

# Calvary Church

*A Reconciling Congregation*



*"Blessed are those who have  
not seen and yet believe."*

*- John 20:29b*

**April 16, 2023**

*2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter*

# **CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP**

*Arab American Heritage Month / Earth Month  
Faith Climate Action Week*

## **GATHERING**

**Prelude:** "Solid Ground" (*Dougie MacLean*)

***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:** "Easter People, Raise Your Voices"  
(*UMH #304, tune: Henry T. Smart / lyrics: William M. James – adapted*)

Easter people, raise your voices,  
sounds of heaven in earth should ring.

Christ has (showed) us heaven's choices;  
heavenly music, let it ring.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Easter people, let us sing.

Fear of death can no more stop us  
from our pressing here below.

For our (God empowers) us to triumph over every foe.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! On to victory now we go.

Every day to us is Easter, with its resurrection song.

When in trouble move the faster  
to our God who rights the wrong.

Alleluia! Alleluia! See the power of heavenly throngs.

**Call to Worship** (*Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ, Green Group – adapted*)

One: In the beginning, the Spirit of God moved over the waters,

**ALL: and God said "Unbind creation and let her out!" and God declared it to be good.**

One: God said, "Let there be light," and called the light "Day" and the darkness "Night." God gave the word to form a dome of Sky, and to separate the land from the water, the Earth from the Seas,

**ALL: and in God's eyes it was good.**

One: God's word brought to life the plants and the trees, yielding seed and bearing fruit,

**ALL: and it was good.**

One: God called forth lights in the dome of Sky – the Sun and Moon and Stars,

**ALL: and it was good.**

One: Then God breathed into being creatures of land and sea and sky,

**ALL: and it was good.**

One: And God spoke a final time, making humankind to carry the divine image, blessed by holy word for fruitfulness, to tend and steward all that God had made.

**ALL: And it was good. God saw that it was all very good.**

One: On the seventh day, God rested.

**ALL: And so on this divinely blessed seventh day, we gather to rest, to worship and to remember our role as partners in Creation. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Opening Song:** "At the Dawn of Your Creation" (*tune: UMH #89, Ludwig van Beethoven / lyrics: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette*)

At the dawn of your creation,  
God, you spoke, "Let there be light!"  
You divided earth from heaven,  
you created day and night.  
You made sunbeams dance with shadows,  
you created energy!  
Peaceful evenings, bright tomorrows,  
all began with "Let there be ..."

By your word, you formed creation:  
dry land, water, ocean breeze.  
Soon there burst forth vegetation –

plants with fruit, majestic trees.  
Rain and snow and changing seasons,  
creatures filling land and sea –  
God, your very good creation  
all began with "Let there be ..."

When you made us as your children,  
sending us throughout your lands,  
You commanded, "Have dominion –  
care for earth; it's in your hands."  
Yet we hurt this world you've given;  
we harm earth and sky and sea.  
We forget it's your creation –  
you, who once said "Let there be ..."

At this joyful celebration,  
may we hear your word anew:  
May we care for your creation,  
knowing it's a trust from you.  
Just as daily there's a dawning,  
bringing light to all we see.  
So we daily hear your calling –  
you, who once said, "Let there be ..."

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

One: The peace of God be with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

### **GROUNDING**

**Community Prayer** *(Catholic Relief Services – adapted)*

God of all Creation, at the beginning of time you placed a single mandate on humankind: to be stewards of Creation; to replenish and nurture for all generations what you have made. We kneel today amid that same Creation – a world that is, in many ways, more splendid than ever, but, in far too many ways, scarred beyond recognition. Forgive our arrogance. Turn us from our un-mindfulness. And release us from our overwhelmedness,

that we might be active partners with you in renewing the worlds that sustain life; so that we may all once more know Creation as it was in the beginning. Amen.

## Silent Prayer

## Special Music

### Scripture Lesson: Psalm 16

Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge. **2** I say to the Holy One, "You are my God; I have no good apart from you." **3** As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble, in whom is all my delight. **4** Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names upon my lips. **5** The Holy One is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. **6** The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage. **7** I bless the Holy One who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. **8** I keep the Holy One always before me; because you are at my right hand, I shall not be moved. **9** Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure. **10** For you do not give me up to Sheol, or let your faithful one see the Pit. **11** You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

## Choral Alleluia

### Scripture Lesson: John 20:19-29 *(A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church, Wilda C. Gafney)*

When it was evening on that day, the first of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples (gathered) were closed for fear of the Judeans, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you all." **20** And having said this, Jesus showed them his hands and his side, and then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Messiah. **21** Jesus said to

them again, "Peace be with you all, just as the God of Peace has sent me, so I send you all." **22** When Jesus had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit; **23** if you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

**24** But Thomas, one of the twelve who was called Didymus (the Twin), was not with them when Jesus came.

**25** So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Messiah." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." **26** And

within eight days his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, though the doors were shut, and stood among them and said,

"Peace be with you all." **27** Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and look at my hands. Bring your hand and put it in my side and do not doubt, rather believe."

**28** Thomas answered him, saying, "My Savior and my God!" **29** Jesus said to him, "Was it because you have seen me that you believed? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe."

