus 24:12-18

The (Holy One) said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." **13** So Moses set out with

his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. **14** To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them." **15** Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. **16** The glory of the (Holy One) settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day (God) called to Moses out of the cloud. **17** Now the appearance of the glory of the (Holy One) was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. **18** Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

Choral Alleluia

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 17:1-9 (*A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church, Wilda C. Gafney*)

Six days (after Jesus told his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and biblical scholars, and be killed), Jesus took with him Peter and James and John his brother and brought them up a high mountain, by themselves. **2** And he was transfigured in front of them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. **3** Then, look! Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with him. **4** Peter responded saying to Jesus, "Teacher, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will pitch these three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." **5** He was still speaking when look! A cloud full of light overshadowed them! And then ... ! A voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!" **6** When the disciples heard this, they fell upon the ground and were very much afraid. **7** Then Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." **8** They looked up and they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. **9** As

they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, "Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Woman from the dead has been raised."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Choral Alleluia

Making Space for Healing

Invitation to the Mountain

Silent Prayer / Reflection

Ritual of Transfiguration

Song: "Mountains and Valleys" (*tune: UMH #578, Joachim Neander / lyrics: Helen Wiltshire*)

Stand upon a mountain peak;
hear the gravid stillness speak;
watch the golden dawn awake;
think of journeys love may take;
pause to breathe the misty air;
see God's glory dwelling there.

Hear the words of blessing fall;
sense a presence, touching all;
feel joy stirring deep within;
see transfigured life begin;
pause to breathe a thankful prayer;
see God's glory dwelling there.

Gaze upon the world below;
hear the cries of human woe;
take the path to valleys deep;
share the grief of all who weep;
pause to offer love and care;
see God's glory dwelling there.

Live with mindfulness and grace;
name each vale as sacred space;
share the warmth of love divine;
see shekhinah's* beauty shine;
love the complex world we share;
know God's glory dwelling there.

* *transliteration from Hebrew: presence of God in the world*

SHARING

Prayers of the People / Joys & Concerns

"Thanks be to God" or "God, hear our prayer"

Sung Response (*tune: UMH #473, Samuel Sebastian Wesley / lyrics: John Pritchard*)

Hear, O God. Hear the prayers we bring to you.
Come, and renew all of our days.
Hold every longing; hold every sorrow;
and lead us into your healing ways.

ENGAGING

Closing Song: "Lead On, O Cloud of Presence" (*TFWS #2234, tune: Henry T. Smart / lyrics: Ruth Duck – adapted*)

Lead on, O cloud of Presence, the exodus is come,
in wilderness and desert our tribe shall make its home.
Our slavery left behind us,
new hopes within us grow.
We seek the land of promise
where milk and honey flow.

Lead on, O fiery Pillar, we follow yet with fears,
but we shall come rejoicing though joy be born of tears.
We are not lost, though wandering,
for by your light we come,
and we are still God's people.
The journey is our home.

Lead on, O God of freedom, and guide us on our way,
and help us trust the promise through struggle and delay.
We pray (that all our children)
may journey to that land
where justice dwells with mercy,
and love is law's demand.

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"

Announcements

- **Winter clothing drive for newly arriving immigrants:**
 - allmeansall.org/clothing
- **Bible Study: Lectio(nary) Divina**
 - timing TBD / allmeansall.org/bible-study
 - contact Pastor Tim to sign up or with questions
- **Adult Ed Book Study: Original Blessing**
 - timing TBD / allmeansall.org/adult-ed
 - contact Pastor Tim to sign up or with questions
- **Worship volunteers:** tinyurl.com/worship-help

Calendar

Today, 7:30-8:30 pm: Spiritual Reflection Group

- weekly through Lent (Apr 2)
- allmeansall.org/spiritual-reflection-group

Tuesday, Feb 21

- **12-1 pm:** Midweek Prayer
 - allmeansall.org/midweek-prayer
- **7 pm:** Finance Committee

Wednesday, Feb 22, 7 pm: Service of Ashes (*Ash Wednesday*)

- allmeansall.org/lent

Sunday, Feb 26, 11:15 am-12:45 pm: Hybrid Worship (1st Sunday in Lent)

- guest preacher: Rev. Dr. Calenthia Dowdy, Director of Faith Initiatives at Philadelphia FIGHT

Monday, Feb 27, 6-9 pm: POWER Philly Political Education Training and Planning Session (*virtual*)

- also **Feb 28 in-person session** at Rodeph Shalom Synagogue (615 N. Broad St)
- info at powerinterfaith.org/calendar
- contact Eriks (eriksslush@hotmail.com) 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: pastortim@allmeansall.org / 215.724.1702.

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. Our **weekly Calvary Connections e-newsletter** goes out every Thursday evening.

Membership

Interested in joining our congregation? Contact Pastor Tim to learn more: pastortim@allmeansall.org / 215.724.1702.

Space Rental

If you or your group are looking to rent space at Calvary, please contact Meg Trelease and the **Calvary Center for Culture and Community**: office@calvary-center.org / 215.452.9666.

Calvary United Methodist Church

at the intersection of 48th & Baltimore / spirituality & justice

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