

# Calvary Church

*A Reconciling Congregation*



*“The fight for climate justice  
is also a fight for social justice.  
The two are deeply interconnected.”*  
- **Bill McKibben**

**April 26, 2026**  
*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter*

# **CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP**

Arab American Heritage Month

Earth Month

*Celebrating Mother Earth:*

*Sowing Seeds of Climate Justice*

## **GATHERING**

**Gathering Song:** “Living Planet” (Jay Mankita / perf. by Emma’s Revolution)

*You are invited during the Gathering Song to still your hearts, your minds, your bodies, as we come together for worship.*

## **Welcome & Announcements**

### **• Visiting with us?**

- We’re glad you’re here! We strive to make our worship space—in-person and virtual—as welcoming and accommodating of different needs as possible. If you have questions, concerns or suggestions, please contact Pastor Tim.

### **• Today’s special offering**

- Red Basket: PA Interfaith Power & Light

### **• Spring Bible/book study:** Sabbath Economics

- [allmeansall.org/bible-studies](http://allmeansall.org/bible-studies) OR [/book-studies](http://allmeansall.org/book-studies)
- timing TBD – contact Pastor Tim to sign up

### **• Story Circles:** [allmeansall.org/story-circles](http://allmeansall.org/story-circles)

- contact Amy to sign up, or with any questions: [aemmettrardin@gmail.com](mailto:aemmettrardin@gmail.com)

### **• Spring Retreat:** Jun 20-21 (with option to add Jun 19)

- St. Raphaela Center (Haverford)
- [allmeansall.org/retreats](http://allmeansall.org/retreats)
- stay tuned for full details – contact Pastor Tim if interested, or with any questions

### **• Previous sermons:** [allmeansall.org/sermons](http://allmeansall.org/sermons)

### **• Previous bulletins:** [allmeansall.org/bulletins](http://allmeansall.org/bulletins)

## Calendar

### **Today, Apr 26**

- **1-3 pm:** Confirmation Class
- **2:30-5 pm:** People's Hearing – Community-Based, Affordable, Clean Electricity (*POWER Interfaith*)
  - Congregation Rodeph Shalom / 615 N. Broad St
- **8-9 pm:** Spiritual Reflection Group (*also May 31*)
  - [allmeansall.org/spiritual-reflection-group](http://allmeansall.org/spiritual-reflection-group)

### **Monday, Apr 27, 6:15-7:15 pm:** Yoga (*weekly*)

- Chapel – 48<sup>th</sup> St entrance
- [allmeansall.org/yoga](http://allmeansall.org/yoga)

### **Tuesday, Apr 28**

- **6 pm:** Midweek Prayer (*weekly*)
  - [allmeansall.org/midweek-prayer](http://allmeansall.org/midweek-prayer)
- **6-8 pm:** Resistance Quilting Group (*various dates through May 26*)
  - [allmeansall.org/quilting](http://allmeansall.org/quilting)
  - contact Brooke if interested, or with any questions: [christensenvoice@gmail.com](mailto:christensenvoice@gmail.com)
- **7 pm:** Church Council (*bimonthly – 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays / rescheduled*)

### **Wednesday, Apr 29**

- **10-11 am:** Yoga (*weekly*)
  - see Apr 27 for details
- **12-12:30 pm:** Interfaith Prayer Vigil for Immigrant Justice (*weekly / New Sanctuary Movement*)
  - Philadelphia ICE Field Office / 114 N 8th St
  - contact Pastor Tim to join our NSM Team

### **Friday, May 1, 4-6 pm:** Workers Over Billionaires May Day Rally (*POWER Interfaith, et al*)

- Philadelphia City Hall
- contact Mimi if you plan to go: [rmijima@gmail.com](mailto:rmijima@gmail.com)

## **Saturday, May 2**

- **10 am-1 pm:** 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Sojourner Truth Walk
  - beginning at Calvary – 48<sup>th</sup> St entrance
  - [wizevents.com/sojourner-truth-walk/T99](http://wizevents.com/sojourner-truth-walk/T99)
- **1 pm:** Meditation (*weekly / West Philly Insight*)
  - Board Room (upstairs) – 48th St entrance

