

Calvary Church

A Reconciling Congregation



*“Remember those who are in prison,
as though you were in prison
with them ...”*

- Hebrews 13:3a

August 31, 2025

12th Sunday after Pentecost

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Black August

GATHERING

Gathering Song: "Uyai Mose (Come, All You People)"
(Alexander Gondo / arr. & perf. by Lisa G. Littlebird, et al)

Welcome & Announcements

- **Congregational giving** (rounded)
 - Aug 18-24: \$150 / weekly budget: \$1,827
- **Resistance Bible Study:** beginning week of Sep 22
(exact timing TBD by participants)
 - allmeansall.org/bible-studies
 - contact Pastor Tim to sign up
- **Fall Retreat:** Saturday, September 27, 10 am-6:30 pm
 - Innabah Camp & Retreat Center
 - allmeansall.org/fall-retreat
- **"All Means All" Anniversary Benefit Concert – Songs of Justice & Inclusion:** Saturday, October 4, 1 pm
 - 10 am: Community choir rehearsal
 - allmeansall.org/concert
- **Previous sermons:** allmeansall.org/sermons
- **Previous bulletins:** allmeansall.org/bulletins

Calendar

Tuesday, Sep 2, 3 pm: Midweek Prayer (weekly)

- allmeansall.org/midweek-prayer
- 1st, 3rd & 5th Tuesdays: 3 pm / 2nd & 4th: 6 pm

Wednesday, Sep 3

- **10-11 am:** Yoga (weekly)
 - Calvary (Chapel) – 48th St entrance
 - allmeansall.org/yoga
- **7-8ish pm:** Spirituality on Tap (monthly – 1st Wednesdays)
 - Dahlak / 4708 Baltimore Ave
 - allmeansall.org/spirituality-on-tap

Thursday, Sep 4

- **4 pm:** New Sanctuary Movement Press Conference & Prayer Rally
 - Philadelphia City Hall (*north side*)
- **5-8 pm:** Baltimore Avenue Dollar Stroll
 - contact the church office to volunteer

Saturday, Sep 6, 1 pm: Meditation (*weekly*)

- Calvary (Board Room) – 48th St entrance
- witnessandintegrate@gmail.com

Sunday, Sep 7

- **11 am-12:30 pm:** Hybrid Worship (*Communion*)
- **12:30-1:30 pm:** Congregational Meeting (*hybrid*)
 - to share and discuss financial/building updates

Saturday, Sep 13, 9:30 am-12 pm: Calvary @ Sankofa Community Farm

- allmeansall.org/sankofa
- contact Pastor Tim to volunteer, or with questions

Sunday, Sep 14

- **11 am-12:30 pm:** Hybrid Worship (*Community Sunday*)
 - please invite family and friends!
- **12:45-2 pm:** 2nd Sunday Potluck (*monthly*)
 - bring a dish, drinks and/or dessert if you can

Visiting With 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.

CENTERING & CONNECTING

Breathing Our Way In

Singing Our Way In: “Courage” (*adapted from Eric Bogle, inspired by South African Anti-Apartheid Movement*)

Courage (courage), my friend (my friend),
you do not walk alone

We will (we will), walk with you (walk with you)
and sing your spirit home

Patience (patience), my friend (my friend),
you do not walk alone

We will (we will), walk with you (walk with you)
and sing your spirit home

Faith (faith) ...

Hope (hope) ...

Love (love) ...

Justice (justice) ...

Freedom (freedom) ...

Call to Worship (*Eliza Buchakjian-Tweedy, inspired by Luke 14 and Hebrews 13 – adapted*)

One: Creator God, you call us to hospitality; to give as generously to others as you have given to us.

ALL: For there are angels among us.

One: Loving God, you call us to give you glory in the compassion we show to one another.

ALL: To love without judgment, of ourselves or of others.

One: We gather as one Body, seeking to walk in the way you have set for us.

