

Calvary Church

A Reconciling Congregation



Through the Palms, Lauren Wright Pittman

*“We wave our palms at
the foot of the cross ...”
- Steve Garnaas-Holmes*

March 24, 2024
Palm & Passion Sunday

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Women's History Month

GATHERING

Gathering Song: "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" (*perf. by Church Orchestra International*)

Welcome & Announcements

(also available at allmeansall.org/announcements)

- **Holy Week & Easter:** allmeansall.org/holy-week
- **New worship start time, beginning next Sunday:** 11 am
- **Spring Retreat at Pendle Hill:** June 7-8 (9)
- **Previous sermons:** allmeansall.org/sermons
- **Previous bulletins:** allmeansall.org/bulletins

Calendar

Today, Mar 24, 8-9 pm: Spiritual Reflection Group

- allmeansall.org/spiritual-reflection-group

Tuesday, Mar 26, 12-1 pm: Midweek Prayer (*weekly*)

- allmeansall.org/midweek-prayer

Thursday, Mar 28: Maundy Thursday

- **7 pm:** Tenebrae Vespers, with Communion (*hybrid*)

Friday, Mar 29: Good Friday

- **12-2 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 Walk & Witness to End Gun Violence
 - Simpson-Fletcher UMC / 6037 Jefferson St

Saturday, Mar 30: Holy Saturday

- **7 pm – 7 am (Easter Sunday):** Virtual Easter Vigil

Sunday, Mar 31: Easter Sunday

- **8 am:** Easter "Sunrise" Service at Cedar Park
- **9-10:30 am:** Potluck Brunch
- **10:15-10:45 am:** Calvary Kids Easter Egg Hunt
- **11 am-12:30 pm:** Hybrid Worship – Celebration of Liberation & New Life

Sunday, Apr 7

- **10 am:** Calvary Music Meeting
 - contact Norris if interested in participating in or otherwise building our music ministry:
music@allmeansall.org

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: "Communion Setting (Sanctus)" (TFWS #2257-b, tune: Mark Miller / lyrics: UM Hymnal – adapted):

Holy, holy, holy (One); God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest! (3x)

Blest is the one who comes in the name of (our God).

Hosanna in the highest! (3x)

Call to Worship (Jan Richardson – adapted)

One: Blessed is the one who comes to us by the way of love poured out with abandon.

ALL: Hosanna, loud Hosanna!

One: Blessed is the one who walks toward us by the way of grace that holds us fast.

ALL: Hosanna, loud Hosanna!

One: Blessed is the one who calls us to follow in the way of blessing, in the path of justice and joy.

ALL: Hosanna, loud Hosanna!

Opening Song: "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" (UMH #278, tune: public domain / lyrics: Jeanette Threlfall – adapted)

Hosanna, loud hosanna, the little children sang;
through pillared court and temple
the lovely anthem rang.
To Jesus, who had blessed them
close folded to his breast,
the children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.
From Olivet they followed mid an exultant crowd,
the victor palm branch waving,
and chanting clear and loud.
(Jesus) of earth and heaven
rode on in lowly state,
nor scorned that little children should on his bidding wait.
"Hosanna in the highest!" that ancient song we sing,
for (Jesus, Love incarnate,
new life he came to bring.)
O may we ever praise him
with heart and life and voice,
and in his blissful presence eternally rejoice!

