

Calvary

United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation



*"... why do you stand
looking up toward heaven?"*

- Acts 1:11

May 24, 2020
Last Sunday of Easter
Ascension Sunday

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

GATHERING

Prelude: "The Pearl" (*Emmylou Harris*)

Welcome and Announcements

Singing Our Way In

"O Great Light of the World" (*Bebo Norman, altered lyrics*)

Sometimes at night, I am afraid
I cover my eyes, (hope seems to fade)
(But into the darkness), broken apart
You come with Your light, (to) fill up my heart (*Chorus*)

Chorus

*Oh great light of the world, fill up my soul
I (long to) mend here, so come make me whole
Oh great light of the world, come to impart
The light of your grace, to fill up my heart*

The wind of this world, can push us around
Folding us up, backing us down
But (even in darkness), I'm not alone
So come with your strength, and carry me home (*Chorus*)

"My Soul Is at Rest" (*Taize Community*)

My soul is at rest in God alone.
My salvation comes from God.

Invitation to Holy Presence / Breath Prayer

Call to Worship (*John Pritchard*)

One: Breathed into life this day, welcome.

ALL: May the power of new life stir in us all.

One: We are gathered, friends, virtually, by the story of faith.

ALL: May we see our lives through its lens.

One: As disciples asked if now was the time of restoration, so we now are riddled with impatience, anxiety, uncertainty.

ALL: May the Spirit accompany us and bring us peace.

One: As disciples watched Jesus leave, losing the life they had known together, so the lives we've known have been lost, altered, and we grieve.

ALL: May the Spirit touch us with love and comfort us.

One: As disciples were asked, forced, to wait, not sure what was to come, so we are thrust between what was and what will be, locked in, waiting for what will unfold.

ALL: May the Spirit root us in grace and give us trust.

One: As disciples waited in a promise, trusting God to be in whatever came, so we wait, praying for courage, for faith, for hope.

ALL: May the Spirit move within us and stir up the hope to which we are called.

One: May we face the future unafraid.

**ALL: May our hearts rest in God and overflow with praise:
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Opening Hymn: "God, Whose Love Is Reigning o'er Us"

(UMH #100)

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!

Passing the Peace

One: The peace of God be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

CENTERING

Community Prayer *(John Pritchard)*

We feel the dissonance, O God, between the spring air and
lure of summer's approach and life interrupted, disrupted,
confined. We feel the dissonance between spirits restless,
impatient, wanting to burst free, and the fear of viral threat.
We feel the dissonance between life sprouting, blooming,
rising, and mounting deaths, growing grief, spreading pain.
We feel the dissonance between this season of Easter and this
season of our lives shrouded by the shadow of COVID and the
ripples of destruction it has spread through our world.

And so we turn to you. We pray not only for ourselves, but for
our world, for those who have no choice but to put
themselves at risk, in nursing homes and shelters, on the streets,
in essential jobs with low pay; for those housebound or
hospitalized, already with symptoms; for those grieving the loss
of loved ones of the life they've known and those distressed
and pained by isolation; for those angrily pushing for some
return to "normalcy" and those anxiously feeling rushed;
for those most vulnerable to fallen income, rising food prices,
disrupted supply chains.

Be present, we pray, O God, as the strength to go on, as the persistent possibility and promise of new life. Above all, we pray that the truth we have seen—the deep, intimate interweaving of our lives with one another’s—not be lost, but remain with us as the haunting possibility of mutual support, of justice, of peace. This we pray in your Spirit. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Special Music: “New Beginning” (*Tracy Chapman*)

Scripture Lesson: Acts 1:6-14

So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” **7** He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that (God) has set by (God’s) own authority. **8** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

9 When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. **10** While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. **11** They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. **13** When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. **14** All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Choral Alleluia

Scripture Lesson: John 17:1-11

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven

and said, "(God), the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, **2** since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. **3** And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. **4** I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. **5** So now, (God), glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. **6** "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. **7** Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; **8** for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me.

9 I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. **10** All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. **11** And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy (God), protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

One: May the Spirit add understanding to our hearing.

