

Calvary Church

A Reconciling Congregation



*“For where two or three are gathered
in my name, I am there among them.”*

- Matthew 18:20

September 10, 2023

15th Sunday after Pentecost

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Community Sunday

GATHERING

Gathering Song: "Lean on Me" (*Bill Withers / perf. by Calvary & Wharton-Wesley UMC choirs*)

You're invited to be in silence during the Gathering Song, as we transition together into this sacred time and space.

Welcome & Announcements

(full Announcements available at allmeansall.org/announcements)

- **Story Circles:** allmeansall.org/story-circles
 - contact Amy to join the next around of matches: aemmettrardin@gmail.com
- **HVAC Matching Gift Campaign:** allmeansall.org/hvac
- **Fall program & ministry offerings:** allmeansall.org/fall
- **White People Practicing Racial Justice** (*New Sanctuary Movement*)
 - 2nd Tuesdays, 7-9 pm, Sep-June(virtual)
- **Bread & Roses Fall 2023 Gender Justice Giving Project**
 - beginning later this month, through February
 - breadrosesfund.org/about/giving-project
- **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

Today, Sep 10

- **12:30-3:30ish pm (following worship):** 2nd Sunday Potluck & Retirement Celebration for Greg Scott

Monday, Sep 11, 7 pm: Mission Link Meeting

Tuesday, Sep 12

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

Sunday, Sep 17: NO WORSHIP

- alternate options/resources will be provided for those unable to join the march
- **1-4:30 pm:** March to End Fossil Fuels in NYC
 - allmeansall.org/march
 - 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: "Bind Us Together" (TFWS #2226, Bob Gillman – adapted)

Bind us together, (God), bind us together
with cords that cannot be broken.

Bind us together, (God), bind us together,
bind us together in love.

***There is only one God, (source of life and all things).
There is only one body; that is why we sing.***

Call to Worship (Beth Merrill Neel – adapted)

One: We gather as God's beloved children –

ALL: however glad we are, however out of sorts we are.

One: We come together as a people whom Jesus calls
into community –

ALL: so this place becomes a place where all are welcome.

One: We come to give thanks, to breathe, to pray, to sing, to be ourselves in fellowship with each other –

ALL: With all that we are and all that we are yet becoming, with many gifts held by one Spirit, let us worship God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Opening Song: “Many Gifts, One Spirit” (*UMH #114, Al Carmines*)

God of change and glory, God of time and space,
when we fear the future, give to us your grace.

In the midst of changing ways
give us still the grace to praise.

**Many gifts, one Spirit, one love known in many ways.
In our difference is blessing, from diversity we praise
one Giver, one Lord, one Spirit, one Word,
known in many ways, hallowing our days.
For the Giver, for the gifts, praise, praise, praise!**

God of many colors, God of many signs,
you have made us different, blessing many kinds.
As the old ways disappear,
let your love cast out our fear. (*refrain*)

Freshness of the morning, newness of each night,
you are still creating endless love and light.
This we see, as shadows part,
many gifts from one great heart. (*refrain*)

Offering Ourselves & Our Gifts / Passing the Peace

One: The peace of God be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

GROUNDING

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

O God, where two or three are, you are. In our being here together, in our love, is your being here, is your

love. May we be present to our own hearts, as to each other's, as to yours, wherever we are; as those called to and gathered in beloved community. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Special Music

Scripture Lesson: Psalm 149:1-6a

Praise the Holy One! Sing to the Holy One a new song, God's praise in the assembly of the faithful. **2** Let Israel be glad in its Maker; let the children of Zion rejoice in their Sovereign. **3** Let them praise God's name with dancing, making melody to God with tambourine and lyre. **4** For God takes pleasure in God's people; God adorns the humble with victory. **5** Let the faithful exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their couches. **6a** Let the high praises of God be in their throats ...

Choral Alleluia

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 18:15-20

"If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. **16** But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. **17** If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. **18** Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. **19** Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Parent in heaven. **20** For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Choral Alleluia

Sermon: "Community's the Thing"

Song: "Open My Eyes" (*Jesse Manibusan – adapted; 5th verse: Tim Emmett-Rardin*)

Open my eyes, (Love), help me to see your face.

Open my eyes, (Love), help me to see.

Open my ears, (Love), help me to hear your voice.

Open my ears, (Love), help me to hear.

Open my heart, (Love), help me to love like you.

Open my heart, (Love), help me to love.

I live within you, deep in your heart, O Love.

I live within you, rest now in me.

Bring us together, even just two or three.

Bring us together, hold us in love.

SHARING

Prayers of the People / Joys & Concerns

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

Sung Response (*tune: UMH #682, Thomas Tallis / lyrics: John Pritchard*)

O draw us near, companion God.

For every joy, your name we laud.

For every wound and each sigh, too,

we pray your love will see us through.

ENGAGING

Closing Song: "This Little Light of Mine" (*AAHH #549, African American spiritual; 5th verse: Tim Emmett-Rardin*)

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine (3x)

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel, no! ...

Everywhere I go ...

All through the night ...

Called to build community, we're gonna let it shine ...

Benediction

Singing Our Way Out: "Let the Church Say Amen" (*Andraé Crouch*)

Let the church say, "Amen" (*repeat*)

God has spoken, let the church say, "Amen"

Calvary United Methodist Church

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Norris Person (accompanist): music@allmeansall.org

