

# Calvary

## United Methodist Church

*A Reconciling Congregation*



*"But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves."*

*- James 1:22*

**August 29, 2021**  
14th Sunday after Pentecost

# CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

## GATHERING

**Prelude:** "Sunday" (*Joy Oladokun*)

## **Welcome and Announcements**

### Announcements

- **Calvary's Covid-19 protocols:** [allmeansall.org/covid](http://allmeansall.org/covid)
- **tentative return to in-person worship:** Sunday, Sep 12 (11:15 am – please note NEW TIME!) at Calvary
- **Stephen Ministry training (one-to-one congregational care):**
  - contact Pastor Tim if interested
- **donate to building campaign:** [tinyurl.com/CCCCPhilly](http://tinyurl.com/CCCCPhilly)

### Calendar

#### **Today:**

- **5 pm:** Theatre in the X Presents "The West Philly Meeting"
  - Malcolm X Park; info at [theatreinthex.com](http://theatreinthex.com)
- **8-9 pm:** Spiritual Reflection Group
  - info at [allmeansall.org/spiritual-reflection-group](http://allmeansall.org/spiritual-reflection-group)

**Tuesday, Aug 31, 12-12:30 pm:** Midweek Prayer

- info at [allmeansall.org/virtual](http://allmeansall.org/virtual)

**Saturday, Sep 18, 7-8:30 pm:** Singing a New Song

- info at [allmeansall.org/new-song](http://allmeansall.org/new-song)

**Saturday, Oct 23, 4 pm:** Charge Conference

**Friday, Nov 12 – Saturday, Nov 13/Sunday, Nov 14:**

Calvary Fall Retreat (*adults only*)

### 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 ([office@allmeansall.org](mailto:office@allmeansall.org)).

### Want to Help with Worship?

If you would like to participate in worship by leading the

*Call to Worship*, reading scripture, preaching or otherwise, please contact Pastor Tim.

## **Singing Our Way In: "Rising"**

*(unknown; additional lyrics: James K. Manley)*

Life is a test of the heart and the soul

Rising, we're rising

But something keeps moving us on to the goal

Rising, we're rising

### Refrain

*Rising on the wings of faith, over life's storm-troubled seas*

*Carried along by a spirit of grace, rising, we're rising*

You moved on the waters, you called to the deep

You coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep

And over the eons you called to each thing

Wake from your slumbers and rise on your wings *(Refrain)*

You swept through the desert, you stung with the sand

And you goaded your people with a law and a land

And when they were blinded by their idols and lies

You spoke through your prophets to open their eyes

*(Refrain)*

You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill

You whispered in silence when the whole world was still

And down in the city you called once again

You blew through your people on the rush of the wind

*(Refrain)*

## **Invitation to Holy Presence / Breath Prayer**

### **Call to Worship** *(Craig Mitchell, adapted)*

One: This is a thin place. Where earth and heaven embrace, where past interweaves with future, where people gather expectantly.

**ALL: This is a thin place.**

One: Where hopes are renewed, where faith is restored, where peace is revived, where love is refreshed.

**ALL: This is a thin place.**

One: Where fresh words are heard. Deep wisdom revealed, daring promises proclaimed.

**ALL: This is a thin place.**

One: Where the God who shaped us, the Christ who remakes us, the Spirit who inspires us, walk among us, full of grace and truth.

**ALL: This is a thin place.**

One: God above us, God beside us, God within us,

**ALL: May we be open to see and hear your grace revealed as we worship you this day. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Opening Hymn: "Womb of Life"**

*(tune: UMH #400 / lyrics: TFWS #2046)*

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 your 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.

### **Passing the Peace**

One: The peace of God be with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

### **CENTERING**

**Community Prayer** (*Walter Brueggemann, adapted*)

We are among your called, O God. We have heard and answered your summons. You have addressed us in the deep places of our lives. In responsive obedience we testify, as we are able, to your truth as it concerns our common life.

We thank you for the call, for the burden of that call, for the risk that goes with it, for the joy of words given us by your growing spirit, and for the newness that sometimes comes from our word. We have indeed been in the counsel of your summoning spirit, and so we know some truth to speak.

But we are, as well, filled with rich imagination of our own, and our imagination and willingness to act on it is sometimes matched and overmatched by our cowardice, by our readiness to please, by our quest for well-being. We are, on most days, a hard mix of true prophet and wayward voice, a mix of your call to justice and our hope for shalom.

Here we are, as we are, mixed but faithful, compromised but committed, anxious but devoted to you. Use us and our gifts for your newness that pushes beyond all that we can say or imagine. We are grateful for words given us; we are more grateful for your word fleshed among us. Amen.

## Silent Prayer

**Special Music:** "The Storm is Passing Over" (*Calvary Choir*)

**Scripture Lesson:** James 1:17-27

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the (Creator) of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. **18** In fulfillment of (God's) own purpose (God) gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of (God's) creatures. **19** You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; **20** for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. **21** Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

**22** But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. **23** For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; **24** for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. **25** But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act – they will be blessed in their doing. **26** If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless.

**27** Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the (Creator), is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

## Choral Alleluia

### Scripture Lesson: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, **2** they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. **3** (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; **4** and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) **5** So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?"

**6** He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; **7** in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.' **8** You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition."

**14** Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: **15** there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile." **21** For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, **22** adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. **23** All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

## Choral Alleluia

**Sermon:** "Worthless Religion"

**Hymn of Response:** "Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service" (UMH #581)

Lord, whose love through humble service  
bore the weight of human need,  
who upon the cross, forsaken,  
offered mercy's perfect deed:  
we, your servants, bring the worship  
not of voice alone, but heart,  
consecrating to your purpose  
ev'ry gift that you impart.

Still your children wander homeless;  
still the hungry cry for bread;  
still the captives long for freedom;  
still in grief we mourn our dead.  
As, O Lord, your deep compassion  
healed the sick and freed the soul,  
use the love your Spirit kindles  
still to save and make us whole.

As we worship, grant us vision,  
till your love's revealing light  
in its height and depth and greatness  
dawns upon our quickened sight,  
making known the needs and burdens  
your compassion bids us bear,  
stirring us to tireless striving,  
your abundant life to share.

Called by worship to your service,  
forth in your dear name we go  
to the child, the youth, the aged,  
love in living deeds to show;  
hope and health, goodwill and comfort,  
counsel, aid, and peace we give,  
that your servants, Lord, in freedom  
may your mercy know and live.

## 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 Loving Heart, O Blessed Arms,  
hold all we bring to you—  
our hopes, our fears, our joy and tears,  
our pledge your will to do.

### **Closing Hymn:** “The Trees of the Field” *(TFWS #2279)*

You shall go out with joy  
and be led forth with peace;  
the mountains and the hills  
will break forth before you;  
there'll be shouts of joy,  
and all the trees of the field,  
will clap, will clap their hands.

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands,  
the trees of the field will clap their hands,  
the trees of the field will clap their hands  
while you go out with joy.

## 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”

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# Calvary United Methodist Church

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

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