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

## **Choral Alleluia**

**Litany of Lament for the Earth** *(The North American Conference on Religion and Ecology, adapted)*

One: We have forgotten who we are. We have alienated ourselves from the unfolding of the cosmos. We have become estranged from the movements of the earth.

We have turned our backs on the cycles of life.

**ALL: We have forgotten who we are.**

One: We have sought only our own security. We have exploited simply for our own ends. We have distorted our knowledge. We have abused our power.

**ALL: We have forgotten who we are.**

One: Now the land is barren. And the waters are warm and poisoned. And the air is polluted.

**ALL: We have forgotten who we are.**

One: Now the forests are dying. And the creatures are disappearing. And humans are despairing.

**ALL: We have forgotten who we are.**

One: Now the climate is changing.

**ALL: We have forgotten who we are.**

One: We ask forgiveness. We ask for the gift of remembering. We ask for the strength to change. Now, before it is too late.

**ALL: We have forgotten who we are.**

**Sermon:** "Believing Is Doing"

### **Silent Prayer & Reflection**

"The Living Waters" (*Sweet Honey in the Rock*)

### **A Litany of Commitment for the Earth** (*United Nations Environmental Sabbath Program*)

One: To bring new life to the land. To restore the waters. To refresh the air.

**ALL: We join with the earth and with each other.**

One: To renew the forests. To care for the plants. To protect the creatures.

**ALL: We join with the earth and with each other.**

One: To celebrate the seas. To rejoice in the sunlight. To sing the song of the stars.

**ALL: We join with the earth and with each other.**

One: To recall our destiny. To renew our spirits. To reinvigorate our bodies.

**ALL: We join with the earth and with each other.**

One: To recreate the human community. To promote justice and peace. To remember our children and grandchildren.

**ALL: We join with the earth and with each other. We join together as many and diverse expressions of one loving mystery: for the healing of the earth and the renewal of all life.**

**Song:** "Let All Creation Dance" (*tune: UMH #715, John Darwall / lyrics: Brian Wren – adapted*)

Let all creation dance in energies sublime,  
as order turns with chance, unfolding space and time  
for nature's art in glory grows,  
and newly shows God's mind and heart.

God's breath each force unfurls, igniting from a spark  
expanding starry swirls, with whirlpools dense and dark.  
Though moon and sun seem mindless things  
each orbit sings: "Your will be done."

Our own amazing earth, with sunlight, cloud and storms  
and life's abundant growth in lovely shapes and forms,  
is made for praise, a fragile whole,  
and from its soul heav'n's music plays.

Lift heart and soul and voice: in God all praises meet  
and nature shall rejoice as all is made complete.  
In hope be strong. All life befriend  
and kindly tend creation's song.

## **SHARING**

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

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

### **Sung Response** (*tune: UMH #145 / lyrics: John Pritchard*)

Hear us, Creator. Hear us, O Lover.

Hear us, O Spirit moving within.

Hear all our longing; hear all our sorrow.

Hear every joy and praise that we bring.



## **ENGAGING**

**Closing Song:** “May You Run and Not Be Weary” (*tune & refrain: UMH #525, Charles Albert Tindley / lyrics: TFWS #2281, Paul Murakami & Handt Hanson*)

May you run and not be weary.  
May your heart be filled with song.  
And may the love of God continue  
to give you hope and keep you strong.  
And may you run and not be weary.  
May your life be filled with joy!  
And may the road you travel always lead you home.

***By and by, when the morning comes,  
when the saints of God are gathered home,  
we'll tell the story how we've overcome,  
for we'll understand it better by and by.***

## **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”

**Postlude:** “Living Planet” (*Jay Mankita, perf. by Kim & Reggie Harris, Magpie*)

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

- **Faith Climate Action Week, April 14-23**
  - [faithclimateactionweek.org](http://faithclimateactionweek.org)
- **Pastor Tim on vacation, April 20-26**
  - in case of pastoral emergency, please contact Jennine (SPRC Chair): 215.990.5668
- **Spring Retreat, June 2-3**
  - Cranaleith Spiritual Center (NE Philly)
  - contact Pastor Tim if you're interested!
- **Worship volunteers:** [tinyurl.com/worship-help](http://tinyurl.com/worship-help)

## Calendar

**Today, 3-6 pm:** POWER Faith & Safety Mayoral Candidate Forum

- First District Plaza / 3801 Market St

**Tuesday, Apr 18**

- **12-1 pm:** Midweek Prayer
  - [allmeansall.org/midweek-prayer](http://allmeansall.org/midweek-prayer)
- **7 pm:** Finance Committee

**Sunday, Apr 23, 11:15 am-12:45 pm:** Hybrid Worship

- guest preacher: Rev. John Pritchard

**Tuesday, Apr 25, 7 pm:** Church Council

**Saturday, Apr 29, 2-5 pm:** 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Sojourner Truth Walk

- Calvary – outside 48<sup>th</sup> St entrance
- join or support Calvary's team: [tinyurl.com/sojo-truth-walk](http://tinyurl.com/sojo-truth-walk)

**Sunday, Apr 30, 11:15 am-12:45 pm:** Virtual Worship

## 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: [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.

## Space Rental

If you or your group are looking to rent space at Calvary, please contact 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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