## **Sunday, May 3**

- **11 am-12:30 pm:** Hybrid Worship (*Communion*)
- **12:45-2 pm:** “2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday” Potluck (*monthly – earlier this month because of Mother’s Day, May 10*)
  - [allmeansall.org/2nd-sunday-potluck](http://allmeansall.org/2nd-sunday-potluck)
- **2-4 pm:** Resistance Quilting Group
  - see Apr 28 for details

**Tuesday, May 5, 6 pm:** POWER Interfaith Town Hall with Councilmembers Kenyatta Johnson and Jamie Gauthier

- Salt & Light Church / 57th & Chester
- contact Mimi if you plan to go: [rmijima@gmail.com](mailto:rmijima@gmail.com)

## **CENTERING & CONNECTING**

### **Breathing Our Way In**

**Singing Our Way In:** “I Am the Earth” (*Birgid Täht & Marii Valjataga*)

I am the Earth in the air I breathe

I am the Earth in the water stream

I am the Earth in the fire's heat

I am the Earth in my heartbeat

I am the Earth in her wildest seas

I am the Earth in her springtime dreams

I am the Earth in her falling leaves

I am the Earth when moonlight gleams

**Call to Worship** (*anonymous*)

One: We live in all things. All things live in us.

**ALL: We rejoice in all life.**

One: We live by the sun. We move with the stars.

**ALL: We rejoice in all life.**

One: We eat from the earth. We drink from the rain. We breathe from the air.

**ALL: We rejoice in all life.**

One: We share with the creatures. We have strength through their gifts.

**ALL: We rejoice in all life.**

One: We depend on the forests. We have knowledge through their secrets.

**ALL: We rejoice in all life.**

One: We have the privilege of seeing and understanding. We have the joy of celebrating. We have the responsibility of caring.

**ALL: We rejoice in all life.**

One: We are full of the grace of Creation. We are graceful. And we are grateful.

**ALL: We rejoice in all life. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Opening 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.

## **Passing the Peace**

One: The peace of God be with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

## **GROUNDING**

### **Community Prayer** *(Joan Metzner – adapted)*

Here we are, God—a planet at prayer. Attune our spirits that we may hear your harmonies and bow before your creative power, that we may face our violent discords and join with your Energy to make heard in every heart your rhythm of life.

Here we are, God—a militarized planet. Transform our fears that we may transform our war fields into wheatfields, arms into handshakes, missiles into messengers of peace.

Here we are, God—a polluted planet. Purify our vision that we may perceive ways to purify our beloved lands, cleanse our precious waters, de-smog our life-giving air.

Here we are, God—an exploited and warming planet. Heal our hearts, that we may respect Creation and use its resources wisely, hold priceless our people, and provide for all your children an abundance of daily bread. Amen.

## **Silent Prayer**

### **Special Music:** "Seed" *(Emma's Revolution)*

Take the seed that you have and plant it here

Give it water and time for a day or a year

Take the seed that you have and plant it here

Give it love, give it love

*Give it love, give it love ...*

Take the dream that you have and dream it here  
Give it courage and time for a day or a year  
Take the dream that you have and dream it here  
Give it love, give it love (*Chorus*)

Take the song that you have and sing it here  
Give it strength and time for a day or a year  
Take the song that you have and sing it here  
Give it love, give it love (*Chorus*)

### **Scripture Lesson:** Psalm 23

The HOLY ONE is my shepherd; I shall not want. **2** God makes me lie down in green pastures; God leads me beside still waters; **3** God restores my soul. God leads me in right paths for God's name's sake. **4** Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. **5** You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. **6** Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the HOLY ONE my whole life long.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

### **Scripture Lesson:** Job 7:1-10

But ask the animals, and they will teach you, the birds of the air, and they will tell you; **8** ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you, and the fish of the sea will declare to you. **9** Who among all these does not know that the hand of the HOLY ONE has done this? **10** In God's hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of every human being.

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

## Choral Alleluia

Sing alleluia, sing alleluia, sing alleluia, alleluia. *(repeat)*

## A LITURGY OF GRATITUDE, LAMENT, COMMITMENT

### Introduction

**Song:** "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!

**Sacred Circle Liturgy** *(David Weiss – adapted)*

### Litany of Gratitude for Creation

#### For Water

One: In our tradition, God, whom we see as the spark of creation for the cosmos, moved over the waters, imagining all that might be. And in Christian baptism—as well as in many other faith traditions—water carries the promise of cleansing, renewal, and new life ...

