

Calvary Church

A Reconciling Congregation



*“Do not be conformed to this
world, but be transformed by
the renewing of your minds ...”*

- Romans 12:2a

August 27, 2023

13th Sunday after Pentecost

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Black August

GATHERING

Gathering Song: "Redemption Song" (Bob Marley / perf. by Playing for Change, feat. Stephen Marley)

**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)

- **HVAC Matching Gift Campaign:** allmeansall.org/hvac
- **Fall program & ministry offerings:** allmeansall.org/fall
- **Eastern Service Workers Association Back-to-School Campaign**
 - donate new or like-new clothing, shoes, school supplies and backpacks through August on behalf of the ESWA campaign (*bring donations to Calvary*)
- **Meal support for Sharon:** mealtrain.com/trains/z38lvo
- **Worship volunteers:** sign up at tinyurl.com/worship-help
- **Previous sermons:** allmeansall.org/sermons
- **Previous bulletins:** allmeansall.org/bulletins

Calendar

Tuesday, Aug 29

- **12-1 pm:** Midweek Prayer
- **7:30 pm:** CCCC Transition Meeting

Sunday, Sep 3, 11:15 am-12:45 pm: Hybrid Worship, with Communion

Sunday, Sep 10

- **11:15 am-12:30 pm:** Hybrid Worship
- **12:30-3:30ish pm (following worship):** Retirement Celebration for Greg Scott

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

- endfossilfuels.us
- contact Pastor Tim to join with others from Calvary

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: "May I Be Empty" (*Batya Levine*)

May I be empty
And open to receive the light
May I be empty
And open to receive

May I be full
And open to receive the light
May I be full
And open to receive

Call to Worship (*Tim Graves – adapted*)

One: Out of a world of cut-throat competition, of winners and losers, and so many left behind, we come together.

ALL: The world's ways are not God's ways. The world's ways are not our ways.

One: Out of a world of hatred, violence, individualism and life-taking power, we gather as *koinonia*, as God's beloved.

ALL: God's ways are inclusive, expansive and life-giving for all.

One: Come and worship the One whose love knows no limits! Swim and splash in the cleansing waters of divine community! Resurrect your spirits and souls in worship of the One who is the very source of life!

ALL: Praise be to the Everlasting One! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Opening Song: "Womb of Life" (TFWS #2046, alternate tune: UMH #196 / lyrics: Ruth Duck)

Womb of life, and source of being,
home of every restless heart,
in your arms the world's awakened;
you have loved us from the start.
We, your children, gather 'round you,
at the table you prepare.
Sharing stories, tears, and laughter,
we are nurtured by your care.

Word in flesh, our brother Jesus,
born to bring us second birth,
you have come to stand beside us,
knowing weakness, knowing earth.
Priest who shares our human struggles,
Life of Life, and Death of Death,
Risen Christ, come stand among us,
send the Spirit by your breath.

Brooding Spirit, move among us;
be our partner, be our friend.
When our memory fails, remind us
whose we are, what we intend.
Labor with us, aid the birthing
of the new world yet to be,
free of servant, lord, and master,
free for love and unity.

Mother, Brother, Holy Partner,
Father, Spirit, Only Son:
We would praise your name forever,

One in three, and three in one.
We would share your life, your passion,
share your word of world made new,
ever singing, ever praising,
one with all, and one with you.

Offering Ourselves & Our Gifts / Passing the Peace

One: The peace of God be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

GROUNDING

Community Prayer *(from RevGalBlogPals)*

Holy God, before time you named us. Through time you redeem us. You call us, precious in your sight. May we love as you love. Holy One, through the turbulent waters make us steady; your hands holding strong the fragile and weak. May we love as you love.

Gracious God, may the fruits of our lives be food for the hungry, bread, clothing, shelter, fire, water, Word. May we love as you love. God of justice, remove the chaff of our lives that keep us from hearing, following, your call. May we love as you love.

Loving God, take this day our fears, our worries, our distractions, and all. Turn them into wheat, heart food. May we love as you love. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Special Music

Scripture Lesson: Exodus 1:8-2:10

Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. **9** He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we.

10 Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." **11** Therefore

they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. **12** But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. **13** The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, **14** and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

15 The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah,

16 "When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live." **17** But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. **18** So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?" **19** The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them." **20** So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. **21** And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. **22** Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live."

2:1 Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. **2** The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. **3** When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. **4** His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

5 The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. **6** When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. **7** Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" **8** Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. **9** Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it. **10** When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

Choral Alleluia

Scripture Lesson: Romans 12:1-8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. **2** Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect. **3** For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. **4** For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, **5** so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. **6** We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; **7** ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; **8** the exhorter, in exhortation;

the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Choral Alleluia

Sermon: "Resisting Empire"

Song: "God, Make Us Agents of Joyful Rebellion" (*tune: Benjamin Brody / lyrics: David Bjorlin*)

God, make us agents of joyful rebellion
called to resist sullen empires of fear.
Fueled not by hatred but love for all people,
we stand united, assured you are love.

Some will be Marys who sing down injustice.
Others like Moses will speak truth to power.
Few, like brave midwives, will shield life from evil.
All must be prophets awake for this hour.

Laughing in answer to snarling derision,
we dance to counter oppression and pain.
Feasting together despite our divisions,
we pledge ourselves to Christ's upside-down reign.

God, make us agents of joyful rebellion
called to sing out till our faith is made sight.
Fueled by the stories of saintly subversives,
we stand united, your justice our light.

SHARING

Prayers of the People / Joys & Concerns

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

Sung Response (*tune: UMH #408, trad. English / lyrics: John Pritchard*)

O Open Arms, now hold our cares,
the aches we've named, the joys we've shared.

And hold us, too; into us breathe –
your grace, your life, let us receive.

ENGAGING

Closing Song: “May You Run and Not Be Weary” (*tune & refrain: UMH #525, Charles Albert Tindley / lyrics: TFWS #2281, Paul Murakami & Handt Hanson*)

May you run and not be weary.
May your heart be filled with song.
And may the love of God continue
to give you hope and keep you strong.
And may you run and not be weary.
May your life be filled with joy!
And may the road you travel always lead you home.

***By and by, when the morning comes,
when the saints of God are gathered home,
we'll tell the story how we've overcome,
for we'll understand it better by and by.***

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.

Calvary United Methodist Church

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