

# Calvary Church

*A Reconciling Congregation*



*"How can anyone be born  
after having grown old?"*

*- John 3:4a*

**March 5, 2023**

*2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent*

# CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Women's History Month

## GATHERING

**Prelude:** "Resilient" (*Rising Appalachia*)

*You're invited to be in silence during the Prelude,  
as we transition together into this sacred time and space.*

**Greeting / Welcome**

## CENTERING & CONNECTING

**Breathing Our Way In / Breath Prayer**

**Singing Our Way In:** "Nothing Can Trouble (Nada Te Turbe)" (*TFWS #2054, tune: Jacques Berthier, lyrics: St. Teresa de Jesús / Taizé Community*)

Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten.  
Those who seek God shall never go wanting.  
God alone fills us.

Nada te turbe, nada te espante.  
Quien a Dios tiene nada le falta.  
Solo Dios basta.

**Call to Worship** (*Liz Testa – adapted*)

One: We gather in the company of women who have gone before, mothers and sisters of the faith, both named and unnamed,

**ALL: Mothering God, we give you thanks.**

One: We gather in the company of women testifying with ferocity and faith to the spirit of wisdom and healing. They are the judges, the prophets, the martyrs, the warriors, poets, lovers and saints who are near to us in the shadow of awareness, in the crevices of memory, in the landscape of our dreams.

**ALL: Mothering God, we give you thanks.**

One: We gather in the company of women whose names have been lost and silenced, who kept and cradled the wisdom of the ages.

**ALL: Mothering God, we give you thanks.**

One: We gather in the company of all mothers and sisters of the faith, who teach us to resist evil with boldness, to lead with wisdom and strength, and to heal with compassion and love.

**ALL: Mothering God, we gather to worship in company with you, with mothers and sisters past and present, and with each other.**

**Opening Song:** "Life-Giver, Lover of Us All" (*tune: UMH #682, Thomas Tallis / lyrics: Laurie Aleona*)

Life-giver, Lover of us all,  
upon your holy name we call.  
Your new day come, your will be done,  
on earth as in all realms beyond.

We pray this day for bread to live;  
forgive our sins as we forgive;  
and give us strength in time of test;  
grant us release from evil's death.

For all the cosmos is your own,  
your power of love which we have known.  
The splendor, radiant, without end;  
to God be praise! Amen. Amen.

**Offering Ourselves & Our Gifts / Passing the Peace**

One: The peace of God be with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

## **GROUNDING**

**Community Prayer** (*Pamela Hawkins – adapted*)

O God of Love, who makes all things new, new stars, new dust, new life; take our hearts, every hardened edge and measured beat, and create something new in us. We

need your newness, God, the rough parts of us – and us all – made smooth; the stagnant, stirred; the stuck, freed; the unkind, forgiven. By the power of your Spirit, turn us yet again toward love and life. Amen.

## **Silent Prayer**

## **Special Music**

### **Scripture Lesson:** Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills – from where will my help come? **2** My help comes from the (Holy One), who made heaven and earth. **3** (God) will not let your foot be moved; (the One) who keeps you will not slumber. **4** (The One) who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. **5** The (Holy One) is your keeper; the (Holy One) is your shade at your right hand. **6** The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. **7** The (Holy One) will keep you from all evil; (God) will keep your life. **8** The (Holy One) will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

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

Open my ears, (Love), help me to hear your voice.  
Open my ears, (Love), help me to hear.

### **Scripture Lesson:** John 3:1-17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. **2** He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." **3** Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the (realm) of God without being born from above." **4** Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" **5** Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no

one can enter the (realm) of God without being born of water and Spirit. **6** What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. **7** Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' **8** The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

**9** Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?"

**10** Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? **11** "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. **12** If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? **13** No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of (Woman). **14** And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of (Woman) be lifted up, **15** that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. **16** For God so loved the world that (God) gave (God's) only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. **17** Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

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

Open my ears, (Love), help me to hear your voice.

Open my ears, (Love), help me to hear.

Open my heart, (Love), help me to love like you.

Open my heart, (Love), help me to love.

**Sermon:** "Umbilical Faith"

**Song:** "Womb of Life" (*tune: UMH #196, Rowland H. Prichard / lyrics: TFWS #2046, Ruth Duck*)

Womb of life, and source of being,  
home of every restless heart,  
in your arms the world's awakened;  
you have loved us from the start.  
We, your children, gather 'round you,  
at the table you prepare.  
Sharing stories, tears, and laughter,  
we are nurtured by your care.

Word in flesh, our brother Jesus,  
born to bring us second birth,  
you have come to stand beside us,  
knowing weakness, knowing earth.  
Priest who shares our human struggles,  
Life of Life, and Death of Death,  
Risen Christ, come stand among us,  
send the Spirit by your breath.

Brooding Spirit, move among us;  
be our partner, be our friend.  
When our memory fails, remind us  
whose we are, what we intend.  
Labor with us, aid the birthing  
of the new world yet to be,  
free of servant, lord, and master,  
free for love and unity.

Mother, Brother, Holy Partner,  
Father, Spirit, Only Son:  
We would praise your name forever,  
One in three, and three in one.  
We would share your life, your passion,  
share your word of world made new,  
ever singing, ever praising,  
one with all, and one with you.

## **SHARING**

### **Prayers of the People / Joys & Concerns**

"Thanks be to God" or "God, hear our prayer"

**Sung Response** (*tune: UMH #294, Hugh Wilson / lyrics: John Pritchard*)

O Wind and Fire, O Rock and Vine,  
O Voice so still and small,  
we bring our lives, our hopes and fears  
to you who embraces all.

**Communion / The Great Thanksgiving** (*Steve Garnaas-Holmes – adapted*)

One: God is with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**ALL: We lift them up to God and to each other.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Holy One, our God.

