

# Calvary Church

*A Reconciling Congregation*



*"I do it all for the sake of the gospel,  
so that I may share in its blessings."*

**- 1 Corinthians 9:23**

**February 4, 2024**

*5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany*

# CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

## Black History Month

### GATHERING

**Gathering Song:** "I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel to Be Free" (*Dick Dallas & Billy Taylor / perf. by John Legend*)

### **Welcome & Announcements**

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

- **Worship Timing Poll:** [tinyurl.com/worship-timing-poll](https://tinyurl.com/worship-timing-poll)
- **Community Projects:** Harrington Elementary School, Grace Cafe, Sankofa Community Farm
  - [allmeansall.org/community-projects](https://allmeansall.org/community-projects)
- **Bible Study:** taking book/theme suggestions!
  - Spring 2024 – timing TBD by participants
  - [allmeansall.org/bible-study](https://allmeansall.org/bible-study)
- **Spring Retreat at Pendle Hill:** June 7-8 (9)
  - [allmeansall.org/retreats](https://allmeansall.org/retreats)
- **Previous sermons:** [allmeansall.org/sermons](https://allmeansall.org/sermons)
- **Previous bulletins:** [allmeansall.org/bulletins](https://allmeansall.org/bulletins)

### Calendar

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

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

**Monday, Feb 5, 8-9 pm:** Book Study – Poverty, by America (*weekly, through Feb 19*)

**Tuesday, Feb 6, 12-1 pm:** Midweek Prayer

- [allmeansall.org/midweek-prayer](https://allmeansall.org/midweek-prayer)

**Sunday, Feb 11**

- **11:15 am-12:45 pm:** Hybrid Worship
- **1-2ish pm:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Potluck
  - bring soup, side dish or drinks to share if you can

**Wednesday, Feb 14:** Ash Wednesday

- **7 pm:** Service of Ashes (*hybrid*)

**Saturday, Feb 17, 3 pm:** Homegoing Service for Duke Campbell (*hybrid*)

**Monday, Feb 19, 11:30 am-4 pm:** Roadmap to Justice – POWER Interfaith Convention (*statewide*)

- East Norriton (buses provided)
- contact Pastor Tim to join others from Calvary; register at [bit.ly/roadmapforjustice](https://bit.ly/roadmapforjustice)

### 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 / Breath Prayer**

**Singing Our Way In:** "God is Good, All the Time" (*unknown – adapted*)

God is good, all the time  
All the time, God is good  
God is good, all the time  
All God's people singing God is good

God is Grace, all the time ...  
God is Peace, all the time ...  
God is Love, all the time ...

**Call to Worship** (*Evangelical Church in America – adapted*)

One: Celebration rises, up from the deep places, the deepest places,

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

One: Celebration rises, with gratitude for the strength, the love, the vitality, the joy, the vision of lives past and present.

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

One: Celebration rises, though not blind to the suffering, the sorrow, the struggle along the way.

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

One: Celebration rises, remembering the way we have come, the paths taken that have brought us here to this place and time of celebration. Celebration rises, up and up, full of remembering and resilience.

**ALL: yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet  
come to the place for which our parents sighed?**

One: Celebration rises, recognizing what has been done and left undone, knowing there is still and yet much to do, so much further to go. Celebration rises, naming the victories, recognizing the challenges yet ahead.

Celebration rises on voices offering unfinished praise.

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

One: Celebration rises, resisting illusions, to be embraced by the real and abiding presence of God who breaks all of our chains, and sets us free for freedom, in power and love and joy.

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

One: Celebration rises, with the power of healing, reconciliation, restoration, reparation. Celebration rises with the promise to endure. Celebration rises, knowing that beneath the shadow of God's hand, the fullness of my humanity does not diminish yours and the fullness of your humanity does not diminish mine.

**ALL: facing the rising sun of our new day begun, let us march on till victory is won. 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** (*adapted from "Lift Every Voice and Sing"*)

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you who have brought us thus far on the way; you who have by your strong and abiding presence led us into the light, keep us forever in the path, we pray.

