

Calvary Church

A Reconciling Congregation



"But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and has been found."

- Luke 15:32

March 27, 2022

4th Sunday in Lent

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Women's History Month

GATHERING

Prelude: "Bridge Over Troubled Water" (*Paul Simon, performed by Aretha Franklin*)

Welcome / Announcements

- **Worship Volunteers:** sign up at tinyurl.com/worship-help
- **Office Volunteers:** contact Pastor Tim to help
- **White Basket Offering:** UMCOR response in Ukraine (*today & Apr 3*)
 - info at umcmmission.org/umcor

Calendar

Today

- **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
- **8-9 pm:** Spiritual Reflection Group (*weekly through Apr 10*)
 - info at allmeansall.org/srg

Monday, Mar 28, 7:30-8:30 pm: Book Study – See No Stranger (*weekly through Apr 4*)

Tuesday, Mar 29, 12-1 pm: Midweek Prayer (*weekly*)

- info at allmeansall.org/faith-spirituality

Wednesday, Mar 30, 7-8:30 pm: Live Free Town Hall – Preventing Gun Violence (*POWER*)

- info at powerinterfaith.org/event

Thursday, Mar 31

- **12:30 pm:** Climate, Justice and Jobs Rally (*PA-IPL et al*)
 - NW corner of City Hall (*JFK Blvd & 15th St*)
 - info at tinyurl.com/PAIPL
- **6-8 pm:** One-to-One Training for Listening with Love Campaign (*POWER*)
 - info at powerinterfaith.org/event

Thursday, Apr 14, 7 pm: Maundy Thursday Vespers (*hybrid*)

Friday, Jun 10 – Saturday, Jun 11: Calvary Spring Retreat

• Mariawald Renewal Center (*Reading*)

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 worshipping 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).

CENTERING & CONNECTING

Breathing Our Way In / Breath Prayer

Singing Our Way In: "Come, All You People (Uyai Mose)"

(TFWS #2274, Alexander Gondo)

U – ya - i mo - se, ti – na – ma - te Mwa - ri. (3x)

U – ya - i mo - se zvi - no.

Come, all you people, come and praise your Maker. (3x)

Come now and worship the Lord.

Come, all you people, come and praise the Spirit . . .

Call to Worship (*Ana Gobledale, adapted; inspired by Psalm 32*)

One: Trust in the Eternal One.

ALL: We come in faith.

One: Rejoice in God's unfailing love.

ALL: We come in hope.

One: Celebrate the grace and forgiveness that is ours.

ALL: We come to sing with joy and gladness.

Opening Song: "Great God, Your Love Has Called Us Here" (tune: UMH #579, Henry Carey / alternate lyrics: Brian Wren)

Great God, your love has called us here,
as we, by love, for love were made.
Your living likeness still we bear,
though marred, dishonored, disobeyed;
we come, with all our heart and mind,
your call to hear, your love to find.

We come with self-inflicted pains
of broken trust and chosen wrong,
half-free, half-bound by inner chains,
by social forces swept along,
by powers and systems close confined,
yet seeking hope for humankind.

Great God, in Christ you call our name,
and then receive us as your own;
not through some merit, right or claim,
but by your gracious love alone;
we strain to glimpse your mercy seat,
and find you kneeling at our feet.

Then take the towel, and break the bread,
and humble us, and call us friends;
suffer and serve till all are fed,
and show how grandly love intends,
to work till all creation sings,
to fill all worlds, to crown all things.

Great God, in Christ you set us free
your life to live, your joy to share;
give us your Spirit's liberty
to turn from guilt and dull despair,
and offer all that faith can do,
while love is making all things new.

Passing the Peace / Offering Ourselves & Our Gifts

One: The peace of God be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

GROUNDING

Community Prayer *(from Christian Aid, adapted)*

Beloved God, with the eagerness of a child, you wait for our coming. With the urgency of a mother, you long for our return. With the anxious heart of a father, your arms ache to hold us. The disappointment, the judgment, the turning away, that's us, not you.

Forgive us and heal us of everything in us that recoils from our common humanity. You have given us sacred worth; help us to take all creation at your valuation and to know ourselves and each other as precious and loved. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Special Music

Scripture Lesson: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. **2** And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." **3** So he told them this parable:

11b "There was a man who had two sons. **12** The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. **13** A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. **14** When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. **15** So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. **16** He would gladly have filled

himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything.

17 But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! **18** I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; **19** I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.' **20** So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. **21** Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' **22** But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe – the best one – and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. **23** And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; **24** for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

25 Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. **26** He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. **27** He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' **28** Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. **29** But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. **30** But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!'

31 Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. **32** But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

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: "Prodigal Love"

Song: "Amazing Grace" (*UMH #378, tune: 19th century American / lyrics: John Newton, adapted*)

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
that (saves and sets me free)!

I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

SHARING

Prayers of the People / Joys & Concerns

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

Sung 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 Song: “I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”

(TFWS #2153, African American spiritual)

I’m gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime! *(repeat)*

I’m gonna work . . .

I’m gonna pray . . .

I’m gonna sing . . .

I’m gonna live . . .

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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