

Calvary Church

A Reconciling Congregation



*“For those who want to save their life
will lose it, and those who lose their
life for my sake will find it ...”*

- Matthew 16:25

September 3, 2023

14th Sunday after Pentecost

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

GATHERING

Gathering Song: "Spirits Calling" (*Beautiful Chorus*)

*You're encouraged to be in silence during the Prelude,
as we transition together into this sacred time and space.*

Welcome & Announcements

(full Announcements available at allmeansall.org/announcements)

- **HVAC Matching Gift Campaign:** allmeansall.org/hvac
- **Fall program & ministry offerings:** allmeansall.org/fall
- **White People Practicing Racial Justice** (*New Sanctuary Movement*)
 - beginning this month – 2nd Tuesdays, 7-9 pm (Zoom)
 - contact Pastor Tim for details or to sign up
- **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

Tuesday, Sep 5, 12-1 pm: Midweek Prayer

- allmeansall.org/midweekprayer

Thursday, Sep 7, 5-8: Baltimore Avenue Dollar Stroll

- contact Ursula to help staff Calvary's table:
rrojohanson@comcast.net

Sunday, Sep 10: Community Sunday

- **11:15 am-12:30 pm:** Hybrid Worship
 - invite your friends, family, neighbors!
- **12:30-3:30ish pm (following worship):** 2nd Sunday Potluck & Retirement Celebration for Greg Scott
 - please bring a dish or drinks to share if you can

Sunday, Sep 17: NO WORSHIP

- alternate options/resources for worship will be provided for those unable to join the March
- **1-4 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: "Open Unto Me" (*tune: Richard Bruxvoort Colligan / lyrics: Anne Thurman, based on Howard Thurman prayer*)

Open unto me light for my darkness
Light for my darkness open unto me
Open unto me light for my darkness
Open unto me, O God

Open unto me strength for my weakness ...
Open unto me peace for my turmoil ...
Open unto me joy for my sorrow ...

Call to Worship (*Steve Garnaas-Holmes – adapted*)

One: Loving God, Fountain of Life, Eternal Source, our very being flows from you.

ALL: We sing your praise, with all Creation.

One: Your heart is among us in Christ. Your hand is upon us in the call of Jesus to follow.

ALL: We rise to your call, humble and longing.

One: Your Spirit stirs in us. We breathe deeply of holy courage, divine grace, radical love, infinite life.

ALL: Come, O God, and transform us by your grace.

Shape us, lead us, feed us, meet us. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Opening Song: "God the Sculptor of the Mountains" (TFWS #2060, alternate tune: UMH #100, John Goss / lyrics: John Thornburg)

God the sculptor of the mountains,
God the miller of the sand,
God the jeweler of the heavens,
God the potter of the land;
You are womb of all creation,
we are formless; shape us now.

God the nuisance to the Pharaoh,
God the cleaver of the sea,
God the pillar in the darkness,
God the beacon of the free:
You are fount of all deliv'rance,
we are sightless; lead us now.

God the dresser of the vineyard,
God the planter of the wheat,
God the reaper of the harvest,
God the source of all we eat:
You are host at every table,
we are hungry; feed us now.

God the unexpected infant,
God the calm, determined youth,
God the table-turning prophet,
God the resurrected truth:
You are present every moment,
we are searching; meet us now.

Offering Ourselves & Our Gifts / Passing the Peace

One: The peace of God be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

GROUNDING

Community Prayer (*John van de Laar – adapted*)

When we treat our faith as nothing more than a self-help system, and you, God, as simply a cure for whatever ails us, where is the love? When we use the gifts our planet gives us with little care for our wastefulness and destruction, where is the love? When we deny and disdain truths and practices that others hold dear, where is the love? When we ignore the sickness, the loneliness, the struggle and the vulnerability of others, because it doesn't affect us, where is the love? When we berate ourselves for our failures, or hold ourselves to impossible and trivial standards, where is the love?

Forgive us, O God, and teach us and our world what it really means to love. What it really means to follow your world-changing Way of Love. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Special Music

Scripture Lesson: Romans 12:9-18

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 the Holy One. **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.

Choral Alleluia

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 16:21-26

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. **22** And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." **23** But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." **24** Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. **25** For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. **26** For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?"

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

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Choral Alleluia

Reflection in Small Groups

- What phrase or phrases stand out for you from the Romans text? Why?
- Jesus tells Peter he's setting his mind "not on divine things but on human things." What do you think he means? What's the difference?
- How do you understand, or what questions do you have about, Jesus' classic call, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and

take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it”?

- What does it mean to you to follow Jesus?

Song: “The Summons” (TFWS #2130, tune: trad. Scottish / lyrics: John Bell – adapted)

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?

Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?

Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?

Will you risk the hostile stare,
should your life attract or scare?

Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?

Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?

Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you,
and you in me?

(God), your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.

Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.

In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.

Thus I'll move and live and grow in you, and you in me.

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.

Communion / The Great Thanksgiving (*enfleshed – adapted*)

One: The Holy One be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

One: Open your hearts to the One who is Love.

ALL: We open our hearts to you, O God, and to each other.

One: Let us give thanks to God, who gathers us together.

ALL: To the One who welcomes us to the table, we give our thanks and praise.

One: God, your invitation to come and feast in your presence is but a taste of the love you extend to us every day. By your very nature, you are always seeking us out – searching for ways to connect us and connect with us. You meet us in the most ordinary of places and you make them sacred. By your grace, we come to recognize the holiness that dwells in the world around us, in our neighbors, in our own internal depths.

Therefore we join with your people on earth and all the company of the heavens, singing praise to you:

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)

One: Blessed are you and blessed is your eternal table. You welcome all who hunger and thirst for justice to grow in love. You ask us to extend this same welcome to all our neighbors. In your love for us, you took on flesh in Jesus. Through his life, you pointed anew to your presence on the margins. You revealed the sacredness in all life. You showed us how to live together, even among forces of destruction. Believing it could transform the world, Jesus proclaimed the Good News. He called for the captives to be set free. He spoke of the lowly being lifted up. He talked of redistributing wealth and eradicating the causes of poverty. His commitment to practicing love knew no bounds – not even the bounds of death.

On the night of his arrest, Jesus shared a meal with his companions ... And so as we break the bread and share the cup, we remember. We remember love broken and love poured out. As those held in and bound together by that same love, we taste the same Spirit and feast on the same promise, as we proclaim the mystery 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: Pour out your Spirit on these gifts, O God. Make these ordinary elements into the sacred gift of your presence with us once again. Pour out your Spirit on all of us gathered, O God. May the sharing of this sacred meal awaken us anew to your everlasting invitation to life resurrected. Enliven and aliven us in pursuit of a world where all needs are met, power is balanced, and the worth of every creature and creation is celebrated. In collective longing for a taste of your kingdom on earth, we join our voices together:

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

Closing Song: "As We Gather at Your Table" (TFWS #2268, alternate tune: UMH #526, Charles C. Converse / lyrics: Carl P. Daw Jr.)

As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word
help us know, O God, your presence;
let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet
how to make Love's victory known.

Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you,
bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion
to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image
in the world you died to save.

Gracious Spirit, help us summon
other guests to share that feast
where triumphant Love will welcome
those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy blind us
nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels
to repeat the sounding joy.

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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