**ALL: Water is also precious in our daily lives: from the rain that nourishes the ground so that it might provide food, to the water that refreshes us, bathes us, and fills our bodies, to the soothing sound of waves on the beach, rain on leaves, or a stream over rocks.**

One: For these watery gifts and more ...

**ALL: We say thank you.**

#### For Earth

One: Scripture tells us we were birthed from Earth itself: humus filled with holy breath and made humus beings. It reminds us, too, that Earth is home to ALL creatures, acknowledging the kinship we share with all ...

**ALL: Earth, too, is precious in our daily lives: from the ground that holds us, to the fields that feed us, to the**

**trees that enliven us, the grandeur of mountain peaks and the beauty of rolling hills.**

One: For these earthy gifts and more ...

**ALL: We say thank you.**

For Air

One: We call God Spirit, a Holy Wind, named in countless ways by people across time and place. Wind itself hints at this unseen sacred energy swirling in our midst, air wrapping this fragile planet in an atmosphere—invisible but essential to foster and sustain life ...

**ALL: Air is precious as well in our daily lives: as the breath that fills our lungs—again and again and again; but also as the breath that moves between all that lives, joining us to a vast community of people, animals, and plants.**

One: For these airy gifts and more ...

**ALL: We say thank you.**

For Fire

One: We imagine a blazing God, the sacred energy of the Big Bang, creating all the elements in the womb of that cosmic fire. Fire became the symbol for the Christian Pentecost, as tongues of flame danced on disciples' heads, announcing that God's love danced to all corners of the world ...

**ALL: Fire is also precious in our daily lives, providing basic light, warmth, and heat for many. Fire also rises up in our longing for justice, in the bellies and through the lives of those advocating, lobbying, protesting ...**

One: For these fiery gifts and more ...

**ALL: We say thank you.**

## **Ritual of Gratitude**

### **Litany of Lament for the Climate Crisis**

One: However much we might feel paralyzed by despair, or prefer to rush forward into action, there is power that comes from honoring the truth, the depth of

the planet's pain. As we pause to do so, we begin the healing needed in this moment.

**ALL: So we honor the pain of the Water ...**

One: We remember ice caps that melt, and the oceans that warm, becoming less hospitable to life. We lament the water that roils in increasing and increasingly devastating hurricanes, that overwhelms in floods, and that rises along coastlines.

**ALL: We honor the pain of the Earth ...**

One: We recall Earth's surface temperatures that rise unrelentingly, the loss of life-giving topsoil, and the mass extinctions of plants, animals, and even insects, as Earth's capacity to be home to life is fractured.

**ALL: We honor the pain of the Air ...**

One: We remember the burning of fossil fuels, and the emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases that make our atmosphere betray its own life-sustaining properties. We lament that the dependence on fossil fuels, and a heating planet, creates conflict between and within nations, such that—despite our common breath—we breathe fear and division instead.

**ALL: We honor the pain of Fire ...**

One: We recall the wildfires that destroy both forests and communities. We lament the wanton burning of rainforests. And we grieve for the truth that Planet Earth, our very home, is on fire.

**Silent Prayer & Reflection:** "Planetary Bands, Warming World" (*arr. by Daniel Crawford, Scott St. George / perf. by students Julian Maddox, Jason Shu, Alastair Witherspoon and Nygel Witherspoon – University of Minnesota School of Music*)

**Litany of Commitment to Climate Justice** (*inspired by Joanna Macy and Chris Johnstone's book, "Active Hope: How to Face the Mess We're In"*)

Reader 1: The stakes have never been higher, for us, for our children and grandchildren, for the Earth itself.

Reader 2: Like it or not, we were born for this moment, because we are the ones here now. Now.

Reader 1: And since we are, let's embrace this moment as an adventure,

Reader 2: as our moment to stand up and add our voices to the chorus of healing change.

Reader 1: Not because we're so confident,

Reader 2: but because we're so needed. Here. Now.

