

Calvary Church

A Reconciling Congregation



*“We see and live blindness
from a ‘gain’ perspective,
not a ‘loss’ perspective.”*

- Daniel Kish

March 15, 2026

4th Sunday in Lent

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Women's History Month

Lenten Landscapes:

From Death Valleys to Green Pastures

GATHERING

Gathering Song: "Amazing Grace" (*perf. by The Blind Boys of Alabama*)

You are invited during the Gathering Song to still your hearts, your minds, your bodies, as we come together for worship.

Welcome & Announcements

• Visiting with us?

- We're glad you're here! We strive to make our worship space—in-person and virtual—as welcoming and accommodating of different needs as possible. If you have questions, concerns or suggestions, please contact Pastor Tim.

• Pastor Tim staycation, Mar 18-24

- in case of a pastoral emergency, please contact Marcine Pickron-Davis (Staff-Parish Relations Committee member): 484.574.0270

• Congregational giving (*rounded*)

- Mar 2-8: \$731 / weekly budget: \$1,663
- Red Basket, Feb 15 – Mar 8 (POWER Interfaith): \$54
- White Basket, Mar 8 (emergency needs): \$15

• Nursery volunteers needed

- contact Kaspero if interested, or with any questions: kaspero.kimura@gmail.com

• Previous sermons: allmeansall.org/sermons

• Previous bulletins: allmeansall.org/bulletins

Calendar

Today, Mar 15, 8-9 pm: Spiritual Reflection Group (*weekly, through Mar 29*)

- allmeansall.org/spiritual-reflection-group

Monday, Mar 16, 6:15-7:15 pm: Yoga (weekly)

- Chapel – 48th St entrance
- allmeansall.org/yoga

Tuesday, Mar 17

- **3 pm:** Midweek Prayer (weekly)
 - allmeansall.org/midweek-prayer
- **3 pm:** Finance Committee (bimonthly – 3rd Tuesdays)

Wednesday, Mar 18

- **10-11 am:** Yoga (weekly)
 - see Mar 16 for details
- **12 pm:** Interfaith Prayer Vigil for Immigrant Justice (weekly / New Sanctuary Movement)
 - Philadelphia ICE Office / 114 N 8th St
 - contact Pastor Tim to get involved with our NSM Team
- **6-8 pm:** Calvary Resistance Quilting (weekly, through Mar 25)
 - allmeansall.org/quilting
 - contact Brooke to sign up, or with questions: christensenvoice@gmail.com

Thursday, Mar 19

- **7 pm:** POWER Interfaith West/Southwest Cluster (monthly - 3rd Thursdays)
 - contact Mimi for details, or to get involved with our POWER Team: rmijima@gmail.com
- **7-8:30 pm:** Grief Support Group (monthly)
 - allmeansall.org/grief-support-group
 - registration is now required going forward – see link for details

Saturday, Mar 21, 10 am-12 pm: Calvary Pollinator Garden Workday (monthly – 3rd Saturdays)

- allmeansall.org/garden
- contact Sparrow to sign up, or to get involved with our Green Team: sprwfrancis@gmail.com

Sunday, Mar 22, 11 am-12:30 pm: Hybrid Worship (5th Sunday in Lent)

- guest preacher: Lesley Curtis

Sunday, Mar 29

- **11 am-12:30 pm:** Hybrid Worship (*Palm & Passion Sunday*)
 - justice-oriented Stations of the Cross
- **1-3 pm:** Confirmation Class

Thursday, Apr 2, 7 pm: Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Vespers (*Communion*)

- Chapel – 48th St entrance
- allmeansall.org/holy-week

CENTERING & CONNECTING

Breathing Our Way In

Singing Our Way In: “Open Unto Me” (*tune: Richard Bruxvoort Colligan / lyrics: Anne Thurman, based on Howard Thurman prayer*)

Open unto me light for my darkness
Light for my darkness open unto me
Open unto me light for my darkness
Open unto me, O God

Open unto me strength for my weakness ...

Open unto me peace for my turmoil ...

Open unto me joy for my sorrow ...

