

Calvary Church

A Reconciling Congregation



*"But Jacob said, 'I will not let
you go, unless you bless me.'"*

- Genesis 32:26b

August 6, 2023

10th Sunday after Pentecost

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Black August

GATHERING

Gathering Song: "Spirit" (Amos Lee)

*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
- **Worship volunteers:** sign up at tinyurl.com/worship-help
- **Previous sermons:** allmeansall.org/sermons
- **Previous bulletins:** allmeansall.org/bulletins

Calendar

Tuesday, Aug 8

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

Sunday, Aug 13, 11:15 am-12:45 pm: Hybrid Worship

- no 2nd Sunday Potluck this month

Sunday, Aug 20, 11:15 am-12:45 pm: Hybrid Worship

- guest preacher: Kristine Morrow

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
- endfossilfuels.us

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: "God is Good, All the Time" (*unknown – adapted*)

God is good, all the time
All the time, God is good
God is good, all the time
All God's people singing God is good

God is Grace, all the time ...
God is Peace, all the time ...
God is Love, all the time ...

Call to Worship (*Anne Siddall – adapted*)

One: Only the hungry search for bread.

ALL: Only the thirsty look for water.

One: This is a place for those who are hungry and thirsty in spirit.

ALL: Only those who ache for meaning will pursue it.

One: Only those who yearn for a deeper life will seek it.

ALL: This is a place for those who ache and yearn for something more.

One: So let us come with our hunger and our thirst,

ALL: our unsatisfied longings, our heart-felt yearnings, and let the God of blessing and life satisfy our souls. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Opening Song: "Gather Us In" (TFWS #2236, Marty Haugen – adapted)

Here in this place new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away,
see in this space our fears and our dreamings,
brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry,
we are the old who yearn for your face,
we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,
called to be light to the whole human race.

Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song.

Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away,
but here in this place the new light is shining,
now is the (kindom), now is the day.

Gather us in and hold us forever,
gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Offering Ourselves & Our Gifts / Passing the Peace

One: The peace of God be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

GROUNDING

Community Prayer (John van de Laar – adapted)

How did it happen, God? How did we come to believe in scarcity? In "not enough to go around;" in "you gotta

look after yourself"? How did we miss the plenty bursting out around us? How did we fall for the deception that what we can grasp in our hands would ever be enough? How did we grow so blind and so foolish, that we would allow so much beauty and life, joy and laughter, sharing and love, to pass us by unnoticed?

How poor we have become, and how poor we have made others, simply because we forgot your infinite, overflowing abundance; because we allowed ourselves to think that sharing and giving leaves us with less; because we nurtured appetites that are never satisfied unless they have far more than is needed, thinking our gluttony would silence our fear.

Forgive us, and teach us about your generosity again; remind us that you are able and willing to do far more than we can imagine. As those so blessed, open our eyes to the plenty we enjoy, the plenty we can share and all the plentiful goodness in our world that cannot be owned, but is meant to be enjoyed by all. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Special Music

Scripture Lesson: Genesis 32:22-31

The same night (Jacob) got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. **23** He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. **24** Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. **25** When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. **26** Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me."

27 So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." **28** Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." **29** Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. **30** So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." **31** The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

Choral Alleluia

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 14:13-21 (*A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church – Wilda C. Gafney*)

Now when Jesus heard (about the death of John the Baptizer), he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. And when the crowds heard, they followed him on foot from the towns. **14** When he arrived, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them, and healed their sick. **15** Now by evening, the disciples came to him and said, "The place is deserted, and the time has gone; send the crowds away so that they can go into the villages and buy themselves food." **16** Instead, Jesus said to them, "They do not need to leave; you all give them something to eat." **17** They replied to him, "We do not have anything here but five loaves and two fish." **18** Then Jesus said, "Bring them here to me." **19** And he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass; he took the five loaves and the two fish, looked towards heaven, and blessed and broke them. He gave (them) to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. **20** And all ate and were filled; and they took up the abundance of fragments, twelve baskets full. **21** Now those who ate were women and children, besides about five thousand men.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Choral Alleluia

Meditation: "Blessed Beyond Belief"

Song: "Jacob Struggled for a Blessing" (*tune: UMH #400, public domain / lyrics: Robin Mann – adapted; verse 2: Tim Emmett-Rardin*)

Jacob struggled for a blessing
in the darkness all night long,
holding tightly to a stranger –
could he hear a distant song?
God of every person's future,
you gave him a change of name
give to us a new direction
out of struggle, out of pain.

