

Calvary Church

A Reconciling Congregation



*"Why do you spend your money
for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that
which does not satisfy?"*

- Isaiah 55:2

March 20, 2022

3rd Sunday in Lent

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Women's History Month

GATHERING

Prelude: "Little Fire" (*Patty Griffin & Emmylou Harris*)

My friend, come stand beside me

Lately, I'm feeling so lost

A flood came and washed the stones of the path away

And a hot sun turned the mud to dust

Calling the sheep in for the evening

There's a voice, calls above the howling wind

It says come rest beside my little fire

We'll ride out the storm that's coming in

My friend, you know me and my family

You've seen us wandering through these times

You've seen us in weakness and in power

You've seen us forgetful and unkind

All that I want is one who knows me

A kind hand on my face when I weep

And I'd give back these things I know are meaningless

For a little fire beside me when I sleep

Welcome / Announcements

• **Worship Volunteers**

- sign up at tinyurl.com/worship-help

• **Office Volunteers:** contact Pastor Tim to help

• **Online Discussion Forums** (*ongoing*)

- Lectionary (*weekly scripture readings*)
- *On Being with Krista Tippett* (*weekly episodes*)
- info at allmeansall.org/faith-spirituality

Calendar

Today, 8-9 pm: Spiritual Reflection Group (*weekly during Lent, through Apr 10*)

- info at allmeansall.org/srg

Monday, Mar 21, 7:30-8:30 pm: Book Study – See No Stranger (*weekly through Apr 4*)

Tuesday, Mar 22, 12-1 pm: Midweek Prayer (*weekly*)
• info at allmeansall.org/faith-spirituality

Wednesday, Mar 23, 8 pm: Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill (*through Apr 9 / Curio Theatre Company*)
• info at curiotheatre.org

Saturday, Mar 26, 3-6 pm: SouthWest Philly Art Stroll
• 48th & Baltimore (*outside Calvary*)
• info at armanidae.com/southwestphillyartstroll

Sunday, Mar 27

- **1-3 pm (following worship):** Calvary Kids Gathering
- **3 pm:** Resilience & Healing – A Celebration of Women in Song (*Wharton-Wesley UMC / Opera Philadelphia*)
 - free concert at Wharton-Wesley (*54th & Catharine*)
 - info at operaphila.org/whats-on/events

Friday, Jun 10 – Saturday, Jun 11: Calvary Spring Retreat
• Mariawald Renewal Center (*Reading*); option to stay through Jun 12 on your own – full details coming soon!

Visiting With Us?

We're glad you're here, for whatever reason you chose to join us! We invite you to fill out a Visitor Form at allmeansall.org/visitors; for those worshiping in person, someone will share a form with you during the service. We strive to make our worship space (in person and virtual) as welcoming and accommodating of different needs as possible. If you have any concerns or questions regarding accessibility, 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).

Breathing Our Way In / Breath Prayer

Singing Our Way In: "Breathing In, Breathing Out"

(tune: Betsy Rose / lyrics: Thich Nhat Hanh)

Breathing in, breathing out (2x)

I am blooming as a flower, I am fresh as the dew

I am solid as a mountain, I am firm as the earth

I am free

Breathing in, breathing out (2x)

I am water, reflecting what is real, what is true

And I feel there is space, deep inside of me

I am free (3x)

Call to Worship *(Sarah Agnew, adapted)*

One: Turn to God, with honest hearts.

ALL: Turn to God, with open hearts.

One: Turn to God, with hungry hearts.

ALL: We turn to God, with all our hearts.

One: We turn to God, ready to worship,

ALL: ready to heal, ready to grow, ready to live.

Opening Hymn: "O God, I Seek Your Grace" *(tune: UMH*

#557, Johann G. Nägeli / lyrics: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette)

O God, I seek your grace;

my soul is thirsting still

as in a dry and weary place

without a stream or well.

I come in praise and prayer,

beholding all your ways;

your steadfast love, beyond compare

is reason for my praise.

In you I will abide;

I lift my hands above!

My soul is richly satisfied

when feasting on your love.

With thanks my spirit sings

as I lie down and rest;

and in the shadow of your wings
I know that I am blessed.

The ones with evil plans
will lose, to their dismay;
I find my safety in your hands
and trust your holy way.

Passing the Peace

One: The peace of God be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

CENTERING

Community Prayer *(Thom M. Shuman, adapted)*

God of steadfast love, imagination of the ages: you offer to all a world where all thirst is quenched, all the hungry are fed, all strangers become family.

Jesus, friend of the poor, brainstormer of the kingdom: you dare to envision a world where new life beckons around every dark corner, where light continues to shine amidst life's shadows. Where hope meets those in despair, where peace meets those in conflict, where joy meets those in mourning, where the lonely are embraced and the broken made whole.

Spirit of discernment, artist of our lives, continue to nurture us with grace, through the wilderness, toward love more generous and life more abundant. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Special Music

Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 55:1-9

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. **2** Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,

and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. **3** Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. **4** See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. **5** See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for (God) has glorified you. **6** Seek the LORD while (the LORD) may be found, call upon (the LORD) while (the LORD) is near; **7** let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that (the LORD) may have mercy on them, and to our God, for (God) will abundantly pardon. **8** For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. **9** For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Sung Response: from "Open My Eyes" (*Jesse Manibusan*)
Open my ears, Lord. Help me to hear your voice.
Open my ears, Lord. Help me to hear.

Scripture Lesson: Luke 13:1-9

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. **2** He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? **3** No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. **4** Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem?"

5 "No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did." **6** Then he told this parable: "A man had

a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. **7** So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' **8** He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. **9** If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

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

ALL: Thanks be to God!

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

Open my ears, Lord, help me to hear your voice.

Open my ears, Lord, help me to hear.

Open my heart, Lord, help me to love like you.

Open my heart, Lord, help me to love.

Sermon: "God of Life . . . and Compost"

Hymn of Response: "You Are the Soil" (*tune: UMH #189, anonymous / lyrics: Steve Garnass-Holmes*)

God, Holy Presence, source of life and blessing,
you are the soil and we the seed.

By your indwelling grace, we die in your embrace;
you raise us up and we are freed.

Jesus, Beloved One, healer, teacher, guide and friend,
in you we come to die and rise:
buried like seeds in earth, given new, gracious birth,
with your love shining in our eyes.

Spirit, let old forms die. From your soil let new life rise.
From broken seeds bring forth new shoots.
In us let your life grow; not ours but yours will flow,
that we may bear the Spirit's fruits.

SHARING

Offering our Tithes and Gifts / Offertory

Prayers of the People / Joys and Concerns

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

Prayer Response *(tune: UMH #418, African American spiritual / lyrics: John Pritchard)*

Hold us, heal us, living Spirit;
every hurt, each joy—please hear it.
Pour your life and love into us;
make us yours, we pray.

ENGAGING

Closing Hymn: “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”

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