Offering Ourselves & Our Gifts / Passing the Peace

One: The peace of God be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

GROUNDING

Community Prayer (Steve Garnaas-Holmes – adapted)

We wave our palms at the foot of the cross, O God. We sing of our delight, and our despair. Joyous, we are grateful, and we worship you. Brokenhearted, we confess that we have crucified you, that we continue to crucify you, again and again. And so we repent. We clutch

our palms as you bear the cross. Swept up, we join the procession. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Scripture Lesson: Psalm 118:19-29 (*A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church, Wilda C. Gafney*)

Open for me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter them and give thanks to the Living God. **20** This is the gate to the Holy Presence; the righteous shall enter through it. **21** I thank you that you have answered me and you have become my salvation. **22** The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. **23** This is our God's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. **24** This is the day that the Font of Creation has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. **25** Ah! HOLY ONE, help, save us! Ah! HOLY ONE, haste, deliver us! **26** Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Most High God. We bless you from the house of the Holy One. **27** The Faithful One is God, and she has given us light. Bind the festal offering with ropes of branches, up to the horns of the altar. **28** You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will exalt you. **29** Give thanks to the Holy One, for she is good, for her faithful love endures forever.

Sung Response: "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.

Scripture Lesson: Mark 1:1-11

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his

disciples **2** and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. **3** If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'Our Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" **4** They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, **5** some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" **6** They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. **7** Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. **8** Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. **9** Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! **10** Blessed is the coming realm of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

11 Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Sung Response: "Communion Setting (Sanctus)" (TFWS #2257-b, tune: Mark Miller / lyrics: UM Hymnal – adapted):

Holy, holy, holy (One); God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest! (3x)

Blest is the one who comes in the name of (our God).

Hosanna in the highest! (3x)

STATIONS OF THE CROSS & CRUCIFIXION ONGOING

*"I'd like to pretend that Good Friday,
the murder of God by the people of God,
is a one-time historical event.
That it took place far away,
in another country, safely in the past.
But the crucifixion is ongoing."*

– Sara Miles

*"The aim of love is ... to bring an end to
(crucifixions) in a world where they go on and on."*

– Beverly Wildung Harrison

*"Before the spectacle of this cross we are
called to more than contemplation and adoration.
We are faced with a clear challenge:
as Latin American liberation theologian Jon Sobrino has put it, 'to
take the crucified down from the cross.'"*

– James Cone

Reflection

Naming Crucifixion Ongoing in Gaza & Occupied Palestinian Territory

Prayer

Song: "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" (TFWS #2129)

I have decided to follow Jesus, (3x)
no turning back, no turning back.

Though none go with me, still I will follow, (3x)
no turning back, no turning back.

The world behind me, the cross before me, (3x)
no turning back, no turning back.

The Anointing

Mark 14:1-9

It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him; **2** for they said, "Not during the festival, or there may be a

riot among the people." **3** While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. **4** But some were there who said to one another in anger, "Why was the ointment wasted in this way? **5** For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor." And they scolded her.

6 But Jesus said, "Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. **7** For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. **8** She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. **9** Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."

Poem: "The Anointing at Bethany" (*Malcolm Guite*)

Come close with Mary, Martha, Lazarus
so close the candles stir with their soft breath
and kindle heart and soul to flame within us,
lit by these mysteries of life and death.

For beauty now begins the final movement
in quietness and intimate encounter.

The alabaster jar of precious ointment
is broken open for the world's true Lover.

The whole room richly fills to feast the senses
with all the yearning such a fragrance brings.

The heart is mourning but the spirit dances,
here at the very center of all things,
here at the meeting place of love and loss,
we all foresee, and see beyond the cross.

Silent Prayer & Reflection

The Cross: The Passover Meal

Mark 14:10-25

Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. **11** When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

12 On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples said to him, "Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?" **13** So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, **14** and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks, Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' **15** He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there." **16** So the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

17 When it was evening, he came with the twelve.

18 And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me." **19** They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another, "Surely, not I?" **20** He said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. **21** For the Son of Humanity goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Humanity is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born." **22** While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." **23** Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. **24** He said to them, "This is my blood of the

covenant, which is poured out for many. **25** Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the realm of God."

Prayer (*Pádraig Ó Tuama*)

The Cross: The Garden of Gethsemane

Mark 14:26-42

When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. **27** And Jesus said to them, "You will all become deserters; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.'" **28** But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee." **29** Peter said to him, "Even though all become deserters, I will not." **30** Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." **31** But he said vehemently, "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you." And all of them said the same.

