

# Calvary Church

*A Reconciling Congregation*



*“Do you want to be right,  
or do you want to be in relationship?”*  
**- every couples’ therapist  
since the beginning of time**

**March 30, 2025**

*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent*

# CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Women's History Month

## GATHERING

**Gathering Song:** "We Rise" (*Rhiannon Giddens, with Pura Fé Crescioni and Charly Lowry*)

## Welcome & Announcements

- **Welcome back to our Preacher-in-Residence,** Rev. Naomi Washington-Leapheart
- **Lent @ Calvary – Resilience & Resistance**
  - [allmeansall.org/lent](http://allmeansall.org/lent)
- **Holy Week @ Calvary:** [allmeansall.org/holy-week](http://allmeansall.org/holy-week)
- **Resistance for such a time as this**
  - Calvary justice teams: [allmeansall.org/love-justice](http://allmeansall.org/love-justice)
  - other opportunities: [allmeansall.org/resistance](http://allmeansall.org/resistance)
- **12<sup>th</sup> Annual Sojourner Truth Walk:** Saturday, May 3
  - [tinyurl.com/calvary-stw](http://tinyurl.com/calvary-stw)
- **Spring Retreat:** May 16-17/18, 2025
  - St. Raphaela Center (Haverford)
  - [allmeansall.org/retreats](http://allmeansall.org/retreats)
- **Previous sermons:** [allmeansall.org/sermons](http://allmeansall.org/sermons)
- **Previous bulletins:** [allmeansall.org/bulletins](http://allmeansall.org/bulletins)

## Calendar

**Today, Mar 30, 8-9 pm:** Spiritual Reflection Group (*weekly, through Apr 13*)

- [allmeansall.org/spiritual-reflection-group](http://allmeansall.org/spiritual-reflection-group)

**Monday, Mar 31, 6:30-7:30 pm:** Yoga (*weekly*)

- Calvary (Chapel) – 48<sup>th</sup> St entrance
- [allmeansall.org/yoga](http://allmeansall.org/yoga)

**Tuesday, Apr 1, 3 pm:** Midweek Prayer (*weekly*)

- [allmeansall.org/midweek-prayer](http://allmeansall.org/midweek-prayer)
- 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays: 3 pm / 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>: 6 pm

**Wednesday, Apr 2, 10-11 am:** Yoga (*weekly*)

- See Mar 31 for details

## Thursday, Apr 3

- **12 pm:** We Define the Sacred - Clergy Action to Defend Sensitive Locations (*New Sanctuary Movement of Philadelphia*)
  - ICE Philadelphia Field Office / 114 N. 8th St
  - contact Pastor Tim if interested, or to get in involved in Calvary's NSM Team
- **3 pm:** Finance Committee (*rescheduled / bimonthly*)
- **8-9ish pm:** Spirituality on Tap (*monthly – 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursdays*)
  - [allmeansall.org/spirituality-on-tap](http://allmeansall.org/spirituality-on-tap)

## Saturday, Apr 5, 1 pm: Meditation (*weekly*)

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

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

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

- justice-focused Stations of the Cross

## 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](http://allmeansall.org/donate).

## **CENTERING & CONNECTING**

### **Breathing Our Way In**

#### **Singing Our Way In:** "May I Be Empty" (*Batya Levine*)

May I be empty

And open to receive the light

May I be empty  
And open to receive

May I be full ...

**Call to Worship** *(inspired by Psalm 32:10-11)*

One: Unfailing love surrounds all those who trust in God.

**ALL: So rejoice and be glad,**

One: all you who love God!

**ALL: Sing and shout for joy,**

One: all you whom God loves!

**ALL: Rejoice and be glad,**

One: all you whose hearts are open!

**ALL: We sing and shout for joy!**

**Opening Song:** "God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale"

*(UMH #122, tune: Carl F. Schalk / lyrics: Jaroslav J. Vajda)*

God of the sparrow

God of the whale

God of the swirling stars

How does the creature say Awe

How does the creature say Praise

God of the earthquake

God of the storm

God of the trumpet blast

How does the creature cry Woe

How does the creature cry Save

God of the rainbow

God of the cross

God of the empty grave

How does the creature say Grace

How does the creature say Thanks

God of the hungry

God of the sick

God of the prodigal

How does the creature say Care

How does the creature say Life

God of the neighbor

God of the foe

God of the pruning hook

How does the creature say Love

How does the creature say Peace

God of the ages

God near at hand

God of the loving heart

How do your children say Joy

How do your children say Home

### **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** (Roddy Hamilton – adapted)

Loving God, homecoming God, may we be found, and may we find a place called home—a place where faith holds us and grace renews us, where forgiveness longs for us to be who you long for us to be. May we find a place called home where we are accepted as we are, where we are taken in and loved unconditionally; a place called home where we belong, and our souls fit, and our questions are allowed, and our anger is heard, and our needs are recognized, and our pain is held, and our names are known.

