

# Calvary Church

*A Reconciling Congregation*



*“Do to others as you  
would have them do to you.”*  
- **Luke 6:31**

**February 23, 2025**  
*7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany*

# CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Black History Month

## GATHERING

**Gathering Song:** "Higher Ground" (Stevie Wonder / perf. by Playing for Change musicians around the world)

## Welcome & Announcements

- **Be part of the growing resistance:**
  - nationwide economic blackout, Friday, Feb 28: [thepeoplesunionusa.com](http://thepeoplesunionusa.com)
  - 50501 Movement: [fiftyfifty.one](http://fiftyfifty.one)
- **Lent @ Calvary:** [allmeansall.org/lent](http://allmeansall.org/lent)
- **Spring Retreat:** May 16-17, 2025 (location TBD)
- **Previous sermons:** [allmeansall.org/sermons](http://allmeansall.org/sermons)
- **Previous bulletins:** [allmeansall.org/bulletins](http://allmeansall.org/bulletins)

## Calendar

**Monday, Feb 24, 6:30-7:30 pm:** Yoga (weekly)

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

**Tuesday, Feb 25, 6 pm:** Midweek Prayer (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> Tuesdays: 6 pm

**Wednesday, Feb 26, 10-11 am:** Yoga (weekly)

- see Feb 24 for details

**Thursday, Feb 27, 6:30-7:30 pm:** Book Study – *The Talking Book* (hybrid / weekly, through Mar 13)

- Calvary (Office) – for those joining in person

**Friday, Feb 28, 6 pm:** Young-ish Adults Gathering (monthly – last Fridays)

- location TBA
- [allmeansall.org/young-ish-adults](http://allmeansall.org/young-ish-adults)

**Saturday, Mar 1, 1 pm:** Meditation (weekly)

- Calvary (Board Room) – 48th St entrance
- [witnessandintegrate@gmail.com](mailto:witnessandintegrate@gmail.com)

**Sunday, Mar 2, 11 am-12:30 pm:** Hybrid Worship  
(Communion)

**Wednesday, Mar 5:** Ash Wednesday

- **7 pm:** Service of Ashes (hybrid)
  - Calvary (Chapel) – 48th St entrance if joining in person
  - [allmeansall.org/lent](http://allmeansall.org/lent)

**Thursday, Mar 6, 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](http://allmeansall.org/spirituality-on-tap)

**Sunday, Mar 9** (daylight savings time begins)

- **11 am-12:30 pm:** Hybrid Worship (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent)
- **12:45-2 pm:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Potluck (monthly)
  - [allmeansall.org/2<sup>nd</sup>-sunday-potluck](http://allmeansall.org/2nd-sunday-potluck)
- **8-9 pm:** Spiritual Reflection Group (weekly, through Apr 13)
  - [allmeansall.org/spiritual-reflection-group](http://allmeansall.org/spiritual-reflection-group)

### 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.

### Donations

Donations are always welcome to help support Calvary and our evolving ministries: [allmeansall.org/donate](http://allmeansall.org/donate).

## **CENTERING & CONNECTING**

### **Breathing Our Way In**

**Singing Our Way In:** "Courage" (adapted from Eric Bogle, inspired by South African Anti-Apartheid Movement)

Courage (courage), my friend (my friend),  
you do not walk alone

We will (we will), walk with you (walk with you)  
and sing your spirit home

Patience (patience), my friend (my friend),  
you do not walk alone

We will (we will), walk with you (walk with you)  
and sing your spirit home

Hope (hope) ...

Freedom (freedom) ...

Justice (justice) ...

**Call to Worship** *(Steve Garnaas-Holmes)*

One: God, you who are love, you create us in love.

**ALL: We are the body of your love.**

One: Christ, love made flesh, you come to us in grace  
and healing.

**ALL: We are your beloved, blessed and embraced.**

One: Holy Spirit, energy of love, your fire alone in us is our  
life.

**ALL: We are bearers of your love to this world.**

One: Fill us with your love, fill us to overflowing,

**ALL: for the sake of the world you love. 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**

*"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** (Todd Yonkman – adapted)

God, we are so conditioned to respond in kind. We are so worried that when the reckoning comes, we will find ourselves left with the short end of the stick. And not without reason. The powerful take and take, and lie and lie, and oppress and oppress, seemingly without consequence.

Teach us to love with skill. Teach us to love with precision. Teach us to love with abandon, trusting that when we step into the ocean of your abundant love we will receive the blessings of your abundant life. Amen.

## Silent Prayer

## Special Music

### Scripture Lesson: Psalm 37:1-11

Do not fret because of the wicked; do not be envious of wrongdoers, **2** for they will soon fade like the grass and wither like the green herb. **3** Trust in the HOLY ONE and do good; live in the land, and enjoy security. **4** Take delight in the HOLY ONE, and God will give you the desires of your heart. **5** Commit your way to the HOLY ONE; trust in God, and God will act. **6** God will make your vindication shine like the light and the justice of your cause like the noonday. **7** Be still before the HOLY ONE, and wait patiently for God; do not fret over those who prosper in their way, over those who carry out evil devices. **8** Refrain from anger and forsake wrath. Do not fret—it leads only to evil. **9** For the wicked shall be cut off, but those who wait for the HOLY ONE shall inherit the land. **10** Yet a little while, and the wicked will be no more; though you look diligently for their place, they will not be there. **11** But the meek shall inherit the land and delight themselves in abundant prosperity.

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

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

### Scripture Lesson: Luke 6:27-38

"But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; **28** bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you. **29** If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from anyone

who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. **30** Give to everyone who asks of you, and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back again.

**31** Do to others as you would have them do to you.

**32** If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. **33** If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. **34** If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive payment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. **35** Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, for God is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

**36** Be merciful, just as God is merciful. **37** Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; **38** give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap, for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

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:** "Flipping the Script"

**Song:** "Help Us Accept Each Other" *(tune: UMH #545, Samuel Sebastian Wesley / lyrics: Fred Kaan – adapted)*

Help us accept each other  
as Christ accepted us;  
teach us as sister, brother,  
each person to embrace.  
Be present, (God), among us

and bring us to believe:  
we are ourselves accepted  
and meant to love and live.

Teach us, O (God), your lessons,  
as in our daily life  
we struggle to be human  
and search for hope and faith.  
Teach us to care for people,  
for all – not just for some,  
to love them as we find them  
or as they may become.

Let your acceptance change us  
so that we may be moved  
in living situations  
to do the truth in love;  
to practice your acceptance  
until we know by heart  
the table of forgiveness  
and laughter's healing art.

(God), for today's encounters  
with all who are in need,  
who hunger for acceptance,  
for justice and for bread,  
we need new eyes for seeing,  
new hands for holding on:  
renew us with your Spirit;  
(God), free us, make us one!

## **SHARING**

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

**Sung Response** *(tune: UMH #408, trad. English / lyrics: John Pritchard)*

O Open Arms, now hold our cares,  
the aches we've named, the joys we've shared.

And hold us, too; into us breathe –  
your grace, your life, let us receive.

## **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:** "Prayer Chant (We Resist)" (Mark Miller)

We resist, we refuse, to let hatred in.  
We rise up, we won't back down.  
We're in this 'til the end. (repeat)

Pray for your enemies, welcome the stranger,  
show love to your neighbor.  
We're in this 'til the end.

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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)