

Calvary

United Methodist Church

A Reconciling Congregation



*"And if your eye causes you to stumble,
tear it out; it is better for you to enter the
kingdom of God with one eye than to have
two eyes and to be thrown into hell."
- Mark*

September 26, 2021
18th Sunday after Pentecost

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

GATHERING

Prelude: "Hey, Hey, Hey" (*Michael Franti & Spearhead*)

Welcome / Announcements

Announcements

- **Calvary's Covid-19 protocols:** allmeansall.org/covid
- **Virtual Lectionary Study Group**
 - contact Pastor Tim if interested

Calendar

Today, 8-9 pm: Spiritual Reflection Group

- info at allmeansall.org/spiritual

Tuesday, Sep 28, 12-12:30 pm: Midweek Prayer

- info at allmeansall.org/faith-spirituality

Sunday, Oct 3

- **11:15 am:** Worship, with Communion
- **1ish pm:** Church Council

Saturday, Oct 16, 3 pm: Songs of Freedom Benefit Concert

- Swarthmore UMC; info at jfonddv.org/markmiller
- contact Pastor Tim if you're interested in going

Saturday, Oct 23, 4 pm: Charge Conference

Friday, Nov 12 – Saturday, Nov 13/Sunday, Nov 14:

Calvary Fall Retreat (*adults only*)

- please contact Pastor Tim if interested

Visiting With Us?

We're glad you're here, for whatever reason you chose to join us! We invite you to fill out a Visitor Form at allmeansall.org/visitors; for those worshipping in person, someone will share a form with you during the service.

Please know that we strive to make our worship space (in person and virtual) as welcoming and accommodating of different needs as possible. If you have any concerns or

requests regarding accessibility, or other questions, 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 (office@allmeansall.org).

Singing Our Way In: "Nothing Can Trouble" (TFWS #2054)

Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten.
Those who seek God shall never go wanting.
God alone fills us.

Nada te turbe, nada te espante.
Quien a Dios tiene nada le falta.
Solo Dios basta.

Invitation to Holy Presence / Breath Prayer

Call to Worship (Steve Garnass-Holmes)

One: Eternal God, you are present.

ALL: Loving presence, we open ourselves to you.

One: Gracious Mystery, you enfold us.

ALL: Faithful Mercy, you dwell in us.

One: Creator of the universe, create anew in us.

ALL: Create each moment, a new gift.

One: Create new life for us to live.

**ALL: Create your realm among us. Alleluia! Spirit of Life,
create us anew by your grace. Alleluia!**

Opening Hymn: "In the Midst of New Dimensions"

(TFWS #2238)

In the midst of new dimensions,
in the face of changing ways,
who will lead the pilgrim peoples
wandering in their separate ways?

Refrain

*God of rainbow, fiery pillar,
leading where the eagles soar,
we your people, ours the journey
now and ever, now and ever, now and evermore.*

Through the flood of starving people,
warring factions and despair,
who will lift the olive branches?
Who will light the flame of care? *(Refrain)*

As we stand a world divided
by our own self-seeking schemes,
grant that we, your global village,
might envision wider dreams. *(Refrain)*

We are man and we are woman,
all persuasions, old and young,
each a gift in your creation,
each a love song to be sung. *(Refrain)*

Should the threats of dire predictions
cause us to withdraw in pain,
may your blazing phoenix spirit
resurrect the church again. *(Refrain)*

Passing the Peace

One: The peace of God be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

CENTERING

Community Prayer *(John Pritchard)*

You gather us, O God, some in person, some remote,
to glimpse again the grace at the heart of our days, your
grace. You breathe us into this day, give us to each
other, hold us through each other. You call us into
compassion, into wonder, into hope, and so we give you
thanks.

Open our eyes again to you among us. Open our lives to your life in ours and in each and every other's. Open our hearts to receive all you bring and to give all we are to this day, to each other, to you. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Special Music *(Calvary Choir)*

Scripture Lesson: James 5:13-20

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. **14** Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. **15** The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven.

16 Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.

17 Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. **18** Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest. **19** My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, **20** you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Choral Alleluia

Scripture Lesson: Mark 9:38-50

John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." **39** But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me.

40 Whoever is not against us is for us. **41** For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

42 "If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. **43** If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. **45** And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. **47** And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, **48** where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched. **49** "For everyone will be salted with fire. **50** Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Choral Alleluia

Sermon: "Obstacle or Vehicle?"

Hymn of Response: "Bring Forth the Kingdom" (TFWS #2190)

You may prefer to use the gender-neutral "kin-dom," which also describes a relational, rather than hierarchical, model of God's beloved community.

You are salt for the earth, O people:

Salt for the Kingdom of God!

Share the flavor of life, O people:

Life in the Kingdom of God!

Refrain

*Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy,
bring forth the Kingdom of peace;*

bring forth the Kingdom of justice,
bring forth the City of God!

You are a light on the hill, O people:
Light for the City of God!

Shine so holy and bright, O people:
Shine for the Kingdom of God! *(Refrain)*

You are a seed of the Word, O people:
Bring forth the Kingdom of God!
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice,
grow in the Kingdom of God! *(Refrain)*

We are a blest and a pilgrim people:
Bound for the Kingdom of God!
Love our journey and love our homeland:
Love is the Kingdom of God! *(Refrain)*

SHARING

Offering our Tithes and Gifts / Offertory

Prayers of the People / Joys and Concerns

“Thanks be to God” or “God, hear our prayer”

Prayer Response *(tune: UMH #294 / lyrics: John Pritchard)*

O Wind and Fire, O Rock and Vine,
O Voice so still and small,
we bring our lives, our hopes and fears
to you who embraces all.

Closing Hymn: “I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”

(TFWS #2153)

I’m gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I’m gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I’m gonna work so God can use me . . .

I’m gonna pray so God can use me . . .

I’m gonna sing so God can use me . . .

I'm gonna live so God can use me . . .

ENGAGING

Benediction

Singing Our Way Out: "Let the Church Say Amen"

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

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

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