

Calvary Church

A Reconciling Congregation



"He realized that it's difficult to love those persons who seek to defeat you, those persons who say evil things about you. He realized that it was painfully hard, pressingly hard.

But Jesus wasn't playing."

- Martin Luther King Jr.

September 21, 2025

15th Sunday after Pentecost

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

National Hispanic Heritage Month

GATHERING

Gathering Song: "Everybody Walkin' This Land" (Paul Cauthen)

Welcome & Announcements

- **Thanks to our guest preacher:** Cara Blouin
- **Congregational giving** (rounded)
 - Sep 8-14: \$350 / weekly budget: \$1,827
- **Bible Study – Revelation:** allmeansall.org/bible-studies
 - beginning week of Sep 29 – exact timing TBD by participants
 - contact Pastor Tim to sign up
- **Story Circles:** allmeansall.org/story-circles
 - contact Amy to sign up, or with any questions: aemmettrardin@gmail.com
- **Previous sermons:** allmeansall.org/sermons
- **Previous bulletins:** allmeansall.org/bulletins

Calendar

Today, Sep 21, 4-6:30 pm: POWER Interfaith Citywide Strategy Meeting

- St. Vincent DePaul Parish / 109 E Price St
- contact Mimi to join others from Calvary, or to get involved in Calvary's POWER Interfaith Team: rmijima@gmail.com

Monday, Sep 22, 6:30-7:30 pm: Yoga (weekly)

- Calvary (Chapel) – 48th St entrance
- allmeansall.org/yoga

Tuesday, Sep 23, 6 pm: Midweek Prayer (weekly)

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

Wednesday, Sep 24, 10-11 am: Yoga (weekly)

- see Sep 22 for details

Saturday, Sep 27

- **10 am-6:30 pm:** Fall Retreat
 - Innabah Camp & Retreat Center
 - allmeansall.org/fall-retreat (deadline: TODAY)
- **1 pm:** Meditation (weekly)
 - Calvary (Board Room) – 48th St entrance
 - witnessandintegrate@gmail.com

Sunday, Sep 28, 11 am-12:30 pm: Hybrid Worship

Wednesday, Oct 1, 7-8ish pm: Spirituality on Tap (monthly – 1st Wednesdays)

- Dahlak / 4708 Baltimore Ave
- allmeansall.org/spirituality-on-tap

Saturday, Oct 4, 1 pm: “All Means All” Anniversary Benefit Concert – Songs of Justice & Inclusion

- Calvary (Chapel) – 48th St entrance
- 10 am: Community choir rehearsal
- allmeansall.org/concert

Sunday, Oct 5

- **11 am-12:30 pm:** Hybrid Worship (Communion)
- **5 pm:** Calvary Kids & Youth (CKY) Bowling
 - contact Kaspero to sign up, or with any questions: kaspero.kimura@gmail.com

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: “We Resist (Prayer Chant)” (Mark Miller)

We resist, we refuse, to let hatred in.

We rise up, we won't back down.

We're in this 'til the end. (repeat)

Pray for your enemies, welcome the stranger,
show love to your neighbor.
We're in this 'til the end.

Call to Worship *(Roddy Hamilton – adapted)*

One: The enemy, love them;

ALL: the oppressor, walk the mile with them;

One: the master, turn the other cheek to them.

**ALL: This doormat faith seems too much to bear in a world
where those who bully always seem to win.**

One: The enemy, imbalance them with love;

ALL: The oppressor, shame the law that oppresses;

One: The master, turn the cheek as an equal.

**ALL: This rebellious faith seems too much to bear in a
world where those who bully are loved back to justice by
the bullied.**

One: But this is heaven's revolution, and we are called
into it.

**ALL: Come let us worship the God of rebellious love; let us
worship love's rebel, Jesus. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Opening Song: "God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale"

(UMH #122, tune: Carl F. Schalk / lyrics: Jaroslav J. Vajda)

God of the sparrow

God of the whale

God of the swirling stars

How does the creature say Awe

How does the creature say Praise

God of the earthquake

God of the storm

God of the trumpet blast

How does the creature cry Woe

How does the creature cry Save

God of the rainbow

God of the cross

God of the empty grave

How does the creature say Grace
How does the creature say Thanks

God of the hungry

God of the sick

God of the prodigal

How does the creature say Care

How does the creature say Life

God of the neighbor

God of the foe

God of the pruning hook

How does the creature say Love

How does the creature say Peace

God of the ages

God near at hand

God of the loving heart

How do your children say Joy

How do your children say Home

Stewardship Sharing

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 (Todd Yonkman)

God, we are so conditioned to respond in kind. We are so worried that when the reckoning comes, we will find

ourselves left with the short end of the stick. And not without reason. The powerful take and take, and lie and lie, and oppress and oppress, seemingly without consequence.

Teach us to love with skill. Teach us to love with precision. Teach us to love with abandon, trusting that when we step into the ocean of your abundant love we will receive the blessings of your abundant life. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Special Music

Scripture Lesson: Romans 12:9-21

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; **10** love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. **11** Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve God. **12** Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. **13** Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. **14** Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. **15** Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. **16** Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. **17** Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. **18** If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. **19** Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the HOLY ONE." **20** No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." **21** Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Choral Alleluia (UMH #186, Jerry Sinclair)

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

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 5:38-48

“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ **39** But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; **40** and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; **41** and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. **42** Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you. **43** “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ **44** But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, **45** so that you may be children of your God in heaven; for God makes the sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. **46** For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? **47** And if you greet only your siblings, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? **48** Be perfect, therefore, as your God in heaven is perfect.

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: “Jesus Wasn’t Playing”

Song: “Christ, Your Words of Love Confound Us” *(tune: UMH #581, B.F. White, harm. by Ronald A. Nelson / lyrics: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette)*

Christ, your words of love confound us,

even as we give you praise,
for the lessons that you teach us seem
so far from this world's ways.
How can we love those who hate us?
How can we love enemies?
What of people who abuse us?
How can we love even these?

Make us mindful: love is action,
not a feeling that uplifts.
In each daily situation,
love's the greatest of all gifts.
It's the wiser, stronger person
who will break the chain of hate.
Love can usher in redemption;
love can make a people great.

Faced with those who seek to hurt us,
make us confident and free:
you don't call us to be helpless
but to stand with dignity.
(God), when others are demanding,
may we know they matter more
than our money or possessions.
May we share, not keeping score.

If we love just those who love us,
where's the giving? Where's the grace?
Even sinners try to do this;
they have friends that they embrace.
May we do, (God), unto others
as we'd have them also do.
You have shown us: Love is action.
May we love, and make things new.

SHARING

Prayers of the People

Sung Response (tune: UMH #175, John B. Dykes / 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.

ENGAGING

Closing Song: "We Shall Overcome" (African American spiritual – adapted)

We shall overcome, we shall overcome
We shall overcome someday!
Oh, deep in my heart
I do believe
we shall overcome someday!
We'll walk hand in hand ...
We shall all be free ...
We shall live in peace ...
(Love) will see us through ...

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

Celebrating 40 Years as a Reconciling Congregation

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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 Administrator)

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