Jesus of the loaves and fishes,
Jesus of the Living Bread.
Scarcity turned into bounty,
baskets passed 'til all are fed.
In our thirst and in our hunger,
through uncertainty, we plead;
open us to new life's blessing,
may we find all that we need.

When we struggle in the darkness,
take away our fear and doubt.
In the dirt beneath the surface
quiet seeds begin to sprout.
God of great surprise and mystery,
make us constant in our prayer.
(May we lean into abundance),
may we come to know your care.

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.

Communion / The Great Thanksgiving (*enfleshed / Molly Bolton – adapted*)

One: The fortitude of the Holy be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

One: We bring our sacred lives to the Holy One.

ALL: It is healing to bring our whole selves to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God who cares about our
fleshly flourishing, on earth as in heaven;

ALL: and the Spirit who joins us in our pain and in our joy.

One: God, we come to your table of Mystery, holding
the heartbreaking and the hopeful in the same handful.
We gather to remember your teaching, your life, your
invitation to new life. And as we remember your body,
broken, we name the suffering of our own bodies ...

ALL: Our bodies and hearts break, O God.

One: Like us, Jesus was broken. Broken by the ways of
Empire. Beaten up by unjust systems even as he
organized against them. Betrayed by friends. He cried
out to God and asked why. He was killed for challenging
power and privilege. His mother wept. And, like us, Jesus
was blessed. Cherished by his family. Anointed with oil by
his beloved, Mary. Surrounded by friends and followers.
He learned and taught. He received hospitality, sat with
children, and took time to be alone.

And so, empowered by Jesus whose love mirrored yours

in both brokenness and blessing, we join together with your people on earth, with all Creation, and with the full company of heaven, praising your name and joining the unending hymn:

ALL SING (TFWS #2257-b, tune: Mark Miller / lyrics: UM Hymnal - adapted):

**Holy, holy, holy (One); God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest! (3x)**

One: Blessed, O God, is your Christ, Jesus, in whom we saw a life lived in all its potential – broken, yet forever blessed, like Jacob wrestling with the angel. We saw a life lived in all its sacred power. Life shared and abundant. Love creative and fervent for justice. We saw, too, the consequences of living as if the kingdom were indeed close at hand. Living as if there were indeed enough to go around, for everyone to be fed and filled.

On the night ... And so as we break the bread and share the cup, we remember. We remember love broken and love poured out. As those held in and bound together by that same love, we taste the same Spirit and feast on the same promise, as we proclaim the mystery at the heart of our faith:

ALL SING (TFWS #2257-c, tune: Mark Miller / lyrics: UM Hymnal):
**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.
Hosanna in the highest! (3x)**

One: Pour out your Spirit on all of us gathered here, in person and virtually. Pour out your Spirit on this bread and this cup, O God, and on all the elements we use to join with you in this holy meal. Nourished in body and in spirit, may we become your body in the world. May your love flow in and through us toward the blessing that is enough for all, toward life made whole for all.

ALL SING (TFWS #2257-d, tune: Mark Miller / lyrics: UM Hymnal):
Amen. Amen. Amen. / Hosanna in the highest! (3x)

Sung Response: "Eat This Bread" (UMH #628, tune: Robert Batastini & Taizé Community / lyrics: Jacques Berthier)

Eat this bread, drink this cup,
come to me and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup,
trust in me and you will not thirst.

ENGAGING

Closing Song: "Guide My Feet" (TFWS #2208, African American spiritual)

Guide my feet while I run this race. (2x)
Guide my feet while I run this race,
for I don't want to run this race in vain!

Hold my hand ...
Stand by me ...
I'm your child ...
Search my heart ...

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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