

Calvary Church

A Reconciling Congregation



“A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it and found none.”

- Luke 13:6b

March 23, 2025

3rd Sunday in Lent

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Women's History Month

GATHERING

Gathering Song: "Hold On" (*Joy Ike*)

Welcome & Announcements

- **Lent @ Calvary – Resilience & Resistance**
 - allmeansall.org/lent
- **Resistance for such a time as this**
 - Calvary justice teams: allmeansall.org/love-justice
 - other opportunities: allmeansall.org/resistance
- **12th Annual Sojourner Truth Walk:** Saturday, May 3
 - tinyurl.com/calvary-stw
- **Spring Retreat:** May 16-17/18, 2025
 - St. Raphaela Center (Haverford)
 - stay tuned for full details coming soon
- **Previous sermons:** allmeansall.org/sermons
- **Previous bulletins:** allmeansall.org/bulletins

Calendar

Today, Mar 23, 8-9 pm: Spiritual Reflection Group (*weekly, through Apr 13*)

- allmeansall.org/spiritual-reflection-group

Monday, Mar 24, 6:30-7:30 pm: Yoga (*weekly*)

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

Tuesday, Mar 25, 6 pm: Midweek Prayer (*weekly*)

- allmeansall.org/midweek-prayer
- 1st, 3rd & 5th Tuesdays: 3 pm / 2nd & 4th: 6 pm

Wednesday, Mar 26, 10-11 am: Yoga (*weekly*)

- See Mar 24 for details

Friday, Mar 28, 6 pm: Young-ish Adults Gathering (*monthly – last Fridays*)

- allmeansall.org/young-ish-adults

Saturday, Mar 29, 1 pm: Meditation (weekly)

- Calvary (Board Room) – 48th St entrance
- witnessandintegrate@gmail.com

Sunday, Mar 30, 11 am-12:30 pm: Hybrid Worship (4th Sunday in Lent)

- guest preacher: Rev. Naomi Washington-Leapheart

Sunday, Apr 6, 11 am-12:30 pm: Hybrid Worship
(Communion / 5th Sunday in Lent)

Sunday, Apr 13, 11 am-12:30 pm: Hybrid Worship (Palm & Passion Sunday)

Thursday, Apr 17, 7 pm: Tenebrae Vespers (Communion / Maundy Thursday)

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.

Donations

Donations are always welcome to help support Calvary and our evolving ministries: allmeansall.org/donate.

CENTERING & CONNECTING

Breathing Our Way In

Singing Our Way In: "As the Deer" (TFWS #2025, Martin J. Nystrom)

As the deer pants for the water,
so my soul longs after you.
You alone are my heart's desire,
and I long to worship you.

You alone are my strength, my shield;
to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire,
and I long to worship you.

Call to Worship (*Joanna Harader – adapted from Psalm 63:1-7*)

One: You, God, are our God,

ALL: earnestly we seek you;

One: we thirst for you,

ALL: we long for you with our whole selves,

One: as in a dry and weary land

ALL: where there is no water.

One: We have seen you in this place, with these people,

ALL: seen your power and your glory.

One: Your love is better than life,

ALL: and so we glorify you;

One: as long as we live,

ALL: we praise you, with our voices and our bodies;

One: you are our help, you fill and fulfill us at your table,

ALL: and so we sing with joy in the shadow of your wings.

Opening Song: "This Is the Moment" (*tune: Benjamin Brody / lyrics: Hannah C. Brown*)

This is the moment, here is the place,
we are the people, yours is the grace.

Open our senses, feel how it starts:
you send your Spirit, we give our hearts.

What is this welcome, balm for the soul?
We seek our healing, you mend the whole.
Here is communion making us one.
Grateful, we enter what you've begun.

What is this water, washing us new?
We search for answers, you teach what's true.
Here is your summons: "Don't hesitate!
Join in this journey, new lives await."

What is this freedom, solemn and strange?
We long for safety, you lead to change.
Here is your challenge: "Do what is just;
dare to love deeply, learn how to trust."

This is the moment, here is the place,
we are the people, yours is the grace.
Open our senses, feel how it starts:
you send your Spirit, we give our hearts.

Offering Ourselves & Our Gifts / Passing the Peace

"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

One: The peace of God be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

GROUNDING

Community Prayer (*Christian Aid Monthly Prayers – adapted*)

With those who live in dry and weary lands, who know what it is to hunger and to thirst, we pray. We pray that we may learn what it is to hunger for you, O God, to thirst for justice, so all may know life abundant. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Special Music

Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 55:1-3

Hear, everyone who thirsts; come to the waters; and you who 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 earnings 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.

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: Luke 13:1-9

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus 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 other people 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 man working the vineyard, '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: "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: "Of Fig Trees, Faith and Fruit"

Song: "Come to Tend God's Garden" (*tune: UMH #395, George C. Stebbins / lyrics: John A. Dalles – adapted*)

Come to tend God's garden, seeds of hope to sow,
planting fields of justice, watching mercy grow!

In an arid wasteland, spread a verdant heath!
In a land of tumult, cultivate God's peace.

As we tend God's garden, from its furrows rise
stems of fresh beginnings, stretching toward the skies!
Graciousness, our meadow, joyfulness, our root,
(love and life), our foliage, righteousness, our fruit!

May God's garden flourish, may our toil succeed,
may God bless our actions, every word and deed!
Serving Christ each season, with God's diagram,
charted by the Spirit, for the task at hand!

SHARING

Prayers of the People / Joys & Concerns

Sung Response (*tune: UMH #682, Thomas Tallis / lyrics: John Pritchard*)

O draw us near, companion God.
For every joy, your name we laud.
For every wound and each sigh, too,
we pray your love will see us through.

ENGAGING

Closing Song: "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me" (*TFWS #2153, African American spiritual – adapted*)

I'm gonna live so God can use me
anywhere ... anytime!
I'm gonna live so God can use me,
anywhere ... anytime!

I'm gonna work so ...

I'm gonna pray so ...

I'm gonna sing so ...

I'm gonna live so ...

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

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Gerry Felix (Church Council Chair)

Annie Haviland (Finance Committee Chair)

Jennine Miller (Staff-Parish Relations Committee Chair)

Carl Ballinger (Trustees Chair)

For full leadership roster: allmeansall.org/leadership