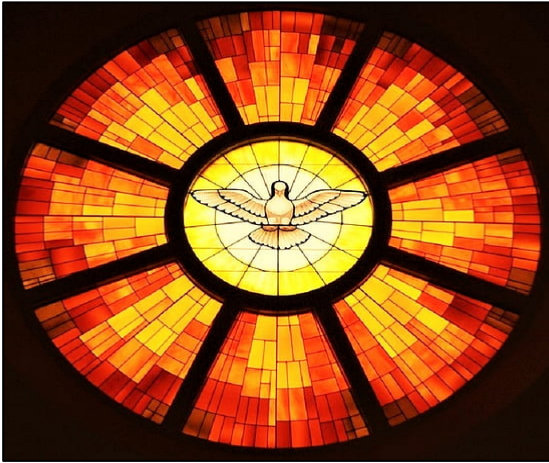


Calvary Church

A Reconciling Congregation



*"Didn't God set us
on the road to life?"*

*- Psalm 66:9
(The Message)*

May 14, 2023
6th Sunday of Easter

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

Jewish American Heritage Month

GATHERING

Prelude: "Arms of Love" (Alexa Sunshine Rose, with Shimshai & Aimée Ringle)

*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)

- **New Sanctuary Movement wish list for newly arriving immigrants:** tinyurl.com/nsm-wish
- **Worship volunteers:** sign up at tinyurl.com/worship-help

Calendar

Tuesday, May 16: Primary Election Day

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

Thursday, May 18 – Saturday, May 20: Eastern PA Annual Conference

- Greater Philadelphia Expo Center (Oaks)
- Saturday, 10:30 am: vigil witnessing to a fully inclusive church; contact Pastor Tim to participate

Sunday, May 21

- **11:15 am-12:45 pm:** Hybrid Worship
 - meeting after to plan Greg's celebration (Sep 10)

Saturday, Jun 3 (with overnight option Jun 2 and/or 4):

Spring Retreat – Seasons of the Spirit

- Cranaleith Spiritual Center (NE Philly)
- allmeansall.org/spring-retreat

Sunday, Jun 4: 10:30 am-7 pm: Philly Pride March & Festival

- beginning at 5th & Arch
- galaeiqtbipoc.org/our-programs/philly-pride-365

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: "Be Still and Know That I Am God"
(TFWS #2057, John Bell)

Be still and know that I am God.

Be still and know that I am God.

Call to Worship *(from Third Space – adapted)*

One: O Divine Voice,

ALL: you sing and the universe comes into being;

One: O Divine Breath,

ALL: you breathe and all things spring to life;

One: O Divine Word,

ALL: you call and creation is sustained;

One: O Divine Flesh,

ALL: you are born among us, and the Creator is clothed in creation;

One: O Divine Spirit,

ALL: you fill all that has been formed;

One: O Divine Life,

ALL: you are the pulse of all that is.

One: And so, in amazement and awe, in wonder and celebration, we marvel at this mystery:

ALL: In you all things live and move and have being.

One: In all things, you live and move and express your
Divine artistry;

**ALL: And so we join with Creation in the eternal song of
worship and wonder. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Opening Song: "We Sing to You, O God" (TFWS #2001, tune:
John Darwall / lyrics: Gracia Grindal)

We sing to you, O God, the Rock who gave us birth,
let our rejoicing sing your name in all the earth.

To you, O God, let songs be raised,
in joyful hymns, our feast of praise.

We wandered far from home out in a desert land,
you shielded with your love our fearful pilgrim band.
You kept us safe within your arms
and sheltered us against the storm.

You bear us through the world, an eagle to her young,
who rises on her wings and bears us toward the sun.
We ride the vaults of light and air
and trust in your unfailing care.

O God, eternal God, we hide within your wings,
the everlasting arms to whom our praises ring.
Your word is true, your way is just,
you are the God in whom we trust.

Offering Ourselves & Our Gifts / Passing the Peace

One: The peace of God be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

GROUNDING

Community Prayer (*Steve Garnaas-Holmes – adapted*)

God of love, though you are infinite and unknowable, yet
you make yourself known to us. You come to us in love,
reveal yourself to us in love, and give us your Spirit of love.

Spirit of love, we long for you. Spirit of truth, we search for you. Spirit of life, we hunger for your grace. You who dwell within us, you in whom we live and move and have our being, speak to us. Beyond words, enfolded deep in the mystery in which we dwell, speak to us. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Special Music

Scripture Lesson: Psalm 66:8-20 (*The Message* – adapted)

8-12 Bless our God, O peoples! Give God a thunderous welcome! Didn't God set us on the road to life? Didn't God keep us out of the ditch? God trained us first, passed us like silver through refining fires, brought us into hardscrabble country, pushed us to our very limit, road-tested us inside and out, took us to hell and back; finally God brought us to this well-watered place.

13-15 I'm bringing my prizes and presents to your house. I'm doing what I said I'd do, what I solemnly swore I'd do that day when I was in so much trouble: the choicest cuts of meat for the sacrificial meal; even the fragrance of roasted lamb is like a meal! Or make it an ox garnished with goat meat!

16-20 All believers, come here and listen, let me tell you what God did for me. I called out to God with my mouth, my tongue shaped the sounds of music. If I had been cozy with evil, the Holy One would never have listened. But God most surely did listen; God came on the double when God heard my prayer. Blessed be God: God didn't turn a deaf ear, God stayed with me, loyal in God's love.

Choral Alleluia

Scripture Lesson: John 14:15-21

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

16 And I will ask God, and God will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. **17** This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees nor knows the Spirit. You know the Spirit, because the Spirit abides with you, and the Spirit will be in you. **18** I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. **19** In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. **20** On that day you will know that I am in my Mother/Father, and you in me, and I in you. **21** They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Mother/Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Choral Alleluia

Sermon: "God of Advocacy"

Song: "Spirit of God" (TFWS #2117, Steve Garnaas-Holmes)

Spirit of God, bright Wind, breath that bids life begin,
glow as you always do; create us anew.

Give us the breath to sing, lifted on soaring wing,
held in your hands, borne on your wings.

Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come! (2x)

Spirit of God, bright Dove, grant us your peace and love,
healing upon your wings for all living things.

For when we live your peace, captives will find release,
held in your hands, borne on your wings.

Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come! (2x)

Spirit of God, bright Hands, even in far-off lands
you hold all the human race in one warm embrace.

No matter where we go, you hold us together so,
held in your hands, borne on your wings.

Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come! (2x)

Spirit of God, bright Flame, send us in your holy name,
the power to heal, to share your love everywhere.
We cannot fail or fall, or know defeat at all,
held in your hands, borne on your wings.
Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come! (2x)

Spirit of God, in all, we gladly hear your call,
the life in our hands that sings, the power of your wings.
Born of your grace we rise, love shining in our eyes,
held in your hands, borne on your wings.
Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come! (2x)

SHARING

Prayers of the People / Joys & Concerns

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

Sung Response (*tune: UMH #418, African American spiritual / lyrics: John Pritchard*)

Hold us, heal us, living Spirit;
every hurt, each joy—please hear it.
Pour your life and love into us;
make us yours, we pray.

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"

Calvary United Methodist Church

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(in case of pastoral emergency: 215.370.7411)

Norris Person (accompanist): music@allmeansall.org