ALL: We gather as one Body, to worship you who are Love itself. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Opening Song: “God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”
(*tune: UMH #108, Thomas J. Williams / lyrics: Robert Lansing Edwards*)

God, whose giving knows no ending,
from your rich and endless store:
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,
costly cross, grave's shattered door,
gifted by you, we turn to you,
offering up ourselves in praise;

thankful song shall rise forever,
gracious donor of our days.

Skills and time are ours for pressing
toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
all at peace in health and freedom,
races joined, the Church made one.
Now direct our daily labor,
lest we strive for self alone;
born with talents, make us servants
fit to answer at your throne.

Treasure, too, you have entrusted,
gain through powers your grace conferred;
ours to use for home and kindred,
and to spread the Gospel Word.
Open wide our hands in sharing,
as we heed Christ's ageless call,
healing, teaching, and reclaiming,
serving you by loving all.

Passing the Peace

One: The peace of God be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Offering Our Gifts

allmeansall.org/time-talent / allmeansall.org/donate

*"Each of you must give as
you have made up your mind,
not regretfully or under compulsion,
for God loves a cheerful giver."*

– 2 Corinthians 9:7



GROUNDING

Community Prayer (*Steve Garnaas-Holmes – adapted*)

God of grace, you give yourself to us, humbly, with
delight, mostly invisibly. We receive you with gratitude.
We enter into your heart. We welcome you into ours. We

open the doors of our minds, that you may enter. We open the windows of our hearts, that your light may shine in and through. Welcome. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Special Music

Scripture Lesson: Hebrews 13:1-3

Let mutual affection continue. **2** Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. **3** Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured.

Choral Alleluia *(UMH #186, Jerry Sinclair)*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Scripture Lesson: Luke 14:1, 7-14

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely. ...

7 When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. **8** "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, **9** and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. **10** But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. **11** For all who exalt

themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

12 He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. **13** But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. **14** And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Choral Alleluia

Sing alleluia, sing alleluia, sing alleluia, alleluia. *(repeat)*

Sermon: "Kindom Co-Conspirators"

Song: "We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky" *(tune: TFWS #2212, Robert Lowry / lyrics: Ruth Duck; vs. 4: Tim Emmett-Rardin)*

We cannot own the sunlit sky,
the moon, the wildflowers growing,
for we are part of all that is
within life's river flowing.
With open hands receive and share
the gifts of God's creation,
that all may have abundant life
in every earthly nation.

When bodies shiver in the night
and weary wait for morning,
when children have no bread but tears,
and war horns sound their warning.
God calls humanity to wake,
to join in common labor,
that all may have abundant life,
and oneness with their neighbor.

God calls humanity to join
as partners in creating
a future free from want or fear,
life's goodness celebrating.
That new world beckons from afar,
invites our shared endeavor,
that all might have abundant life,
and peace endure forever.

With softened hearts and curious minds,
and outstretched arms embracing,
the walls come down, strangers no more,
the ties that bind, retracing.
Where wonder leads, love finds a home,
no room for fear and hatred,
that all may have abundant life;
all lives forever sacred.

SHARING

Prayers of the People

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.

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 ...

Benediction

Singing Our Way Out: "Pool of Love" (*Alexa Sunshine Rose, Murray Kyle*)

May the pool of love we have gathered here
Spread its wings and fly far and near
From the depths of our hearts to the farthest star
May our love bless everyone

Calvary United Methodist Church

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

Celebrating 130 Years (1895-2025)

Celebrating 40 Years as a Reconciling Congregation

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 (Music Minister): music@allmeansall.org

Shakirah Holloway (Office Manager)

Kristine Morrow, Bethany Weed, Cord Whitaker

(Co-Lay Leaders)

Gerry Felix (Church Council Chair)

Annie Haviland (Finance Committee Chair)

Jennine Miller (Staff-Parish Relations Committee Chair)

Carl Ballinger (Trustees Chair)

For full leadership roster: allmeansall.org/leadership