Call to Worship (*Joanna Harader, inspired by Psalm 23*)

One: In the darkest valley,

ALL: at the banquet table;

One: in the hard work of life,

ALL: at the moments of ease;

One: in our day-to-day reality,

ALL: at times set aside–

One: like this time, now–

ALL: for worship, for listening, for paying attention;

One: with every step we take:

ALL: goodness and mercy follow us; our cups overflow.

Opening 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.

Passing the Peace

One: The peace of God be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

GROUNDING

Community Prayer (*Sally, Eternal Echoes – adapted*)

O God, through light and shadow we are led, we follow, through the ins and outs, the ups and downs, of these days. When our hearts are failing, when our spirits rejoice, when we can barely put one foot in front of the other, still you beckon us on. When we stumble you support us, when we can go no further you carry us, through light and shadow, in death's dark vale, and on the mountain peaks, you lead us. Through tangled webs, on rocky ground, on smoother paths, through light and shadow, you lead us. And we follow, one step at a time. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Special Music: "Guiding Light" (*Foy Vance*)

Well the road is wide
And waters run on either side
And my shadow went with fading light
Stretching out towards the night

'Cause the sun is low
And I yet have still so far to go
My lonely heart is beating so
Tired of the wonder

There's a sign ahead
Though I think it's the same one again
But I'm thinking 'bout my only friend
And so I find my way home

*When I need to get home
You're my guiding light (repeat)
When I need to get home
You're my guiding light (repeat)*

Well the air is cold
And yonder lies my sleeping soul
By the branches broke like bones

This weakened tree no longer holds

Well, the night is still

And I have not yet lost my will

Oh and I will keep on moving 'till

'Till I find my way home (*Chorus*)

So lead me on, and leave me strong

Like the road I walk on (*Chorus*)

Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 42:6-7

I am the HOLY ONE; I have called you in righteousness; I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations,

7 to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

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 9:1-41

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth.

2 His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" **3** Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind

so that God's works might be revealed in him. **4** We must work the works of the One who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. **5** As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." **6** When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, **7** saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

8 The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit

and beg?" **9** Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." **10** But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" **11** He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." **12** They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

13 They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. **14** Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. **15** Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." **16** Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. **17** So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet." **18** The Judeans did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight **19** and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" **20** His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, **21** but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself."

22 His parents said this because they were afraid of the Judeans, for the Judeans had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. **23** Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." **24** So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a

sinner." **25** He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." **26** They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" **27** He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" **28** Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. **29** We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." **30** The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. **31** We know that God does not listen to sinners, but God does listen to one who worships God and obeys God's will. **32** Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. **33** If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." **34** They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

35 Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Woman?" **36** He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." **37** Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." **38** He said, "Teacher, I believe." And he worshiped him. **39** Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind." **40** Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" **41** Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

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: "Blind Faith" (*Cara Blouin*)

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

Open my eyes, (God), help me to see your face.
Open my eyes, (God), help me to see.

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.

I live within you, deep in your heart, O Love.
I live within you, rest now in me.

Open (our) eyes, (God), help (us) to see your face ...

Open (our) ears, (God), help (us) to hear your voice ...

Open (our) heart(s), (God), help (us) to love like you ...

(We) live within you, deep in your heart, O Love ...

SHARING

Offering Our Gifts

allmeansall.org/time-talent / allmeansall.org/donate

*"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



Prayers of the People

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

Sung Response (tune: UMH #420, Robert Jackson / lyrics: John Pritchard)

Hear us, O living God.
Hear all we bring to you—
each joy, each tear, each hope, each fear,
each sigh of gratitude.

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: "Pool of Love" (Alexa Sunshine Rose, Murray Kyle)

May the pool of love we have gathered here
Spread its wings and fly far and near
From the depths of our hearts to the farthest star
May our love bless everyone

Calvary United Methodist Church

*Celebrating 130 years at the intersection of
48th & Baltimore / spirituality & justice*

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Pastor Tim Emmett-Rardin: pastortim@allmeansall.org
(in case of pastoral emergency: 215.370.7411)
Days of rest: Monday mornings, Fridays

Beth Jemison, Bethany Weed, Cord Whitaker (Co-Lay Leaders)

Lesley Curtis (Church Council Chair)

Annie Haviland (Finance Committee Chair)

Jennine Miller (Staff-Parish Relations Committee Chair)

Holly Chowning (Trustees Chair)

For full leadership roster: allmeansall.org/leadership