**ALL: Let us remember: we are not alone. We are linked to each other. And to the Earth. And to the Universe. Interconnected. Interwoven.**

Reader 1: And so, together, we rise.

Reader 2: We may not see the way forward very far,

Reader 1: but we see the way forward here, today.

Reader 2: And we can keep moving, one step at a time,

**ALL: as together, we rise.**

Reader 1: We remember that countless generations brought us to this day. Alongside the foolhardy choices, habits, and policies that created the climate crisis, there have been countless actions of hope and compassion, wisdom and love, by so many.

Reader 2: And we choose to stand on their shoulders,

Reader 1: to honor their lives with our own,

**ALL: as together, across time, we rise.**

Reader 2: This is the work of Active Hope. We begin in gratitude. We acknowledge deep pain. We feel our ability to rise together. And we go forth in action.

Reader 1: Inspired by those who have struggled so long before us,

Reader 2: and by all those who continue the struggle,

**ALL: we pledge to take up our places,**

Reader 1: to do all that we can to address the climate crisis and enable climate justice:

**ALL: By taking actions in our own lives,**

Reader 2: by building community,

Reader 1: by pressing our political leaders,

Reader 2: by challenging the way things are,  
**ALL: and doing all these things as though our lives depend on it.**

Reader 1: Because they do.

Reader 2: Here is the promise of Active Hope, known also as “the work that reconnects”: echoing that truth found in every great faith tradition, that in seeking the well-being of others,

Reader 1: we find the deepest joy, the greatest hope,

Reader 2: the highest sense of purpose, and the richest human life,

**ALL: as together we rise.**

**Song:** “We Rise” (Batya Levine)

We rise, humbly hearted

Rise, won't be divided

Rise, with spirit to guide us

Rise!

*In hope, in prayer, we find ourselves here*

*In hope, in prayer, we're right here (repeat)*

We rise, all of the children

Rise, elders with wisdom

Rise, ancestors surround us

Rise! (*Refrain*)

We rise, up from the wreckage

Rise, with tears and with courage

Rise, fighting for life, we

Rise! (*Refrain*)

## **SHARING**

### **Offering Our Gifts**

[allmeansall.org/time-talent](http://allmeansall.org/time-talent) / [allmeansall.org/donate](http://allmeansall.org/donate)

“Each of you must give as  
you have made up your mind,  
not regretfully or under compulsion,  
for God loves a cheerful giver. ”

- 2 Corinthians 9:7



### Previous giving (rounded)

- Apr 13-19: \$1,754 / weekly budget: \$1,663
- White Basket, Apr 19 (Native American Ministries Sunday): \$23
- Red Basket, Apr 12-19 (PA Interfaith Power & Light): \$26

### **Prayers of the People**

“Thanks be to God” / “God hears 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**

#### **Benediction** (*Five Vows, Joanna Macy*)

I vow to myself and to each of you—

- To commit myself daily to the healing of our world and the welfare of all beings.
- To live on Earth more lightly and less violently in the food, products, and energy I consume.
- To draw strength and guidance from the living Earth, the ancestors, the future beings, and our siblings of all species.
- To support each of you in your work for the world, and to ask for help when I need it.
- To pursue a daily spiritual practice that clarifies my mind, strengthens my heart, and supports me in observing these vows.

**Singing Our Way Out:** "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.

**Postlude:** "Living Planet" (*Jay Mankita* / arr. and perf. by *Tony Moss*)

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## **Calvary United Methodist Church**

*Celebrating 130 years at the intersection of  
48<sup>th</sup> & Baltimore / spirituality & justice*

801 S. 48<sup>th</sup> Street / Philadelphia, PA 19143

215.724.1702 / office@allmeansall.org / allmeansall.org

**Pastor Tim Emmett-Rardin:** pastortim@allmeansall.org

(in case of pastoral emergency: 215.370.7411)

Days of rest: Monday mornings, Fridays

**Beth Jemison, Bethany Weed, Cord Whitaker** (Co-Lay Leaders)

**Lesley Curtis** (Church Council Chair)

**Annie Haviland** (Finance Committee Chair)

**Jennine Miller** (Staff-Parish Relations Committee Chair)

**Holly Chowning** (Trustees Chair)

**For full leadership roster:** allmeansall.org/leadership