

Calvary Church

A Reconciling Congregation



“Now be doers of the word, and not just hearers who deceive themselves.”

- James 1:22

September 1, 2024

15th Sunday after Pentecost

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

GATHERING

Gathering Song: "With My Own Two Hands" (*Ben Harper / perf. by Ben Harper & Jack Johnson*)

Welcome & Announcements

- **Story Circles:** allmeansall.org/story-circles
 - contact Amy to be matched this time around:
aemmettrardin@gmail.com
- **Fall Book Study:** *The False White Gospel: Rejecting Christian Nationalism, Reclaiming True Faith, and Refounding Democracy* (*Jim Wallis*)
 - Mondays, Sep 23 – Oct 28, 8-9 pm (*timing negotiable*)
 - allmeansall.org/book-studies
 - contact Pastor Tim to sign up, with questions, or to request financial assistance for the book
- **Fall/Winter Bible Study:** *Gospels of Matthew & Luke*
 - Mondays, Nov 18 – Dec 16, 8-9 pm (*timing negotiable*)
 - allmeansall.org/bible-studies
- **Community Rummage Sale:** inviting donations of clothing, household items, toys/games, small furniture, books, etc.
 - drop off Sundays or Mon/Thur mornings, or contact Shakirah to make alternate arrangements:
office@allmeansall.org
- **Nursery care during worship**
 - volunteers needed this fall (clearances required); contact Pastor Tim to sign up
- **Previous sermons:** allmeansall.org/sermons
- **Previous bulletins:** allmeansall.org/bulletins

Calendar

Tuesday, Sep 3, 12-1 pm: Midweek Prayer (*weekly*)

- allmeansall.org/midweek-prayer

Thursday, Sep 5

- **5-8 pm:** Baltimore Avenue Dollar Stroll
 - volunteers needed to help staff our table; contact Shakirah to sign up: office@allmeansall.org
- **8-9ish pm:** Spirituality on Tap (*monthly – 1st Thursdays*)
 - Carbon Copy / 50th & Baltimore
 - allmeansall.org/spirituality-on-tap

Sunday, Sep 8

- **11 am-12:30 pm:** Hybrid Worship (*Community Sunday*)
 - invite friends, family, co-workers, neighbors!
 - come meet our office manager, Shakirah
- **12:45-2 pm:** 2nd Sunday Potluck (*monthly*)
 - please bring a dish, drinks and/or dessert to share if you can

Saturday, Sep 28, 10 am-3 pm: Calvary Community Rummage Sale (*see above*)

- allmeansall.org/rummage

Saturday, Oct 19, 10 am-5 pm: Calvary Fall Retreat (*for all ages*)

- allmeansall.org/fall-retreat

Sunday, Nov 3, 5-8 pm: Calvary Center Gala

- honoring Rich Kirk

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.

CENTERING & CONNECTING

Breathing Our Way In

Singing Our Way In: "In All That Changes" (*tune: UMH #420, Robert Jackson / lyrics: Steve Garnaas-Holmes*)

In all that changes, God, all that will fail or fall,
your loving presence still abides,

and will not fade at all.

In all that changes, God, your love is strong and sure.
Therefore we give in thanks for grace,
and trust it will endure.

Through raging storm and sea,
you are the rock that stands.
Free from all else, we give ourselves
into your loving hands.

Call to Worship *(The Abingdon Worship Annual, inspired by Song of Songs 2:8-13, Psalm 45)*

One: Look to the mountains; look to the hills!

ALL: Love comes to us with joy!

One: The world is filled with beauty.

ALL: Flowers appear on the earth, birdsong brightens the day.

One: Crops yield their produce in abundance, the air is filled with sweetness.

ALL: The summer of God's love is with us.

One: Let the oil of gladness anoint your souls.

ALL: Arise and sing for joy! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Opening Song: "Let All Things Now Living" *(TFWS #2008, tune: trad. Welsh melody / lyrics: Katherine K. Davis)*

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
to God the Creator triumphantly raise,
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
who still guides us on to the end of our days.
God's banners fly o'er us; God's light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.

The law God enforces, the stars in their courses
and sun in its orbit obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
the deeps of the ocean proclaim the Divine.

We, too, should be voicing our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration a song let us raise,
till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:
To God in the highest hosanna and praise!

Offering Ourselves & Our Gifts / Passing the Peace

One: The peace of God be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

GROUNDING

Community Prayer *(The Abingdon Worship Annual)*

Creating God, you are the source of summer's splendor—the beauty and fragrance of delicate flowers, and sweet sound of birdsong. We come to you this morning with delight and gladness, grateful for all of your wonders. As the fields produce their harvest, may your love grow within us, that we too may produce a harvest of love, hope and joy. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Special Music

Scripture Lesson: James 1:19-27 *(A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church, Wilda C. Gafney)*

Understand my beloved kin: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger, **20** for (one's) anger does not produce God's righteousness. **21** Therefore rid yourselves of all impurity and abundance of wickedness, and with meekness welcome the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. **22** Now be doers of the word, and not just hearers who deceive themselves.

