

# Calvary Church

*A Reconciling Congregation*



*“And you yourselves,  
like living stones, being built  
into a spiritual house ...”*

*- 1 Peter 2:5a*

**May 7, 2023**

*5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter*

# CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

Jewish American Heritage Month

## GATHERING

**Prelude:** "Abide with Me" (tune: W.H. Monk / lyrics: Henry F. Lyte, perf. by Sam Robson)

***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](http://allmeansall.org/announcements))

- **Welcome to our new accompanist, Norris Person!**
- **Story Circles:** [allmeansall.org/story-circles](http://allmeansall.org/story-circles)
  - contact Amy ([aemmettrardin@gmail.com](mailto:aemmettrardin@gmail.com)) to be paired in the next round of matches
- **Spring Retreat, June 2-3**
  - Cranaleith Spiritual Center (NE Philly)
  - register at [allmeansall.org/spring-retreat](http://allmeansall.org/spring-retreat) (deadline is May 26<sup>th</sup>)
- **Worship volunteers:** sign up at [tinyurl.com/worship-help](http://tinyurl.com/worship-help)

## Calendar

**Today, 3-5 pm:** New Sanctuary Movement  
Accompaniment Team Orientation

### **Tuesday, May 9**

- **12-1 pm:** Midweek Prayer
  - [allmeansall.org/midweek-prayer](http://allmeansall.org/midweek-prayer)
- **7 pm:** Trustees

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

- Calvary – please use 48<sup>th</sup> St entrance
- [allmeansall.org/community-rhythm-circle](http://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](mailto:sbykerjames@gmail.com)) to RSVP

**Sunday, May 14, 11:15 am-12:45 pm:** Hybrid Worship

- no 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Potluck – Happy Mother's Day!

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

- Greater Philadelphia Expo Center (Oaks)
- vigil Saturday AM, prior to Service of Ordination, to witness to a fully open and inclusive church

### 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:** "Come, All You People (Uyai Mose)"

*(TFWS #2274, Alexander Gondo – adapted)*

U – ya - i mo - se, ti – na – ma - te Mwa - ri. (3x)

U – ya - i mo - se zvi - no.

Come, all you people, come and praise your Maker. (3x)  
Come now and worship (our God).

Come, all you people, come and praise the Spirit ...

**Call to Worship** *(Beth Merrill Neel – adapted)*

One: Before God spoke the first word of creation,  
**ALL: there was love.**



One: Before any of us entered into worship this morning,

**ALL: love was already here.**

One: When we draw each breath and live each day,

**ALL: love sustains and surrounds us.**

One: When we draw our last breath and leave this world,

**ALL: love will be waiting for us.**

One: That love is God.

**ALL: So let us worship our God of Love. 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** *(Steve Garnaas-Holmes – adapted)*

God of love, you have called us out of the shadows into your divine light. You have chosen us. You have done mighty acts in our lives. We remember with gratitude. We thank you. We listen for your life-giving word, that we might proclaim your good news in all we do. Amen.

### **Silent Prayer**

### **Special Music**

**Scripture Lesson:** Psalm 31:1-5 *(A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church, Wilda C. Gafney)*

In you, WOMB OF LIFE, I take refuge; let me not ever be put to shame; in your righteousness rescue me. **2** Incline your ear to me; quickly deliver me. Be for me a rock of refuge, a stronghold to save me. **3** For you are my rock and my stronghold; for your Name's sake lead me and guide me. **4** Free me from the net that is hidden for me, for you are my refuge. **5** Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, ARK OF SAFETY, God of truth.

### **Choral Alleluia**

**Scripture Lesson:** 1 Peter 2:4-10 *(A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church, Wilda C. Gafney)*

Come to Jesus, a living stone, although rejected by humanity yet chosen and precious to God. **5** And you yourselves, like living stones, being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. **6** Thus scripture contains: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen, precious; and whoever believes in that stone will

not be put to shame." **7** To you all who believe then, a precious honor; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone," **8** and "A stumbling stone, and a rock of offense." They stumble over the word disobeying, disobedient by design. **9** Yet you all are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own possession, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of God who called you out of shadow into God's marvelous light. **10** Once not a people, but now God's people; once bereft of mercy, but now rich in mercy.

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

## **Choral Alleluia**

**Sermon:** "Living Stones"

**Song:** "God, Creation's Great Designer" (*tune: UMH #150, William Moore / lyrics: Jane Parker Huber – adapted; vs. 4: Tim Emmett-Rardin*)

God, creation's great designer,  
architect and artisan,  
dreamer, builder and refiner –  
how we marvel at your plan.  
You have formed us to reflect you,  
filled us with your Spirit's breath,  
freed us to accept, reject you,  
and (your way of life o'er death).

