

# Calvary Church

*A Reconciling Congregation*



*“And the HOLY ONE said to Moses,  
‘Make a poisonous serpent, and set  
it on a pole; and everyone who is  
bitten shall look at it and live.’”*

**- Numbers 21:8**

**March 10, 2024**

*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent*

# CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

## Women's History Month

### GATHERING

**Gathering Song:** "Rain on Sunday" (*Paula Fuga*)

### **Welcome & Announcements**

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

- **New worship start time, beginning March 31:** 11 am
- **Holy Week & Easter:** [allmeansall.org/holy-week](http://allmeansall.org/holy-week)
- **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, Mar 10**

- **1-2ish pm:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Potluck
- **8-9 pm:** Spiritual Reflection Group (*weekly, through Mar 24*)
  - [allmeansall.org/spiritual-reflection-group](http://allmeansall.org/spiritual-reflection-group)

#### **Tuesday, Mar 12**

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

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

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

**Sunday, Mar 17, 11:15 am-12:45 pm:** Hybrid Worship

**Sunday, Mar 24, 11:15 am-12:45 pm:** Hybrid Worship (*Palm & Passion Sunday*)

- justice-themed Stations of the Cross

**Thursday, Mar 28, 7 pm:** Tenebrae Vespers, with Communion (*hybrid / Maundy Thursday*)

**Friday, Mar 29:** Good Friday

- **12-2:30 pm:** Worship – Seven Last Words of Christ
  - Simpson-Fletcher UMC / 6037 Jefferson St

- **12-3 pm:** Calvary chapel open for quiet prayer and meditation
- **4 pm:** Interfaith Witness & Walk to End Gun Violence
  - Simpson-Fletcher UMC / 6037 Jefferson St

**Saturday, Mar 30, 7 pm (through 7 am, Easter Sunday):**  
Virtual Easter Vigil

### 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:** "Come to Me" (*Christopher Grundy*)

All who are weary,  
all who are burdened down,  
come to me, come to me,  
come to me and I will give you rest.

My yoke is easy,  
my burden feels so light.  
Come to me, come to me  
come to me and I will give you rest.

#### **Call to Worship** (*Ann Siddall, based on John 3:14-21 – adapted*)

One: Friends of God, believe this – God loved the world,  
God loves the world, and we are the beloved!

**ALL: May the truth of this great love story shine through our worship today, and renew our sense of calling.**

One: So come, with your tiredness, your frustrations and your discouragements; come with your doubts, your fears, and your longings; come, to discover yet again how Jesus reveals God's love and mercy.

**ALL: We come, in friendship with God and with each other, and in friendship with the world, to sing our praise, to listen for God's Word to us, to offer our prayers, and to renew our commitment to follow the Way of Love.**

One: Friends of God, let us give thanks.

**ALL: Let us worship!**

**Opening Song:** "Give Thanks to God Who Hears Our Cries (Psalm 107)" *(tune: UMH #726 / lyrics: Ruth Duck)*

Give thanks to God who hears our cries  
and saves in troubled days  
with wondrous works to humankind  
that call for highest praise.

Let all who know God's saving love  
sing grateful songs always.

If you have ever wandered where  
no human help was near,  
and in your troubles cried to God,  
who rescued you from fear,  
then thank the God of steadfast love  
who dries your every tear.

If you have ever lived inside  
the prison of your gloom  
and cried to God, who broke your bonds  
and raised you from the tomb,  
then praise the One who sets you free,  
who makes dry places bloom.

If you drew near the gates of death,  
too sick to eat or dress,

and cried to God, who heard your voice  
and healed all your distress,  
then sing with sounds of holy joy  
God's wondrous works profess.

If you have felt your courage fail  
before a violent sea  
and cried to God, who stilled the storm,  
and made the wild wind flee,  
then in the congregations praise the One  
who heard your plea.

So praise the One whose love is great,  
whose kindness is well-known.  
Consider well the healing hand  
and help you have been shown,  
and tell the world what God has done.  
Praise God and God alone!

### **Offering Ourselves & Our Gifts / Passing the Peace**

One: The peace of God be with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

### **GROUNDING**

#### **Community Prayer** *(A Sanctified Art – adapted)*

God of love, we forget the beginning of the story – that we were all made from love, to be love, to give love. We forget that first there was you, and you are love. We forget that out of that love you created us. We forget that from the very first day, you loved first. We forget, because a love like that doesn't always make sense to us.

Forgive our resistance to love ourselves. Forgive our resistance to love each other. Write a new beginning for us that roots our confidence and our care and our communities in your unrelenting love. With hope we pray, again and again. Amen.

## Silent Prayer

## Special Music

### Scripture Lesson: Numbers 21:4-9

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. **5** The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." **6** Then the HOLY ONE sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. **7** The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the HOLY ONE and against you; pray to the HOLY ONE to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. **8** And the HOLY ONE said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." **9** So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

### 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: John 3:14-21

"And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Humanity be lifted up, **15** that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. **16** For God so loved the world that God gave God's only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. **17** Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. **18** Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not

believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. **19** And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. **20** For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. **21** But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

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:** “Snakes and Poles and Idols, Oh My!”

**Song:** “God, Beyond Our Ways of Knowing” (*tune: UMH #250, Henry J. Gauntlett / lyrics: Adam M.L. Tice – adapted*)

God, beyond our ways of knowing,  
you invite us into grace,  
shepherd us to guide our growing,  
help us seek and find our place:  
teaching us through Christ to live  
in the blessings that you give.

Other gods demand devotion—  
money, markets, might, acclaim,  
busy lives in endless motion,  
off'ring happiness and fame.  
When my fevered strivings cease,  
you are still my source of peace.

You came not for condemnation  
but with healing for the earth,

granting this creation(, broken,) life revived through second birth. As the morning breaks the night, so you fill the world with light.

Though my soul is sore and aching, Jesus, I shall follow you— when my will is weak and breaking, you are working something new— flowers crack the thirsting sand in a dry and dying land.

God, beyond our ways of knowing, you invite us into grace, shepherd us to guide our growing, help us seek and find our place: teaching us through Christ to live in the blessings that you give.

## **SHARING**

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

“Thanks be to God” or “God hears our prayer”

### **Sung Response** *(tune: UMH #175, John B. Dykes / lyrics: John Pritchard)*

O Loving Heart, O Blessed Arms,  
hold all we bring to you;  
our hopes, our fears, our joy and tears,  
our pledge your will to do.

## **ENGAGING**

### **Closing Song:** “The Trees of the Field” *(TFWS #2279, tune: Stuart Dauermann / lyrics: Steffi Geiser Ruben)*

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;  
the mountains and the hills will break forth before you;  
there'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field,  
will clap, will clap their hands.



And all the trees of the field will clap their hands, (*clap 2x*)  
the trees of the field will clap their hands, (*clap 2x*)  
the trees of the field will clap their hands (*clap 2x*)  
while you go out with joy.

## **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**

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

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