

Calvary Church

A Reconciling Congregation



*“Awe came upon everyone ...
All who believed were together
and had all things in common ...”*

- Acts 2:43a, 44

April 30, 2023

4th Sunday of Easter

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Arab American Heritage Month / Earth Month

GATHERING

Prelude: "Precious Lord" (Thomas A. Dorsey, perf. by Aretha Franklin)

**You're invited to be in silence during the Prelude,
as we transition together into this sacred time and space.**

Welcome & Announcements

(full Announcements available at allmeansall.org/announcements)

- **Story Circles:** allmeansall.org/story-circles
 - contact Amy (aemmettrardin@gmail.com) to be paired in the next round of matches
- **Spring Retreat, June 2-3**
 - Cranaleith Spiritual Center (NE Philly)
 - contact Pastor Tim if you're interested!
- **Worship volunteers:** sign up at tinyurl.com/worship-help

Calendar

Tuesday, May 2

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

Saturday, May 6, 10 am: Homegoing Service for Ruth Meachem (viewing, 9-10 am)

- repast at Calvary, following interment at Fernwood Cemetery

Sunday, May 7

- **11:15 am-12:45 pm:** Hybrid Worship, with Communion
 - Norris' first Sunday as our new accompanist
- **3-5 pm:** New Sanctuary Movement Accompaniment Team Orientation
 - North Philly

Thursday, May 11, 7-8 pm: Community Rhythm Circle

- Calvary – please use 48th St entrance
- allmeansall.org/community-rhythm-circle

Saturday, May 13, 12-2 pm: Calvary Fellowship at Spruce Hill May Fair

- Clark Park – meet at 43rd & Chester (in grass near small playground)
- contact Sarah (sbykerjames@gmail.com) to RSVP

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 / Breath Prayer

Singing Our Way In: "Heaven and Earth Are Filled"
(Christopher Grundy)

Heaven and earth are filled with the light of the saints who have gone on before us,
shining around us still as we're running this race,
grateful our path is lit for us.

Call to Worship *(Roddy Hamilton – adapted)*

One: When God tripped over the stars this week and sent great lightning sparks across the night,

ALL: God's name was Power.

One: When God stood in the morning dew a few weeks back and whispered Mary's name fresh from the tomb,

ALL: God's name was Life.

One: When God held out hands to Thomas and told him to hold on and follow,

ALL: God's name was Shepherd.

One: When God pours out living water and invites us to find heaven in every drop,

ALL: God's name is Grace.

One: When God shakes us awake and hollows out an unused moment in front of us to step into,

ALL: God's name is Creator.

One: And when God finds us here in the space between heaven and earth, now and not yet,

ALL: God's name is Love.

One: Friends, let us worship the God of many names.

ALL: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Opening Song: "God, Whose Love Is Reigning o'er Us"
(UMH #100, tune: John Goss / lyrics: William Boyd Grove – adapted)

God, whose love is reigning o'er us,
source of all, the ending true;
hear the universal chorus
raised in joyful praise to you:
Alleluia, Alleluia, worship ancient, worship new.

Word of God from nature bringing
springtime green and autumn gold;
mountain streams like children singing,
ocean waves like thunder bold:
Alleluia, Alleluia, as creation's tale is told.

Holy God of ancient glory,
(showing us what love can do);
Abram's faith and Sarah's story
formed a people bound to you.
Alleluia, Alleluia, to your covenant keep us true.

Covenant, new again in Jesus,
Starchild born to set us free;

sent to heal us, sent to teach us
how love's children we might be.
Alleluia, Alleluia, risen Christ, (help us to see)!

Lift we then our human voices
in the songs that faith would bring;
live we then in human choices
lives that, like our music sing:
Alleluia, Alleluia, joined in love our praises ring!

Offering Ourselves & Our Gifts / Passing the Peace

One: The peace of God be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

GROUNDING

Community Prayer *(from Christian Aid website – adapted)*

Merciful God, who is more than we can ever imagine,
give us a wider vision of the world; give us a broader view
of justice; give us dreams of peace that are not defined
by boundaries of geography or race or religion, or by the
limitations of worldly structures and systems.

Open our eyes and our ears that wherever we go, we
may hear your voice calling us by name; calling us to
praise, calling us to share, calling us to serve, so that we
may never give up on the promise of your kingdom, where
the world is transformed, and all can enjoy life in all its
fullness. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Special Music

Scripture Lesson: John 10:1-10

Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the
sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a
thief and a bandit. **2** The one who enters by the gate is
the shepherd of the sheep. **3** The gatekeeper opens the
gate for the shepherd, and the sheep hear the

shepherd's voice. The shepherd calls their own sheep by name and leads them out. **4** When the shepherd has brought out all their own, the shepherd goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow the shepherd because they know the shepherd's voice. **5** They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from them because they do not know the voice of strangers."

6 Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. **7** So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. **8** All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. **9** I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. **10** The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

Choral Alleluia

Scripture Lesson: Acts 2:42-47a

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

43 Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. **44** All who believed were together and had all things in common; **45** they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. **46** Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, **47** praising God and having the goodwill of all the people.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Choral Alleluia

Sermon: "Awe and Abundance"

Song: "Great Lover, Calling Us to Share" (tune: UMH #357,
William B. Bradbury / lyrics: Brian Wren)

Great Lover, calling us to share
your joy in all created things,
from atom-dance to eagles' wings,
we come and go, to praise and care.

Though sure of resurrection-grace,
we ache for all earth's troubled lands
and hold the planet in our hands,
a fragile, unprotected place.

Your questing Spirit longs to gain
no simple fishing-ground for souls,
but as life's story onward rolls,
a world more joyful and humane.

As midwives who assist at birth,
we give our uttermost, yet grieve
lest folly, greed or hate should leave
a spoiled, aborted, barren earth.

Self-giving Lover, since you dare
to join us in our history,
embracing all our destiny,
we'll come and go with praise and care.

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: "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 ...

Guide my feet ...

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: "Our Ruth" (Calvary)

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