And may this be such a place, O God, this community, this group of travelers and doubters, and companions on the way. This home, where your place is our place, and

place isn't a building but a way of being together in relationship held together by love. Amen.

## Silent Prayer

## Special Music

### Scripture Lesson: Psalm 32

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. **2** Happy are those to whom the HOLY ONE imputes no iniquity and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

**3** While I kept silent, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. **4** For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. **5** Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the HOLY ONE," and you forgave the guilt of my sin. **6** Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them. **7** You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

**8** I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. **9** Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you. **10** Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the HOLY ONE. **11** Be glad in the HOLY ONE and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

### 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 15:1-3, 11-32 (*The Voice*)

Jesus became increasingly popular among *notorious* sinners—tax collectors and other social outcasts. **2** The Pharisees and religious scholars noticed this.

Pharisees and Religious Scholars: This man welcomes immoral people and enjoys their company over a meal!

**3** Jesus (with a parable): ... **11** Once there was this man who had two sons. **12** One day the younger son came to his father and said, “Father, eventually I’m going to inherit my share of your estate. Rather than waiting until you die, I want you to give me my share now.” And so the father *liquidated assets and* divided them. **13** A few days passed and this younger son gathered all his wealth and set off on a journey to a distant land. Once there he wasted everything he owned on wild living. **14** He was broke, a terrible famine struck that land, and he felt desperately hungry and in need. **15** He got a job with one of the locals, who sent him into the fields to feed the pigs. **16** The young man felt so miserably hungry that he wished he could eat the slop the pigs were eating. Nobody gave him anything.

**17** So he had this moment of self-reflection: “*What am I doing here?* Back home, my father’s hired servants have plenty of food. Why am I here starving to death? **18** I’ll get up and return to my father, and I’ll say, ‘Father, I have done wrong—wrong against God and against you. **19** I have forfeited any right to be treated like your son, but I’m wondering if you’d treat me as one of your hired servants?’” **20** So he got up and returned to his father. The father looked off in the distance and saw the young man returning. He felt compassion for his son and ran out to him, enfolded him in an embrace, and kissed him. **21** The son said, “Father, I have done a terrible wrong in God’s sight and in your sight too. I have forfeited any right to be treated as your son.”

**22** But the father turned to his servants and said, "Quick! Bring the best robe we have and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and shoes on his feet. **23** Go get the fattest calf and butcher it. Let's have a feast and celebrate **24** because my son was dead and is alive again. He was lost and has been found." So they had this huge party.

**25** Now the man's older son was still out in the fields working. He came home at the end of the day and heard music and dancing. **26** He called one of the servants and asked what was going on. **27** The servant said, "Your brother has returned, and your father has butchered the fattest calf to celebrate his safe return."

**28** The older brother got really angry and refused to come inside, so his father came out and pleaded with him to join the celebration. **29** But he argued back, "Listen, all these years I've worked hard for you. I've never disobeyed one of your orders. But how many times have you even given me a little goat to roast for a party with my friends? Not once! *This is not fair!* **30** So this son of yours comes, this wasteful delinquent who has spent your hard-earned wealth on loose women, and what do you do? You butcher the fattest calf from our herd!"

**31** The father replied, "My son, you are always with me, and all I have is yours. **32** Isn't it right to join in the celebration and be happy? This is your brother we're talking about. He was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found again!"

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:** "When the Chickens Come Home, But Don't Roost"

**Song:** "God of Still Waiting" (*tune: Alfred V. Fedak / lyrics: Carl P. Daw Jr.*)

God of still waiting, God of deep longing,  
God of the heart's true rest:  
hold us in fathomless peace,  
guard us with unwaning love.

Spirit of promise, Spirit of purpose,  
Spirit of ceaseless prayer:  
bathe us in life full and free,  
kindle our wonder and hope.

Word who comes to us, Word who lives with us,  
Word who disturbs and heals:  
silence our chattering fears,  
waken our unconscious faith.

Word true and faithful, hope-bringing Spirit,  
God of enfolding love:  
come in your fullness and grace,  
work through our lives for your praise.

## **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:** "This Little Light of Mine" (AAHH #549, African American spiritual)

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine (3x)  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Everywhere I go ...

All through the night ...

## **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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## **Calvary United Methodist Church**

at the intersection of 48<sup>th</sup> & Baltimore / spirituality & justice

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**Norris Person** (Music Minister): [music@allmeansall.org](mailto:music@allmeansall.org)

**Shakirah Holloway** (Office Manager)

**Kristine Morrow, Bethany Weed, Cord Whitaker**

(Co-Lay Leaders)

**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](http://allmeansall.org/leadership)