Guide our feet, O God, lest we stray from the places where we met and continue to meet you. Open and fill our hearts, O God, lest they get drunk with the wine of the world and we forget you and your Way of Love. Shadowed beneath your hand, held in the comfort of your everlasting arms, may we forever stand; true to you, true to you in each other as in ourselves, true to who we have been, who we are and who we are becoming, true to the earth from which we all come. Amen.

### Silent Prayer

### Special Music

**Scripture Lesson:** Isaiah 40:25-31

To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. **26** Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? God who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because God is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.

**27** Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the HOLY ONE, and my right is disregarded by my God"? **28** Have you not known? Have you not heard? The HOLY ONE is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. God does not faint or grow weary; God's understanding is unsearchable.

**29** God gives power to the faint, and strengthens the

powerless. **30** Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; **31** but those who wait for the HOLY ONE shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

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

**Scripture Lesson:** 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! **17** For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. **18** What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel. **19** For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. **20** To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. **21** To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. **22** To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. **23** I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

**Choral Alleluia**

**Sermon:** "Gospel Blessings All Around"

**Song:** "Gather Us In" (TFWS #2236, Marty Haugen – adapted)

Here in this place new light is streaming,  
now is the darkness vanished away,  
see in this space our fears and our dreamings,  
brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,  
gather us in, the blind and the lame;  
call to us now and we shall awaken,  
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry,  
we are the old who yearn for your face,  
we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,  
called to be light to the whole human race.

Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,  
gather us in, the proud and the strong;  
give us a heart so meek and so lowly,  
give us the courage to enter the song.

Not in the dark of buildings confining,  
not in some heaven, light years away,  
but here in this place the new light is shining,  
now is the (kindom), now is the day.

Gather us in and hold us forever,  
gather us in and make us your own;  
gather us in, all peoples together,  
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

## **SHARING**

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

"Thanks be to God" or "God, hear 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.

**Communion / The Great Thanksgiving** *(Steve Garnaas-Holmes  
– adapted)*

One: God is with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**ALL: We lift them up to God and to each other.**

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

**ALL: It is good and beautiful to give God our praise.**

One: God of love and liberation, we give you thanks, for  
you create the world as a flowering of your goodness.  
You set free the oppressed and heal the broken. You  
walk with us in new directions – healed, made new, and  
full of your light. Your mercy flows freely, and we open  
ourselves to its life-giving light. We hunger for your grace,  
and feast on your generosity. Therefore with all Creation,  
we join in singing your praise:

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

**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 are all who come in your name, and  
blessed is Jesus, your Christ. He healed people's bodies  
and souls, offering wholeness. He restored relationships  
and communities. He confronted inequity and injustice,  
and in retaliation the powers of evil crucified him. But in  
love you raised him from the dead, healing life itself,  
faithful to your covenant that we may have life, and  
have it abundantly.

On the night before he would be betrayed ... And so we remember. As often as we break the bread and share the cup, we remember. We taste the same Spirit, we feast on the same promise and renew our commitment to follow the same path, as we proclaim 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: Pour out your Spirit on these gifts of bread and cup, tangible symbols for us of Jesus' body, Jesus' life, given in love, for love. Pour out your Spirit on us, that we may be for the world your body, O God – given in love, for love. As we share again this sacred meal, renew us as your people, inspire us toward your purpose, and enliven us with your power. By your Spirit, make us one with you, one with each other as with ourselves, and one in your covenantal work of restoring life – until all share in its fullness. With all Creation we await that time and we praise your name:

**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**

**Closing Song:** "Siyahamba / We Are Marching" (TFWS #2235-b, trad. South African – adapted)

Si – ya – hamb' e – ku – kha – nyen' kwen – khos',

si – ya – hamb' e – ku – kha – nyen' kwen – khos. *(repeat)*

Si – ya – hamba, hamba, si – ya – hamba, hamba,

si – ya – hamb' e – ku – kha – nyen' kwen – khos. *(repeat)*

We are marching in the light of God,

we are marching in the light of God. *(repeat)*

We are marching, marching, we are marching,

marching, we are marching in the light of God. *(repeat)*

We are dancing in the light of God ...

We are praying in the light of God ...

We are living in the light of God ...

## **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**

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

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

215.724.1702 / [office@allmeansall.org](mailto:office@allmeansall.org) / **[allmeansall.org](http://allmeansall.org)**

**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)