

Calvary Church

A Reconciling Congregation



*“If the goal was to increase the love,
rather than winning or dominating
a constant opponent,
I think we could actually imagine
liberation from oppression.”*
- adrienne maree brown

April 14, 2024
3rd Sunday of Easter

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Arab American Heritage Month / Earth Month

GATHERING

Gathering Song: "Eyes on the Prize" (traditional / perf. by Sweet Honey in the Rock)

Welcome & Announcements

(also available at allmeansall.org/announcements)

- **Thanks to our guest preacher, Lesley Curtis!**
- **Pastor Tim on vacation through April 16**
 - in case of a pastoral emergency, please contact Jennine (SPRC chair): 215.990.5668
- **Story Circles**
 - allmeansall.org/story-circles
 - contact Amy to sign up: aemmettrardin@gmail.com
- **Spring Bible Study**
 - allmeansall.org/bible-studies
 - contact Pastor Tim to sign up
- **Spring Retreat at Pendle Hill:** June 7-8 (9)
 - allmeansall.org/spring-retreat (deadline: April 24)
- **Faith Climate Action Week:** April 19-28
 - interfaithpowerandlight.org/faithclimateactionweek
- **General Conference of the United Methodist Church:**
April 23 – May 3 (Charlotte, NC)
 - tinyurl.com/GenConf20
- **Previous sermons:** allmeansall.org/sermons
- **Previous bulletins:** allmeansall.org/bulletins

Calendar

Today, Apr 14

- **12:45-2 pm:** 2nd Sunday Potluck
- **8-9 pm:** Spiritual Reflection Group
 - allmeansall.org/spiritual-reflection-group

Monday, Apr 15, 4 pm: Calvary Center for Culture and Community Board

Tuesday, Apr 16, 12-1 pm: Midweek Prayer (weekly)

- allmeansall.org/midweek-prayer

Sunday, Apr 21, 11 am-12:30 pm: Hybrid Worship

- celebrating Earth Day/Month & Faith Climate Action Week

Tuesday, Apr 23, 7 pm: Church Council

Saturday, May 4, 10 am-1 pm: 11th Annual Sojourner Truth Walk (Camp Sojourner, Girls' Leadership Camp)

- join/sponsor Calvary's team: allmeansall.org/stw

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: "I Went to Hell Last Night" (*Mika, excerpted & adapted*)

There's a little bit of God in everything
From the sun in the sky to the tears that we cry
There's a little bit of God in everything
From the dirt that we hold to our diamonds and gold
When you're dark and you're sad,
and your future's just as bad
There's a little bit of God in everything

When you're hurt and you're sour,
even in your darkest hour
There's a little bit of God in everything

From the king to the fool to those (turkeys) back at school
There's a little bit of God in everything
From the sun in the sky to the tears that we cry
There's a little bit of God in everything
From the dirt that we hold to our diamonds and gold
There's a little bit of God in everything

Call to Worship *(John Pritchard)*

One: In the Spirit who gives us life, welcome.

ALL: May divine power flow through us.

One: Come, friends, to the space for honesty.

ALL: We bring who we are, hopes and hurts, strength and sorrow.

One: "Out of the depths I cry to you, O God," said the psalmist,

ALL: and we know what it is to be in the depths, to feel hope's last thread fraying.

One: "How long, O God?" cried the psalmist,

ALL: and we know what it's like when struggle seems endless.

One: "Tears have been my food day and night," wailed the psalmist,

ALL: and we know how it feels to have life unravel, to feel our world crumble.

One: "Fear not; I am with you," says the Holy One,

ALL: and we hear that in flooding chaos, in fiery change, we are not alone.

One: "God's mercies never come to an end. They are fresh every morning," cried Jeremiah in the midst of devastating loss,

ALL: and we know the gifts that keep us going, the small blessings and daily graces that make and keep our lives.

One: "... though the harvest fails and the fields yield no food, nevertheless will I rejoice in the Holy One," proclaims the prophet Habakkuk,

ALL: and we too say, "nevertheless." Despite all that assails us, we still know joy, the joy of God's presence, the joy that leads us to praise: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Opening Song: "Siyahamba / We Are Marching" (TFWS #2235-b, trad. South African – adapted)

Si – ya – hamb' e – ku – kha – nyen' kwen – khos',
si – ya – hamb' e – ku – kha – nyen' kwen – khos. (repeat)
Si – ya – hamba, hamba, si – ya – hamba, hamba,
si – ya – hamb' e – ku – kha – nyen' kwen – khos. (repeat)

We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God. (repeat)
We are marching, marching, we are marching,
marching, we are marching in the light of God. (repeat)

We are dancing in the light of God ...
We are praying in the light of God ...
We are living in the light of God ...

Offering Ourselves & Our Gifts / Passing the Peace

One: The peace of God be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

GROUNDING

Community Prayer (RevGalBlogPals)

God of life, God of hope, God of all, lift us on your love like eagle's wings. Sustain us, guide us, heal us. Then send us forth into the world, that we may love as you love. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Special Music

Scripture Lesson: Psalm 133

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity! **2** It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes. **3** It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the HOLY ONE ordained God's blessing, life forevermore.

Choral Alleluia *(UMH #186, Jerry Sinclair)*

Reading *(Julian of Norwich)*

And in this (God) showed me a little thing
the quantity of a hazelnut,
lying in the palm of my hand, as it seemed.
And it was as round as any ball.
I looked upon it with the eye of my understanding,
and thought, 'What may this be?'
And it was answered generally thus,
"It is all that is made."
I marveled how it might last,
for I thought it might
suddenly have fallen to nothing
for littleness.
And I was answered in my understanding:
It lasts and ever shall, for God loves it.
And so have all things their beginning
by the love of God.
In this little thing I saw three properties.
The first is that God made it.
The second that God loves it.
And the third, that God keeps it.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Choral Alleluia

Sermon: "Spiritual Activism"

Song: "Guide My Feet" (TFWS #2208, African American spiritual)

Guide my feet while I run this race. (2x)
Guide my feet while I run this race,
for I don't want to run this race in vain!
Hold my hand ...
Stand by me ...
I'm your child ...
Search my heart ...

SHARING

Prayers of the People / Joys & Concerns

"Thanks be to God" or "God hears our prayer"

Sung Response (tune: UMH #408, trad. English / lyrics: John Pritchard)

O Open Arms, now hold our cares,
the aches we've named, the joys we've shared.
And hold us, too; into us breathe –
your grace, your life, let us receive.

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.
Hide it under a bushel, no! ...
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”

Calvary United Methodist Church

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(in case of pastoral emergency: 215.370.7411)

Norris Person (accompanist): music@allmeansall.org