23 For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like a person who looks at their face in a mirror.

24 They recognize themselves and, departing, immediately forget what they were like. **25** But those who look deeply into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and

who persevere, not being hearers who forget but rather 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 Provider, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself spotless from the world.

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

Poem (*Phumla Khanyile*)

What is love without deeds
If not a word without action
A declaration without weight
Confession that lacks sincerity

Can a river be called a river
When its waters lie still
Or its bed is bare and dry
Without a flow of streams

What is love without deeds
If not an engagement doomed
A fire that lost its spark
Dying slowly with every passing hour

Like a seed that lacks a caring hand
Thrown to grow lonely in wild lands
So is the death of a love not nurtured
It slowly let go of its glow

Don't you know that love
Grows leaps and bounds
When inflated with deeds
Expanded by good gesture

Put a little yeast on love
Let it grow a little in size
Lest it deflates and wanes
Naked, without its cloak of honor

Remember love is a doing word
Of emotions deeply felt
Lived and written in deeds
Lest it's just an empty word!

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

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Choral Alleluia

Silent Reflection

- What verses or phrases resonate most for you from the scripture lesson and/or the poem? Why?
- What connection(s) do you see between the counsel to “be quick to listen, slow to speak” and to “be doers of the word, and not just hearers”?
- How do you understand the relationship or balance between contemplation and action in your own faith/spiritual journey?
- If “love is a doing word,” as the poem asserts, what are you specifically doing or what might you do to express/reflect the “implanted word” of love in you?

Song: “We Plant a Grain of Mustard Seed” (*tune: UMH #198, Elkanah Kelsay Dare – public domain / lyrics: Mary Bryan Matney*)

We plant a grain of mustard seed,
and in our faith we find
the proof of God is love, indeed,
which blossoms from its kind.

Our actions, more than words, define
how love's example feeds
a greater love, for love divine
bursts forth from smallest seeds.

When stooped to lend a helping hand,
we find a touch that heals,
for love invested will expand
to bear the fruit love yields.

Make love our purpose, love our aim,
for love endures all things,

and choosing love our lives will claim
the peace forgiveness brings.

Our lives will be fulfilled and blessed
if through the seeds we've sown,
and by the love that we profess
the love of Christ is known.

SHARING

Prayers of the People / Joys & Concerns

Sung Response *(tune: UMH #145 / lyrics: John Pritchard)*

Hear us, Creator. Hear us, O Lover.
Hear us, O Spirit moving within.
Hear all our longing; hear all our sorrow.
Hear every joy and praise that we bring.

Communion / The Great Thanksgiving *(John Pritchard – adapted)*

One: God is with you.

ALL: And also with you.

One: Open your hearts.

ALL: We open them to God and to each other.

One: Let us give thanks.

ALL: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

One: Blessed are you, O God of the universe, maker of all that is, of swirling galaxies and pulsing stars, of churning seas and windswept fields, of lichen and fungus and flowering shrub, of manatee and hummingbird and rhino and sheep, of sun and rain, of grain and grape, of us, human us. Blessed are you, O God of the universe, giver of paths to you, of covenant, of bread and cup, of love and justice and joy shared. We praise your name, with all that lives, sharing their 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)

Blest is the one who comes in the name of (our God).

Hosanna in the highest! (3x)

One: Blessed are you, O God of the universe, maker of flesh and blood, Spirit who inhabits them, animates them, stirs them toward life. Blessed are those in whom we see you, like Jesus of Nazareth, who healed the broken, welcomed the excluded, and loved even his enemies. He shared stories and his table and summoned others to share the gift of life.

Blessed are you, O God of the universe, present during the final Passover meal Jesus shared with his disciples. ... And so we remember. As often as we break the bread and share the cup, we remember the life of Jesus and all that we see of you in that life. We taste the same Spirit, we feast on the same promise, and renew our commitment to follow the same path, proclaiming together 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: Blessed are you, O God of the universe, source of all relationship, thread that weaves all together, Spirit that dances in the between—between yesterday and tomorrow, between here and there, between us all. Pour out your Spirit on us gathered here and virtually, on these gifts of bread and cup, and on all elements we use to join in this feast of love. By your presence, bless this sharing that we may each know your presence

among us, your life filling us, your love holding and calling us to joy. Make us one in hope, one in love, one with you in the work of mending the world, one together in unending praise:

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

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

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

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