32 They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." **33** He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. **34** And he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake." **35** And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. **36** He said, "Abba, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want." **37** He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? **38** Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

39 And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. **40** And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they

did not know what to say to him. **41** He came a third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Humanity is betrayed into the hands of sinners. **42** Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

Crucifixion Ongoing

Silent Prayer & Reflection

The Cross: The Arrest & the Desertion

Mark 14:43-50

Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. **44** Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." **45** So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him.

46 Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. **47** But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. **48** Then Jesus said to them, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? **49** Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled." **50** All of them deserted him and fled.

Prayer (*Pádraig Ó Tuama*)

The Cross: The Trial

Mark 14:51-64

A certain young man was following him, wearing nothing but a linen cloth. They caught hold of him, **52** but he left the linen cloth and ran off naked. **53** They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled. **54** Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and

he was sitting with the guards, warming himself at the fire. **55** Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. **56** For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. **57** Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying, **58** "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.'" **59** But even on this point their testimony did not agree.

60 Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?" **61** But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?" **62** Jesus said, "I am; and 'you will see the Son of Humanity seated at the right hand of the Power,' and 'coming with the clouds of heaven.'" **63** Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "Why do we still need witnesses? **64** You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?" All of them condemned him as deserving death.

Crucifixion Ongoing

Silent Prayer & Reflection

The Cross: The Denial

Mark 14:65-72

Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him, "Prophesy!" The guards also took him over and beat him. **66** While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. **67** When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said, "You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth." **68** But he denied it, saying, "I do not know or understand what you are talking about." And he went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed. **69** And the

servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders, "This man is one of them." **70** But again he denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, "Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean."

71 But he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know this man you are talking about." **72** At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, "Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he broke down and wept.

The Cross: The Condemnation

Mark 15:1-15

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. **2** Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Judeans?" He answered him, "You say so." **3** Then the chief priests accused him of many things. **4** Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you." **5** But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

6 Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. **7** Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. **8** So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. **9** Then he answered them, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Judeans?" **10** For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. **11** But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. **12** Pilate spoke to them again, "Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Judeans?" **13** They shouted back, "Crucify him!"

14 Pilate asked them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him!" **15** So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Crucifixion Ongoing

Silent Prayer & Reflection

The Cross: The Crucifixion

Mark 15:16-25

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. **17** And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. **18** And they began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Judeans!" **19** They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him.

20 After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

21 They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. **22** Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). **23** And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. **24** And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take. **25** It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him.

The Cross: The Final Breath

Mark 15:26-27, 29-39

The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Judeans." **27** And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. ... **29** Those

who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, **30** save yourself, and come down from the cross!" **31** In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. **32** Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

33 When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. **34** At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" **35** When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." **36** And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." **37** Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. **38** And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. **39** Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

Crucifixion Ongoing

Silent Prayer & Reflection

The Cross: The Burial

Mark 15:40-47

There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome.

41 These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem. **42** When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath,

43 Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the realm of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. **44** Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. **45** When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. **46** Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. **47** Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus saw where the body was laid.

Prayer (*Pádraig Ó Tuama*)

Silent Prayer & Reflection

Song: "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" (TFWS #2129)

I have decided to follow Jesus, (3x)
no turning back, no turning back.

Though none go with me, still I will follow, (3x)
no turning back, no turning back.

The world behind me, the cross before me, (3x)
no turning back, no turning back.

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: "Can These Bones Live?" (David McGregor)

Can these bones live? Can these bones live?

O, for God's breath wind

O, to know life again

Can these bones live?

Come from your four winds

Come with your fresh wind

Breathe life in our dying

Spirit reviving

Life once again (refrain)

"Know I will raise you

Empower, sustain you

Put my breath in you

Put my life in you

Know I am God"

Can these bones live? Can these bones live?

Spirit, blow freely

Lovely and freely

These bones can live! (3x)

Benediction

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)

Norris Person (accompanist): music@allmeansall.org