Hear our thanks for those who founded  
in this place a church of praise.  
Firm in Christ their faith was grounded  
as they lived their earthly days.  
Builders, they, in brick and stonework –  
walls supporting roof and floors,  
praising you in all their own work –  
(open hearts and) open doors.



Sing we, too, of churches standing,  
(those not built of) wood and stone,  
but in human lives commanding  
confidence in (love) alone.

O accept the praise we bring you,  
bless the work of human hands.  
Hear the hymns our voices sing you,  
echoing through years and lands.

Called to be a holy priesthood,  
as, like Jesus, living stones.  
On the ground where once our saints stood,  
brick by brick love finds its home.  
We, your people, blessed and precious,  
Spirit-full and Spirit-led.  
Breathing life anew, refresh us,  
toward a world where all are fed.

## **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.

**Communion / The Great Thanksgiving** (*John Pritchard – adapted*)

One: God is with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

One: Open your hearts.

**ALL: We open them up to God and to one another.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Holy One, our God.

**ALL: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

One: It is right, O God, and a joyous thing to praise you, who spins the web of all creation and breathes life into us. You etch your image into each person and give us to one another that we may find and honor your presence. You nourish us by each other's love, strengthen us by each other's support, delight us by each other's presence, and sculpt us by each other's witness. Through life's challenges, you continue to stir life, awakening a dormant creation and causing it to rise. And so, with all your people on earth, with the great company of the heavens and all creation, we praise your name and join the unending hymn:

**ALL SING** (TFWS #2257-b, tune: Mark Miller / lyrics: UM Hymnal - adapted):

**Holy, holy, holy (One); God of power and might.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest!** (3x)

**Blest is the one who comes in the name of (our God).**

**Hosanna in the highest!** (3x)

One: Holy are you, O God, and blessed is your risen Christ, Jesus, in whose life and work we see your touch weaving new relationships. He was born among outsiders and foreigners came to greet him. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, welcomed at his table those unwanted elsewhere, and called all who would to follow him. Rejected and killed by some, he rose to live among those who continued his welcome and work. And those who experienced his presence as they shared a simple meal, breaking bread as his body was broken, pouring wine as his blood was poured out, sharing the bread and cup as they shared one Spirit with him.

On the night ... And so as we again break the bread and share the cup, we remember the love in and for which it was shared. We taste the same Spirit, we feast on the same promise and renew our commitment to



follow the same path, as we proclaim the mystery at the heart of our faith:

**ALL SING** (TFWS #2257-c, tune: Mark Miller / lyrics: UM Hymnal):

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

**Hosanna in the highest!** (3x)

One: Stir up your Spirit now as we join together in this holy meal. By your Spirit, make us living stones – one with each other in love, one in Jesus' passion for justice and wholeness, one in celebration of your grace weaving all creation into one blessed family. With all who have lived and will live and are living now, we praise your name.

**ALL SING** (TFWS #2257-d, tune: Mark Miller / lyrics: UM Hymnal):

**Amen. Amen. Amen.**

**Hosanna in the highest!** (3x)

**Sung Response:** "Eat This Bread" (UMH #628, tune: Robert Batastini & Taizé Community / lyrics: Jacques Berthier)

Eat this bread, drink this cup,  
come to me and never be hungry.

Eat this bread, drink this cup,  
trust in me and you will not thirst.

## **ENGAGING**

**Closing Song:** "Siyahamba / We Are Marching" (TFWS #2235-b, trad. South African – adapted)

Si – ya – hamb' e – ku – kha – nyen' kwen – khos',  
si – ya – hamb' e – ku – kha – nyen' kwen – khos. (repeat)

Si – ya – hamba, hamba, si – ya – hamba, hamba,  
si – ya – hamb' e – ku – kha – nyen' kwen – khos. (repeat)

We are marching in the light of God,  
we are marching in the light of God. (repeat)

We are marching, marching, we are marching,  
marching, we are marching in the light of God. (repeat)

We are dancing in the light of God ...

We are praying in the light of God ...

We are living in the love of God ...

We are marching in the light of God ...

## **Benediction**

**Singing Our Way Out:** "Go Now in Peace" (UMH #665,  
*Natalie Sleeth*)

Go now in peace, go now in peace,  
may the love of God surround you  
everywhere, everywhere, you may go.

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## **Calvary United Methodist Church**

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

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