Calvary Church

A Reconciling Congregation

"God made streams come out of the rock and caused waters to flow down like rivers."

- Psalm 78:16

September 27, 2026

18th Sunday after Pentecost

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

National Hispanic Heritage Month

GATHERING

Gathering Song: "Hope is the Thing with Feathers" *(tune: (Rhiannon Giddens, Niwel Tsumbu / lyrics: Emily Dickinson)*

Welcome & Announcements

- **Visiting with us?**
  - We're glad you're here! We strive to make our worship space—in-person and virtual—as welcoming and accommodating of different needs as possible. If you have questions, concerns or suggestions, please contact Pastor Tim.
- **Interested in becoming a Calvary member?**
  - contact Pastor Tim to learn more
- **Previous sermons & bulletins**
  - allmeansall.org/sermonsbulletins

Calendar

Today, Sep 27

- **3-6 pm:** Election Protection Training *(POWER Interfaith)*
  - Olivet-Schwenkfelder UCC / 619 W Township Line Rd (Norristown)
  - contact Pastor Tim if interested
- **7 pm:** Staff-Parish Relations Committee

Monday, Sep 28

- **6:15-7:15 pm:** Yoga *(weekly)*
  - Chapel – 48th St entrance
  - allmeansall.org/yoga
- **7:30-8:30 pm:** Bible Study - Psalms *(hybrid / weekly, through Nov 2)*
  - Office – 48th St entrance (for those joining in person)
  - allmeansall.org/bible-studies

Tuesday, Sep 29, 6-8 pm: Resistance Quilting Group *(additional dates through mid-Oct)*

- allmeansall.org/resistance-quilting-group
- contact Brooke to sign up/confirm location, or with questions: christensenvoice@gmail.com

Wednesday, Sep 30

- **10-11 am:** Yoga *(weekly)* – see Sep 28 for details
- **12-12:30 pm:** Interfaith Prayer Vigil for Immigrant Justice *(weekly / New Sanctuary Movement)*
  - Philadelphia ICE Field Office / 114 N 8th St
- **6:30 pm:** Interfaith Vigil - Love Has No Limits *(New Sanctuary Movement)*
  - LOVE Park / 15th St & JFK Blvd

Sunday, Oct 4

- **11 am-12:30 pm:** Hybrid Worship *(Communion / World Communion Sunday)*
- **2-4 pm:** Resistance Quilting Group – see Sep 29 for details

Wednesday, Oct 7

- **6-7 pm:** Calvary Handbell Choir *(semi-monthly - 1st & 3rd Wed)*
  - Chapel – 48th St entrance
  - contact Sparrow to get involved: sprrwfrancis@gmail.com
- **7-8ish pm:** Spirituality on Tap *(monthly - 1st Wed)*
  - Dahlak / 4708 Baltimore Ave
  - allmeansall.org/spirituality-on-tap

Sunday, Oct 11

- **11 am-12:30 pm:** Hybrid Worship
- **12:45-2 pm:** 2nd Sunday Potluck *(monthly)*
  - allmeansall.org/2nd-sunday-potluck

Saturday, Oct 17, 9 am-12 pm: Pollinator Garden Planting Day

- allmeansall.org/garden
- contact Sparrow to sign up, or with questions: sprrwfrancis@gmail.com

CENTERING & CONNECTING

Breathing Our Way In

May our lungs remember what our minds forget …

Singing Our Way In: "This Joy" *(Shirley Caesar – adapted / arr. by Resistance Revival Chorus)*

This joy that I have, the world didn't give it to me *(3x)*
The world didn't give it, the world can't take it away

This faith that I have …

This hope that I have …

This love that I have …

This peace that I have …

Call to Worship *(Katherine Hawker, based on James 2, in response to Matthew 21:28-31 – adapted)*

One: Come to hear the Word.
ALL: May it be so.
One: Come to do the Word.
ALL: May it be so.
One: Come to experience Comfort.
ALL: May it be so.
One: Come to experience Challenge.
ALL: May it be so.
One: Come to find Cost.
ALL: May it be so.
One: Come to find Joy.
ALL: May it be so.
One: Come to find Humanity.
ALL: May it be so.
One: Come to find Community.
ALL: May it be so.
One: Come to find Church.
ALL: May it be so.
One: Come to find God.
ALL: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Opening Song: "O God Who Gives Us Life and Breath"
(tune: UMH #152, trad. English melody / lyrics: Carl P. Daw Jr. – adapted)

O God who gives us life and breath,
who shapes us in the womb,
who (guides) our lives from birth to death,
then leads us from the tomb:
deliver us from fears that kill
the life we have from you;
help us to know your Spirit still
is making all things new.