**ALL: It is good and beautiful to give God our praise.**

One: Holy Mystery, we give you our thanks and praise.  
In the swirling darkness you created light. You create us  
as children of light. You called Sarai and Abram and  
they followed you. In the unknown you accompany us  
and lead us to new life. In the deep night of oppression  
and injustice you set us free. From the chains of our sin  
you set us free. You call us to be born again in your love.  
Moment by moment, breath by breath, again and  
again, you birth us in love—new people, a new creation.  
Therefore, with all Creation, we sing your praise and join  
in the unending hymn:

**ALL SING** (*TFWS #2257-b, tune: Mark Miller / lyrics: UM Hymnal*):

**Holy, holy, holy Lord; 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 the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest!** (3x)

One: Blessed are all who come in your name, and blessed is Jesus, your Christ, who taught and healed and fed the hungry in mind, body and spirit, so we might know the fullness of life. He is a vessel of eternal life, abundant life, and so we come to feast on his love.

On the night he was betrayed ... And so we remember. As often as we break the bread and share the cup, we remember. We taste the same Spirit, we feast on the same promise and renew our commitment to follow the same path, as we proclaim the mystery at the heart of our faith:

**ALL SING** (TFWS #2257-c, tune: Mark Miller / lyrics: UM Hymnal):

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

**Hosanna in the highest!** (3x)

One: Pour out your Spirit on these gifts of bread and cup, symbols of Christ's body given for the sake of love. Pour out your Spirit on us, gathered here and virtually, that we may be for the world the Body of Christ, your hands and feet, your heart, given for the sake of love. Pour out your Spirit that we might be born anew in your love, shining with the light of your love, serving others in the strength of your love.

**ALL SING** (TFWS #2257-d, tune: Mark Miller / lyrics: UM Hymnal):

**Amen. Amen. Amen.**

**Hosanna in the highest!** (3x)

**Sung Response:** "Let Us Break Bread Together" (UMH #618, African American spiritual)

Let us break bread together on our knees. (repeat)

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,  
O, Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees ...

Let us praise God together on our knees ...

## **ENGAGING**

**Closing Song:** "Spirit Wind" (*tune: UMH #292, American folk hymn / lyrics: Steve Garnaas-Holmes*)

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,  
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!

That you who made the earth  
with love would give us birth  
and by your Spirit's breath lead us on, lead us on,  
and by your Spirit's breath make us whole.

Great Spirit, may the wind of your love freely blow,  
oh, let your wind of love freely blow,  
and guide us in your grace  
in every time and place,  
to bear your love and peace as we go, as we go.  
Oh, let the winds of love freely blow!

As we are born anew from above, from above,  
God, send us out to serve in your love.  
And may we freely go  
wherever your winds blow,  
though how we do not know, in your love, in your love,  
wherever your winds blow, in your love.

## **Benediction**

**Singing Our Way Out:** "Go Now in Peace" (*UMH #665, Natalie Sleeth*)

Go now in peace, go now in peace,  
may the love of God surround you  
everywhere, everywhere, you may go.

**Announcements** ([allmeansall.org/announcements](http://allmeansall.org/announcements))

- **Winter clothing drive for newly arriving immigrants:**
  - [allmeansall.org/clothing](http://allmeansall.org/clothing)
- **Bible Study: Lectio(nary) Divina**
  - timing TBD / [allmeansall.org/bible-study](http://allmeansall.org/bible-study)
  - contact Pastor Tim to sign up or with questions

## • **Adult Ed Book Study: Original Blessing**

- timing TBD / [allmeansall.org/adult-ed](http://allmeansall.org/adult-ed)
- contact Pastor Tim to sign up or with questions

## • **Worship volunteers:** [tinyurl.com/worship-help](http://tinyurl.com/worship-help)

### Calendar

#### **Today, 7:30-8:30 pm:** Spiritual Reflection Group

- weekly through Lent (Apr 2)
- [allmeansall.org/spiritual-reflection-group](http://allmeansall.org/spiritual-reflection-group)

#### **Tuesday, Mar 7**

- **12-1 pm:** Midweek Prayer
  - [allmeansall.org/midweek-prayer](http://allmeansall.org/midweek-prayer)
- **7:30 pm:** Lenten Bible Detox (*The Center and Library for the Bible and Social Justice*)
  - weekly through Apr 4
  - info at [clbsj.org/events/lenten-detox](http://clbsj.org/events/lenten-detox)

#### **Thursday, Mar 9, 6 pm:** POWER West/Southwest Cluster Meeting

- Mosaic Church / 51<sup>st</sup> & Sansom
- contact Eriks ([eriksslush@hotmail.com](mailto:eriksslush@hotmail.com)) to get involved with Calvary's POWER Team

#### **Sunday, Mar 12**

- **11:15 am-12:45 pm:** Hybrid Worship (*3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent*)
- **1-2ish pm:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Potluck – Soup & Sandwiches
  - sign up at [allmeansall.org/potlucks](http://allmeansall.org/potlucks)

### 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: [pastortim@allmeansall.org](mailto:pastortim@allmeansall.org) / 215.724.1702.

### 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](mailto:office@allmeansall.org). Our **weekly Calvary Connections e-newsletter** goes out every Thursday evening.

### Membership

Interested in joining our congregation? Contact Pastor Tim to learn more: [pastortim@allmeansall.org](mailto:pastortim@allmeansall.org) / 215.724.1702.

### Space Rental

If you or your group are looking to rent space at Calvary, please contact Meg Trelease and the **Calvary Center for Culture and Community**: [office@calvary-center.org](mailto:office@calvary-center.org) / 215.452.9666.

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## **Calvary United Methodist Church**

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

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