

Calvary Church

A Reconciling Congregation



*“... in return for this gift of a world ...,
what will I give in return?”*

- Robin Wall Kimmerer

April 21, 2024

4th Sunday of Easter

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Arab American Heritage Month / Earth Month
Faith Climate Action Week

GATHERING

Gathering Song: "Living Planet" (*Jay Mankita / perf. by Emma's Revolution*)

Welcome & Announcements

(also available at allmeansall.org/announcements)

- **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
- **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!)
- **Previous sermons:** allmeansall.org/sermons
- **Previous bulletins:** allmeansall.org/bulletins

Calendar

Tuesday, Apr 23

- **12-1 pm:** Midweek Prayer (*weekly*)
 - allmeansall.org/midweek-prayer
- **7 pm:** Church Council

Sunday, Apr 28, 11 am-12:30 pm: Hybrid Worship

Thursday, May 2, 8-9ish pm: Spirituality on Tap (*monthly – 1st Thursdays*)

- Carbon Copy / 701 S. 50th St

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: "Circle Chant" *(Linda Hirschorn)*

Circle round for freedom, circle round for peace
For all of us imprisoned, circle for release
Circle for the planet, circle for each soul
For the children of our children:
keep the circle whole!

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, 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, as those blessed by Creation, we gather to rest, to worship and to remember our roles 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 (*Ojibway prayer*)

Great Spirit, look at our brokenness. We know that in all creation only the human family has strayed from the Sacred Way. We know that we are the ones who are divided, and we are the ones who must come back together to walk in the Sacred Way. Great Spirit, Sacred One, teach us love, compassion and honor, that we may heal the earth and heal each other. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Special Music

A Story of Creation: Genesis 1:1-2:4

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, **2** the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God

swept over the face of the waters. **3** Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. **4** And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. **5** God called the light Day, and the darkness God called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” **7** So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. **8** God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. **9** And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. **10** God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together God called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

Silent Reflection

11 Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. **12** The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. **13** And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

14 And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, **15** and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. **16** God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. **17** God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, **18** to rule over the day and over the night, and to

separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. **19** And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

Silent Reflection

20 And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." **21** So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. **22** God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." **23** And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

Poem: "The Peace of Wild Things" (*Wendell Berry*)

Silent Reflection

24 And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. **25** God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." **27** So God created humankind in God's image, in the image of God God created them; male and female God created them. **28** God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over

every living thing that moves upon the earth.” **29** God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. **30** And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. **31** God saw everything that God had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

2:1 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished and all their multitude. **2** On the sixth day God finished the work that God had done, and God rested on the seventh day from all the work that God had done. **3** So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that God had done in creation. **4** These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

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

Another Story of Creation: “Skywoman Falling” (*adapted by Robin Wall Kimmerer from oral tradition & “Skywoman: Legends of the Iroquois,” Joanne Shenandoah and Douglas M. George*)

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

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Choral Alleluia

Reflection

Reading: Excerpt from “Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants” (*Robin Wall Kimmerer*)

Silent Reflection: “Cherokee Morning Song” (*Mark Akixa*)
“... in return for this gift of a world ..., what will I give in return?”

Reading: Excerpt from “Braiding Sweetgrass”

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

One: To learn to listen. To listen.

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

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 remember our stories. To recall our destiny. To reclaim our origin. To recognize our interdependence. 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 live out justice and peace. To guard the shared futures of our children and grandchildren, of all species – no less than seven generations.

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

One: We join together as many and diverse expressions of one Creation, one loving, life-giving mystery: for the healing of the earth and the renewal of all life.

ALL: We join together to tend Creation’s unending song.

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 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: "The Trees of the Field" (*TFWS #2279, tune: Stuart Dauermann / lyrics: Steffi Geiser Ruben*)

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;
the mountains and the hills will break forth before you;
there'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field,
will clap, will clap their hands.

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands, (*clap 2x*)
the trees of the field will clap their hands, (*clap 2x*)
the trees of the field will clap their hands (*clap 2x*)
while you go out with joy.

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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