O God who calls your people out,
to venture and to dare,
to plumb the bleak abyss of doubt
and find you even there:
when we despair in wandering
through wastes of empty lies,
refresh us with the living spring
of hope that never dies.

O God of covenant and law,
revealed in cloud and flame,
your mighty deeds evoke our awe;
we dare not speak your name.
Yet we by faith are drawn to you
and will your people prove,
as on our hearts you write anew
the covenant of love.

Passing the Peace

One: The peace of God be with you.
ALL: And also with you.

GROUNDING

Community Prayer *(Ted Loder – adapted)*

O God of fire and freedom, deliver us from bondage to what can be counted. And go with us in a new exodus toward what counts, but can only be measured in bread shared, and swords become plowshares; in bodies healed and minds liberated; in songs sung and justice done; in laughter in the night and joy in the morning; in love through all seasons and great gladness of heart; in all people coming together and a kindom coming in glory; in your name being praised and our becoming an alleluia. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Special Music: "Thirsty, We Wander (Even from Rock)"
(tune: Mark A. Miller / lyrics: David Bjorlin)

Thirsty, we wander the desert;
our exodus seems like a dream.
In anguish we cry as the rivers run dry,
yet even from rock, your water will stream.
Even from rock, even from rock, even from rock,
your water will stream.
Hosanna, hosanna.

Hopeless, we wander the desert
and fear what our failures will bring.
We shrivel in shame from the heat of our blame,
yet even from rock, your mercy will spring.
Even from rock, even from rock, even from rock,
your mercy will spring.
Hosanna, hosanna.

Angry, we wander the desert
where hatred and bigotry grow;
a sigh is our song in the valley of wrong,
yet even from rock, your justice will flow.

Even from rock, even from rock, even from rock,
your justice will flow.
Hosanna, hosanna.

Thirsty, we wander the desert,
our homeland a far-away dream,
but we will endure for your promise is sure,
and even from rock, your water will stream.
Even from rock, even from rock, even from rock,
your water will stream.
Hosanna, hosanna.

Scripture Lesson: Exodus 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the HOLY ONE commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. **2** The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the HOLY ONE?" **3** But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" **4** So Moses cried out to the HOLY ONE, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." **5** The HOLY ONE said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. **6** I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. **7** He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the HOLY ONE, saying, "Is the HOLY ONE among us or not?"

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

Scripture Lesson: Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth. **2** I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, **3** things that we have heard and known, that our ancestors have told us. **4** We will not hide them from their children; we will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the HOLY ONE and God's might and the wonders that God has done. … **12** In the sight of their ancestors God worked marvels in the land of Egypt, in the fields of Zoan. **13** God divided the sea and let them pass through it and made the waters stand like a heap. **14** In the daytime God led them with a cloud and all night long with a fiery light. **15** God split rocks open in the wilderness and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep. **16** God made streams come out of the rock and caused waters to flow down like rivers.

One: The word of God for the people of God.
ALL: Thanks be to God!

Choral Alleluia *(Greg Scott)*
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia, sing alleluia, alleluia. *(repeat)*

Sermon: "Still We Sing"

Song: "My Life Flows On (How Can I Keep from Singing)"
(TFWS #2212, Robert Lowry – adapted)
My life flows on in endless song,
above earth's lamentation.
I hear the clear, though far-off hymn
that hails a new creation.

No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since love is Lord of heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?

Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul.
How can I keep from singing? *(Refrain)*

What though my joys and comforts die?
I know (God's Spirit) liveth.
What though the darkness gather round?
Songs in the night (God) giveth. *(Refrain)*

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am (God's)!
How can I keep from singing? *(Refrain)*

SHARING

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

Previous giving *(rounded)*

- Sep 14-20: $928 / weekly budget: $1,663

Prayers of the People

"Thanks be to God" / "God hears our prayer"

ENGAGING

Closing Song: "This Little Light of Mine" *(AAHH #549, African American spiritual – adapted)*

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 …

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 *(repeat)*

We humbly acknowledge that Calvary is located on the ancestral homelands of the Lenape people, whose presence and resilience in Pennsylvania continues to this day. We take this opportunity to honor the original caretakers who lived and continue to live on and steward this land, while recognizing the histories of land theft, violence, erasure and oppression that have preceded our presence here.

Calvary United Methodist Church

celebrating 130 years at the intersection of 48th & Baltimore / spirituality & justice

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Staff

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