

Calvary Church

A Reconciling Congregation



*“And (Joseph) dreamed that there
was a ladder set up on the earth,
the top of it reaching to heaven ...”
- **Genesis 28:12a***

July 23, 2023

8th Sunday after Pentecost

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Disability Pride Month

GATHERING

Prelude: "Jacob's Ladder" (African American spiritual / perf. by Bruce Springsteen, with The Seeger Sessions Band)

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)

- **Meal support for Sharon:** mealtrain.com/trains/z38lvo
- **Meal support for Ted & Dennis:**
 - mealtrain.com/trains/v5yga6
- **New Sanctuary Movement wish list for newly arriving immigrants:** tinyurl.com/nsm-wish
- **Worship volunteers:** sign up at tinyurl.com/worship-help

Calendar

Tuesday, Jul 25

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

Sunday, Jul 30, 11:15 am-12:45 pm: Hybrid Worship

Sunday, Aug 6, 11:15 am-12:45 pm: Hybrid Worship, with Communion

Tuesday, Aug 8, 7 pm: Trustees

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: "In All That Changes" (*tune: UMH #420, Robert Jackson / lyrics: Steve Garnaas-Holmes*)

In all that changes, God,
all that will fail or fall,
your loving presence still abides,
and will not fade at all.

In all that changes, God,
your love is strong and sure.
Therefore we give in thanks for grace,
and trust it will endure.

Through raging storm and sea,
you are the rock that stands.
Free from all else, we give ourselves
into your loving hands.

Call to Worship (*John Leach, The Jubilate Group – adapted*)

One: From different lives,

ALL: we come to worship.

One: From good weeks and bad weeks,

ALL: we come to worship.

One: Bringing joyful experiences and painful memories,

ALL: we come to worship.

One: Needing healing, needing peace,

ALL: we come to worship.

One: With hope in our hearts,

ALL: we come to worship.

One: Together, held in and by Love,
ALL: we come to worship. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Opening Song: "How Can We Name a Love" (UMH #111,
trad. English melody / lyrics: Brian Wren – adapted)

How can we name a Love that wakens heart and mind,
indwelling all we know or think or do or seek or find?
Within our daily world, in every human face,
Love's echoes sound and God is found,
hid in the common place.

If we awoke to life built on a rock of care
that asked no great reward but firm,
assured, was simply there,
we can, with parents' names, describe, and thus adore,
Love unconfined, a father kind,
a mother strong and sure.

When people share a task, and strength and skills unite
in projects old or new, to make or do with shared delight,
our Friend and Partner's will is better understood,
that all should share, create and care,
and know that life is good.

So in a hundred names, each day we all can meet
a presence, sensed and shown at work,
at home, or in the street.
Yet every name we see, shines in a brighter sun:
In (God) alone is Love full grown
and life and hope begun.

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)

God of grace, surely you are in this place. Open the eyes
and ears of our hearts. As we breathe in and out, you are

around and within us. Open the depths of our souls. May we be present to you, who are so infinitely present for us. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Special Music

Scripture Lesson: Psalm 139:1-12

O Holy One, you have searched me and known me.

2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. **3** You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. **4** Even before a word is on my tongue, O Holy One, you know it completely. **5** You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. **6** Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it. **7** Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? **8** If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. **9** If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, **10** even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast. **11** If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night," **12** even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

Choral Alleluia

Scripture Lesson: Genesis 28:10-19a

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. **11** He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. **12** And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

13 And the Holy One stood beside him and said, "I am the Holy One, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; **14** and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. **15** Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

16 Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Holy One is in this place—and I did not know it! **17** And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." **18** So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. **19a** He called that place Bethel; but the name of the city was Luz at the first.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Choral Alleluia

Sermon: "Ladders, Circles and Heaven on Earth"

Song: "We Are Dancing Sarah's Circle" (*tune: UMH #418, African American spiritual / lyrics: Carole A. Etzler – adapted; vs. 2, 6, 7: Tim Emmett-Rardin*)

We are dancing Sarah's circle,
we are dancing Sarah's circle,
we are dancing Sarah's circle,
(we are siblings), all.

God it is who holds the circle, (3x)
we are siblings, all.

Here we seek and find our story, (3x)
(we are siblings), all.

Every round a generation, (3x)
(we are siblings), all.

On and on the circle's moving, (3x)
(we are siblings), all.

One by one the circle widens, (3x)
always room for more.

Love known, on earth, as in heaven, (3x)
closer all the time.

SHARING

Prayers of the People / Joys & Concerns

“Thanks be to God” or “God, hear our prayer”

Sung 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.

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 ...

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"

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