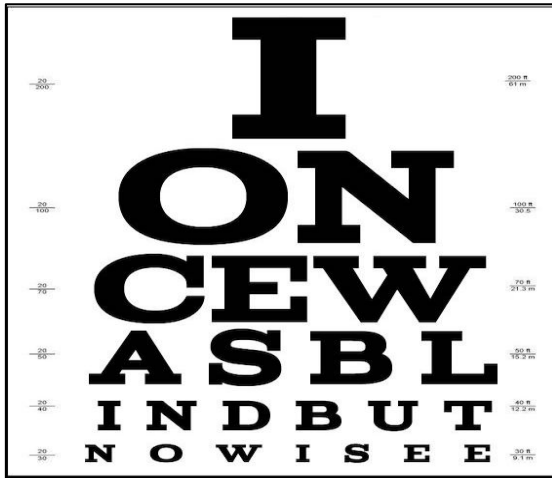


Calvary Church

A Reconciling Congregation



*"One thing I do know,
that though I was blind, now I see."
- John 9:25b*

March 19, 2023
4th Sunday in Lent

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Women's History Month

GATHERING

Prelude: "Amazing Grace" (tune: 19th cent. American melody / lyrics, John Newton / perf. by Blind Boys of Alabama)

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

Greeting / Welcome

CENTERING & CONNECTING

Breathing Our Way In / Breath Prayer

Singing Our Way In: "Imago Dei" (Richard Bruxvoort Colligan)

Imago Dei, the image of God is here

Imago Dei, the likeness of God alive

Holy because we are of God, we are all of God

Holy because we are of God, we are all of God (*refrain*)

Siblings because we are of God, we are all of God

Siblings because we are of God,

we are all of God (*refrain*)

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

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, for healing;

One: with every step we take, every breath we take:

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

Opening Song: "O Great Lover Who Pursues Us" (tune: UMH #196, Rowland H. Prichard / lyrics: Richard Bruxvoort Colligan)

O Great Lover who pursues us,
come delight to stir our hearts.
Call us back with full devotion,
kindle now your fire in us.
Let us scent you, taste your sweetness,
carry us away to thrive.
Let us love you ever deeper,
let us hasten to your side.

Bounding o'er the hills you beckon,
"Rise, my love and come away."
Winter's past and Spring is blooming,
now has come the time to sing.
Wake the winds upon this garden,
waft the fragrance all around.
We with joy to you belonging
dance within your perfect love.

Who is like our great Beloved,
now appearing as the dawn?
All of heav'n in grand procession
praise Love's beauty bright as the sun.
Set us as a seal upon you,
troubled hearts will find their rest.
Yours is love to stand harsh waters,
love that lives as strong as death.

Offering Ourselves & Our Gifts / Passing the Peace

One: The peace of God be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

GROUNDING

Community Prayer (David Adam – adapted)

O God, our Shepherd, our Light, help us to relax. Take from us the tension that makes peace impossible. Take from us the fears that do not allow us to venture. Take

from us the worries that blind our sight. Take from us the distress that hides our joy.

Help us to know that we are with you, that we are in your care, that we are in your love, that we are one with you and with each other. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Special Music

Scripture Lesson: Psalm 23

The (Holy One) is my shepherd, I shall not want. **2** (God) makes me lie down in green pastures; (God) leads me beside still waters; **3** (God) restores my soul. (God) leads me in right paths for (God's) name's sake. **4** Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff – they comfort me. **5** You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. **6** Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the (Holy One) my whole life long.

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

Open my ears, (Love), help me to hear your voice.
Open my ears, (Love), help me to hear.

Scripture Lesson: John 9:1-17, 24-25

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." But 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."

24 So for the second time (the Pharisees) 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."

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, (Love), help me to hear your voice.

Open my ears, (Love), help me to hear.

Open my heart, (Love), help me to love like you.
Open my heart, (Love), help me to love.

Sermon: "Spit and Mud"

Song: "Grant Me Your Vision / Psalm 23" (tune: UMH #451,
trad. Irish melody / lyrics: Steve Garnaas-Holmes – adapted; vs. 3:
Tim Emmett-Rardin)

Grant (us) your vision, O God of pure light.
May your deep wisdom and love give (us) sight.
Give (us) the eyes of your mercy and grace;
help us to see you in each time and place.

Take (our) illusions, (our) fears and (our) lies;
shedding (our) veils, (God), (we) open (our) eyes,
seeing (our) beauty, (our brokenness, too,)
past all pretending, (in union with you.)

God, we are made from the dust of the earth;
each in your image, each of sacred worth.
Healed by your touch, reconnected again,
grounded in love, in the truth deep within.

God is (our) shepherd; (we) have all (we) need;
makes (us) lie down in green pastures to feed.
By the still waters God gently will lead.
Love, you're (our) shepherd; (we) have all (we) need.

Yea, though (we) walk through the valley of death,
(we) fear not, for (you're) as close as (our) breath.
For you are with (us), your staff and your rod
they are (our) comfort, (our) shepherd, (our) God.

You set (a) table before all (our) foes;
pour out your blessing; (our) cups overflow.
Goodness (pursues us) wherever (we) roam;
(we) live within you, (our) Heart (and our) Home.

N O W I S E E

SHARING

Prayers of the People / Joys & Concerns

“Thanks be to God” or “God, hear our prayer”

Sung Response (*tune: UMH #294, Hugh Wilson / lyrics: John Pritchard*)

O Wind and Fire, O Rock and Vine,
O Voice so still and small,
we bring our lives, our hopes and fears
to you who embraces all.

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 ...
Guide my feet ...

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 (allmeansall.org/announcements)

- **Holy Week & Easter:** allmeansall.org/holy-week
- **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 Apr 2
- allmeansall.org/spiritual-reflection-group

Tuesday, Mar 21

- **12-1 pm:** Midweek Prayer
 - allmeansall.org/midweek-prayer
- **7 pm:** Trustees (*rescheduled*)
- **7:30 pm:** Lenten Bible Detox (*The Center and Library for the Bible and Social Justice*)
 - weekly through Apr 4
 - clbsj.org/events/lenten-detox

Sunday, Mar 26, 11:15 am-12:45 pm: Hybrid Worship (*5th Sunday in Lent*)

Friday, Mar 31, 6:30 pm: Calvary Young Adults Potluck Dinner & Game Night

- Emily & Sam's house (South Philly)
- contact Emily (mccutchinlove@gmail.com) for details and to RSVP

Saturday, Apr 29, 2-5 pm: 10th Annual Sojourner Truth Walk

- wizathon.com/sojourner-truth-walk
- contact Jennine (jenninemiller@gmail.com) to join or support Calvary's team!

Friday, Jun 2 – Saturday, Jun 3 (or Jun 4): Spring Retreat

- Cranaleith Spiritual Center (NE Philly)
- allmeansall.org/retreats
- contact Pastor Tim if you're interested

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: 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.

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

801 S. 48th Street / Philadelphia, PA 19143

215.724.1702 / office@allmeansall.org / allmeansall.org

Pastor Tim Emmett-Rardin: pastortim@allmeansall.org

(in case of pastoral emergency: 215.370.7411)