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Choral Alleluia

Sermon: "No Hands But Ours"

Hymn of Response: "Spirit of God" (TFWS #2117)

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 and Concerns

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

Prayer Response *(tune: UMH #175 / lyrics: John Pritchard)*

O living God, we wait for you,
each wound, each rift to heal,
each empty heart and life to fill,
each day with joy to seal.

Closing Hymn: "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"

(TFWS #2153)

I'm gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, any time!

I'm gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, any time!

I'm gonna work so . . .

I'm gonna pray so . . .

I'm gonna sing so . . .

ENGAGING

Benediction

Singing Our Way Out: "Let the Church Say Amen"

Let the church say, "Amen" (*repeat*)

God has spoken, let the church say, "Amen"

Calvary United Methodist Church

at the corner of 48th & Baltimore
at the corner of spirituality & justice

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Pastor Tim Emmett-Rardin (pastor@allmeansall.org)
allmeansall.org

May 24, 2020 – Announcements

CALENDAR

Today

6 pm: A Time to Mourn – An Ecumenical Memorial Service for the Lives Lost to COVID-19

- info at nationalcouncilofchurches.us (sponsored by National Council of Churches)

Upcoming

Tuesday, May 26: Last day to request mail-in ballot for PA Primary Election

- info at votespa.com

Tuesday, May 26, 12 pm: Midweek Prayer (Cord Whitaker)

Tuesday, May 26, 6 pm: Finance Committee

Tuesday, May 26, 7-9 pm: White People Practicing Racial Justice (New Sanctuary Movement)

Tuesday, May 26, 7-9 pm: POWER Training / Faith-Based Organizing 101 – Research Meetings

- info at powerinterfaith.org/calendar

Wednesday, May 27, 7 pm: Midweek Prayer (Lauren Ballester)

Thursday, May 28, 4:30-6 pm: Virtual Day of Action for a People's Budget

- info at powerinterfaith.org/calendar

Sunday, May 31, 11 am: Worship (Pentecost)

Sunday, May 31, 1-2 pm: Young Adult Gathering

- contact Grace for details to connect virtually:
g_johnson11@sbcglobal.net

Tuesday, Jun 2: PA Primary Election

Wednesday, Jun 3, 5-7 pm: POWER Training / Finding Grounding from the Inside Out – Listening Deeply to One Another (1st Wednesdays)

- info at powerinterfaith.org/calendar

Saturday, Jun 6, 10 am-12:30 pm: Congregational Meeting

- focused on Calvary building options

Sunday, Jun 7, 11 am: Worship, with Communion

Sunday, Jun 7, 1 pm: Church Council

Sunday, Jun 21, 12:30 pm (following worship): Congregational Meeting

- focused on the future of the United Methodist Church

Tuesday, Jun 30, 7-9 pm: POWER Legislative Assembly

VISITING WITH US?

We're glad you're here, for whatever reason(s) you chose to join us this morning! Since we aren't able to greet you in person during this coronavirus pandemic, please contact Pastor Tim if you have any questions or prayer concerns.

INVITATIONS / OPPORTUNITIES

Resist Harm Movement

You are invited to join Calvary and fellow Reconciling United Methodists from around the country to support **Resist Harm** (resistharm.com / #ResistHarm), a movement of resistance to the anti-LGBTQ Traditional Plan now on the books in the United Methodist Church. **May's theme is "Witness."**

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, contact the church office (office@allmeansall.org).

Other Email Lists?

You may like to receive email updates from other groups with which Calvary is involved. If so, here's more info:

- POWER: powerinterfaith.org
- New Sanctuary Movement: sanctuaryphiladelphia.org
- PA Interfaith Power & Light: info@paipl.org
- Reconciling United Methodists of Eastern PA:
pastor@historicstgeorges.org
- Methodist Federation for Social Action – Eastern PA:
milesj526@verizon.net
- Eastern PA Conference (UMC): epaumc.org

Want to Help with Worship?

For the time being, as long as we're gathering virtually for worship, if you would like to participate by leading the Call to Worship or reading scripture, please contact Pastor Tim.

Volunteer with Nursery and Calvary Kids

We're always looking for more volunteers to work with our children during worship (and beyond)! All volunteers must be involved in the congregation for at least six months, and complete background clearances in compliance with all state laws. If you're interested, please contact Pastor Tim.

CONTACT INFO

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