

Calvary Church

A Reconciling Congregation



"The kindom of heaven is like ..."
- from Matthew 13

July 30, 2023

9th Sunday after Pentecost

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Disability Pride Month

GATHERING

Prelude: "Kingdom of God" (Jon Guerra)

*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/v5ygg6
- **New Sanctuary Movement wish list for newly arriving immigrants:** tinyurl.com/nsm-wish
- **Worship volunteers:** sign up at tinyurl.com/worship-help
- **Previous sermons:** allmeansall.org/sermons
- **Previous bulletins:** allmeansall.org/bulletins

Calendar

Monday, Jul 31, 6:30 pm: Staff-Parish Relations Committee

Tuesday, Aug 1, 12-1 pm: Midweek Prayer

- allmeansall.org/midweek-prayer

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

Tuesday, Aug 8, 7 pm: Trustees

Sunday, Sep 10, 1-4ish pm (following worship): 2nd Sunday Potluck & Retirement Celebration for Greg Scott

Sunday, Sep 17, 1-4 pm: March to End Fossil Fuels

- New York City

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: "Seek Ye First" (*UMH #405, Karen Lafferty – adapted*)

Seek ye first the (kindom) of God
and (God's) righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!

Ask, and it shall be given unto you;
seek and ye shall find;
knock and the door shall be opened unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia!
Allelu, alleluia!

Call to Worship (*Katherine Hawker – adapted*)

One: The kindom of God is here, and coming.

ALL: The kindom of God is here, and coming.

One: A mustard seed that someone took and sowed in their field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.

ALL: The kindom of God is here, and coming.

One: Yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all was leavened.

ALL: The kindom of God is here, and coming.

One: Treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then joyfully sells all they have to buy the field. A merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one of great value, sells all of their possessions and buys the pearl.

ALL: The kindom of God is here, and coming.

One: Let all who have ears, hear.

ALL: The kindom of God is here, and coming. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Opening Song: "Sing Praise to God" (*tune: UMH #139 / lyrics: Joachim Neander, trans. Madeleine Marshall – adapted*)

Sing praise to God,
who has shaped and sustains all creation.

Sing praise, my soul,
in profound and complete adoration.

Gladsome rejoice – organ and trumpet and voice –
joining God's great congregation.

Praise God, our guardian, who lovingly offers (direction);
who, as on eagle's wings, saves us from sinful dejection.
Have you observed, how we are always preserved
by God's parental affection?

Sing praise to God,
with sincere thanks for all your successes.
Merciful God, ever loves to encourage and bless us.
Only conceive, what godly strength can achieve:
strength that would touch and caress us.

Sing praise, my soul,
the great name of your high God commending.
All that have life and breath join you,
their notes sweetly blending.
God is your light! Soul, ever keep this in sight:
amen, amen never ending.

Offering Ourselves & Our Gifts / Passing the Peace

One: The peace of God be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

GROUNDING

Community Prayer *(Walter Brueggemann – adapted)*

We are strange mixtures of loss and hope. We know about sickness and dying, about death and mortality, about failure and disappointment. And now for a moment we do our failing and our dying in your presence, you who attend to us in loss.

As we are able, we submit our hopes to you. We know about self-focused fantasy and notions of control. But we also know that our futures are out beyond us, held in your good hand.

Our hopes are filled with promises of well-being, justice and mercy. Move us this day beyond our fears and anxieties into your land of goodness. We wait for your coming, we pray for you kindom. In the meantime, give us bread for the day. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Special Music

Scripture Lesson: Psalm 105:1-10

O give thanks to the Eternal One, call on God's name, make known God's deeds among the peoples. **2** Sing to God, sing praises to God; tell of all God's wonderful works. **3** Glory in God's holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Eternal One rejoice. **4** Seek the Eternal One and God's strength; seek God's presence continually. **5** Remember the wonderful works God has done, God's miracles, and the judgments God uttered, **6** O offspring of God's servant Abraham, children of Jacob, God's chosen ones. **7** God is the Eternal One, our God; God's

judgments are in all the earth. **8** God is mindful of God's covenant forever, of the word that God commanded, for a thousand generations, **9** the covenant that God made with Abraham, God's sworn promise to Isaac, **10** which God confirmed to Jacob as a statute, to Israel as an everlasting covenant ..."

Choral Alleluia

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 13:31-35, 44-52

(Jesus) put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; **32** it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." **33** He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

34 Jesus told the crowds all these things in parables; without a parable he told them nothing. **35** This was to fulfill, what had been spoken through the prophet: "I will open my mouth to speak in parables; I will proclaim what has been hidden from the foundation of the world." ...

44 "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. **45** Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; **46** on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. **47** Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; **48** when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. **49** So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous **50** and throw them into the

furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." **51** "Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." **52** And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Choral Alleluia

Sermon: "Kingdom Training"

Song: "Bring Forth the Kingdom" (TFWS #2190, Marty Haugen – adapted)

You are salt for the earth, O people:
Salt for the (Kingdom) of God!
Share the flavor of life, O people:
Life in the (Kingdom) of God!

**Bring forth the (Kingdom) of mercy,
bring forth the (Kingdom) of peace;
bring forth the (Kingdom) of justice,
bring forth the City of God!**

You are a light on the hill, O people:
Light for the City of God!
Shine so holy and bright, O people:
Shine for the (Kingdom) of God! (*refrain*)

You are a seed of the Word, O people:
Bring forth the (Kingdom) of God!
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice,
grow in the (Kingdom) of God! (*refrain*)

We are a blest and a pilgrim people:
Bound for the (Kingdom) of God!
Love our journey and love our homeland:
Love is the (Kingdom) of God! (*refrain*)

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: "This Little Light of Mine" (AAHH #549, African American spiritual)

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine (3x)
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Everywhere I go ...
All through the night ...
This little light of mine ...

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

at the intersection of 48th & Baltimore / spirituality & justice

801 S. 48th Street / Philadelphia, PA 19143

215.724.1702 / office@allmeansall.org / allmeansall.org

Pastor Tim Emmett-Rardin: pastortim@allmeansall.org

(in case of pastoral emergency: 215.370.7411)

Norris Person (accompanist): music@allmeansall.org