

Calvary

United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation



*"... no one can enter the (kin-dom) of God
without being born of water and Spirit."*

... - -

March 8, 2020
2nd Sunday in Lent
Women's "Herstory" Month
(International Women's Day)

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Singing Our Way In *(insert)*

Invitation to Holy Presence / Breath Prayer

Call to Worship* *(John Pritchard)*

One: In the love that calls us and gathers us, welcome.

ALL: As people learning to love, peace be with you.

One: We continue on the journey to Jerusalem,

ALL: a journey on which we learn to die, and then to live.

One: Today we face into mystery, of birth and rebirth, of Spirit real and yet elusive, of love, healing love, undying love.

ALL: Our heads and hearts reel in the mystery that is beyond us.

One: So may the Spirit accompany us into what we neither understand nor control.

ALL: This is our prayer.

One: May the Spirit open us to what grace lies at its heart.

ALL: This is our prayer.

One: May the Spirit unleash in us the trust that yields life.

ALL: This is our prayer.

One: So may we continue to journey with Jesus the road that leads to resurrection.

ALL: May the Spirit transform us on the way. This is our prayer.

Hymn of Praise*: "God the Sculptor of the Mountains"

(TFWS #2060 / tune: UMH #304)

Passing the Peace*

One: The peace of God be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

CENTERING

Community Prayer *(John Pritchard)*

You who so loves the world, including us, we gather to sense

your presence among us in all its mystery, to recognize the grace, gift, that weaves its way through all of life, even with its horror. We gather knowing so many things to be horrified by, not least of which is the casual brutality that continues to turn from the poor in our midst.

We gather to sense your Spirit, like wind, swirling among us, stirring up the life, the passion, we cannot stir in ourselves. We gather to be remade in your love for the world, and so we wait. Move, we pray, among us, and birth us anew into life more alive, more full, more fully yours, the life we see in Jesus. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Special Music / Calvary Choir

NOTE: Following Special Music, children head downstairs for nursery (ages 0-5) and Calvary Kids (ages 6-11ish).

Scripture Lesson: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

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

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

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

Scripture Lesson: John 3:1-12

One: May the Spirit add understanding to our hearing.

ALL: Thanks be to God!

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

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: "Born and Born Again . . ."

Hymn of Response*: "Womb of Life" (*TFWS#2046*)

(*tune: UMH #384*)

SHARING

Offering our Tithes and Gifts / Offertory

Prayers of the People / Joys and Concerns

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

Prayer Response *(tune: UMH #418 / 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.

Closing Hymn*: “Song of Hope / Canto de Esperanza”
(TFWS #2186)

ENGAGING

Benediction*

Singing Our Way Out*: “Let the Church Say Amen”

** you are invited to stand as you are able*

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*at the corner of 48th & Baltimore
at the corner of spirituality & justice*

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SINGING OUR WAY IN

"Rising"* (*tune/lyrics: unknown; added lyrics: James K. Manley*)

Life is a test of the heart and the soul

Rising, we're rising

But something keeps moving us on to the goal

Rising, we're rising

Rising on the wings of faith, over life's storm-troubled seas

Carried along by a spirit of grace, rising, we're rising

You moved on the waters, you called to the deep . . .

You coaxed up the mountains from valleys of sleep . . .

And over the eons you called to each thing . . .

Wake from your slumbers and rise on your wings . . .

You swept through the desert, you stung with the sand . . .

And you goaded your people with a law and a land . . .

And when they were blinded by their idols and lies . . .

You spoke through your prophets to open their eyes . . .

You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill . . .

You whispered in silence when the whole world was still . . .

And down in the city you called once again . . .

You blew through your people on the rush of the wind . . .

"Spirit of the Living God" (*Daniel Iverson*)

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. (*repeat*)

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? **2** For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. **3** For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness."

4 Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. **5** But to one who without works trusts (God) who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

13 For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. **14** If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. **15** For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. **16** For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, **17** as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") – in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

John 3:1-12

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 (kin-dom) 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 (kin-dom) 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?"

March 8, 2020 – Announcements

CALENDAR

Today

Following worship: Monthly Potluck, with POWER organizer Lilah Saber

Upcoming

Tuesday, Mar 10, 6 pm: Trustees

Tuesday, Mar 10, 7 pm: Gathering with Bishop Johnson (in support of her stand against church trials)

- Eastern PA Conference Office / 980 Madison Ave (Norristown)

Thursday, Mar 12, 5 pm: Suyapa's Freedom Walk

- FUMCOG / 6001 Germantown Ave

Thursday, Mar 12, 6-7 pm: POWER Training (at Calvary)

Thursday, Mar 12, 7-8 pm: POWER Team

Thursday, Mar 12, 7-8 pm: Community Contemplative Space

Sunday, Mar 15, following worship (12:30 pm): Finance Committee

Saturday, Mar 28, 1:30-5 pm: Congregational Meeting

- to discuss Partners report and other options re: building
- light refreshments and childcare provided
- please RSVP to Pastor Tim (pastor@allmeansall.org)

Sunday, Mar 29, 11 am: Worship, with Ritual of Healing

Sunday, Apr 5, 11 am: Worship, with Communion and Stations of the Cross (Palm/Passion Sunday)

Sunday, Apr 5, following worship (12:30 pm): Church Council

Thursday, Apr 9, 7 pm: Maundy Thursday Vespers, with Communion

Sunday, Apr 12: Easter Sunday

- **7 am:** Sunrise Worship (Cedar Park)
- **8:30 am:** Potluck Breakfast
- **10:15 am:** Easter Egg Hunt
- **11 am:** Worship / Celebration of Resurrection

Save the Date

Friday, Jun 5 - Sunday, Jun 7: Spring Retreat (for adults)

- Mariawald Renewal Center (Reading)

RED BASKET OFFERING

The Red Basket is out again this week for donations toward our POWER dues for the first half of the year.

VISITING WITH US?

We're glad you're here, for whatever reason(s) you chose to join us this morning! We look forward to greeting you in person, and invite you to fill out a **Visitor Form** before you go (a greeter should be sharing one with you during the service).

Also, please know that we strive to make our worship space as welcoming and accommodating of different needs as possible. If you have any concerns or requests regarding accessibility (including use of the **elevator**), or other questions, please contact Pastor Tim.

RESTROOMS

If you're new to Calvary, it's useful to know where to find the restrooms! They are located downstairs on both sides of the building – exit through either side of the chapel and head for the stairs (an elevator is also available). There is an “all-gender” restroom on the 48th Street side, and a women's restroom on the Baltimore Avenue side.

CHILD CARE / CALVARY KIDS

A **nursery** (ages 0-5) and **Calvary Kids** (progressive Christian/interfaith lessons and other activities, ages 6-11ish) are available downstairs during a portion of worship. Families can pick up their children after the service, or earlier as needed.

INVITATIONS / OPPORTUNITIES

Lenten and Lectionary Reflections (online)

You are invited to participate in weekly reflection on the lectionary Scripture texts – and, **during Lent**, on additional prayers, readings, and prompts/questions specific to the

Lenten journey. **Pastor Tim will send an email to the group every Monday**, and group members are invited to share any responses and join in online dialogue as the Spirit moves.

Contact Pastor Tim to sign up or with questions.

Resist Harm Movement

You are invited to join Calvary and fellow Reconciling United Methodists from around the country to support **Resist Harm** (resistharm.com / [#ResistHarm](https://twitter.com/ResistHarm)), a movement of resistance to the anti-LGBTQ Traditional Plan now on the books in the United Methodist Church. **March's theme is "Lament."**

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, contact the church office (office@allmeansall.org).

Other Email Lists?

You may like to receive email updates from other groups with which Calvary is involved. If so, here's more info:

- POWER: powerinterfaith.org
- New Sanctuary Movement: sanctuaryphiladelphia.org
- PA Interfaith Power & Light: info@paipl.org
- Reconciling United Methodists of Eastern PA:
pastor@historicstgeorges.org
- Methodist Federation for Social Action – Eastern PA:
milesj526@verizon.net
- Eastern PA Conference (UMC): epaumc.org

Want to Help with Worship?

There is a **sign-up sheet on the altar table** for various worship responsibilities: greeting, helping set up the sound system (training provided), leading the Call to Worship, reading scripture, or carrying the handheld microphone at different points during the service. You can also contact Pastor Tim.

Volunteer with Nursery and Calvary Kids

We're always looking for more volunteers to work with our children during worship (and beyond)! All volunteers must be

involved in the congregation for at least six months, and complete background clearances in compliance with all state laws. If you're interested, please contact Pastor Tim.

CONTACT INFO

Office - Kari Collins, Calvary Office/Building Administrator
office@allmeansall.org / 215.724.1702

Pastor Tim Emmett-Rardin, Interim Pastor:
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