

Calvary Church

A Reconciling Congregation



*"I praise you, for I am fearfully
and wonderfully made..."*

- Psalm 139:14a

September 7, 2025

13th Sunday after Pentecost

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

GATHERING

Gathering Song: "Search Me, O God" (tune: Leigh Newton, based on Ludwig van Beethoven's "La Pathetique" / lyrics: Leigh Newton)

Welcome & Announcements

- **Congregational giving** (rounded)
 - Aug 25-31: \$808 / weekly budget: \$1,827
- **Resistance Bible Study:** beginning week of Sep 22 (exact timing TBD by participants)
 - allmeansall.org/bible-studies
 - contact Pastor Tim to sign up
- **Fall Retreat:** Saturday, Sep 27, 10 am-6:30 pm
 - Innabah Camp & Retreat Center
 - allmeansall.org/fall-retreat (deadline: Sep 21)
- **"All Means All" Anniversary Benefit Concert – Songs of Justice & Inclusion:** Saturday, Oct 4, 1 pm
 - 10 am: Community choir rehearsal (contact Pastor Tim to sign up)
 - allmeansall.org/concert
- **Previous sermons:** allmeansall.org/sermons
- **Previous bulletins:** allmeansall.org/bulletins

Calendar

Today, Sep 7, 12:30-1:30 pm: Congregational Meeting

Monday, Sep 8

- **6:30-7:30 pm:** Yoga (weekly)
 - Calvary (Chapel) – 48th St entrance
 - allmeansall.org/yoga
- **7 pm:** Staff-Parish Relations Committee

Tuesday, Sep 9

- **3:30 pm:** Trustees (monthly – 2nd Tuesdays)
- **6 pm:** Midweek Prayer (weekly)
 - allmeansall.org/midweek-prayer
 - 1st, 3rd & 5th Tuesdays: 3 pm / 2nd & 4th: 6 pm

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

- see Sep 8 for details

Saturday, Sep 13

- **9:30 am-12 pm:** Calvary @ Sankofa Community Farm
 - allmeansall.org/sankofa
 - contact Pastor Tim to volunteer, or with questions
- **1 pm:** Meditation (weekly)
 - Calvary (Board Room) – 48th St entrance
 - witnessandintegrate@gmail.com

Sunday, Sep 14

- **11 am-12:30 pm:** Hybrid Worship (*Community Sunday*)
 - please invite family and friends!
- **12:45-2 pm:** 2nd Sunday Potluck (*monthly*)
 - bring a dish, dessert and/or drinks if you can
- **8 pm:** Nominations & Leadership Development Committee

Saturday, Sep 20, 9:45 am-12:30 pm: Special Adjourned Session of the 2025 Eastern PA Annual Conference

Sunday, Sep 21

- **11 am-12:30 pm:** Hybrid Worship
 - guest preacher: Cara Blouin
- **4-6:30 pm:** POWER Interfaith City-Wide Strategy Meeting
 - St. Vincent DePaul Parish / 109 E Price St
 - contact Mimi to join others from Calvary, and to coordinate transportation: rmijima@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: "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: Creator God, we praise you!

ALL: **We thank you and we worship you.**

One: God, you search us and know us; you are all about us, within us and among us.

ALL: Your presence is everywhere; help us to be aware.

One: We claim your presence among us now, God, and in our worship.

ALL: Open us again to your love. Come, renew and transform us by your love. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Opening Song: "Sing Praise to God" (*tune: UMH #139, Erneueren Gesangbuch, harm. William Sterndale Bennett / lyrics: Joachim Neander, trans. Madeleine Marshall – adapted*)

Sing praise to God,

who has shaped and sustains all Creation.

Sing praise, my soul,

in profound and complete adoration.

Gladsome rejoice – organ and trumpet and voice –
joining God's great congregation.

Praise God, (companion),

who lovingly offers (direction);

who, as on eagle's wings, saves us from sinful dejection.

Have you observed, how we are always preserved
by God's parental affection?

Sing praise to God,
with sincere thanks for all your successes.
Merciful God, ever loves to encourage and bless us.
Only conceive, what godly strength can achieve:
strength that would touch and caress us.

Sing praise, my soul,
the great name of your (true) God commending.
All that have life and breath join you,
their notes sweetly blending.
God is your light! Soul, ever keep this in sight:
amen, amen never ending.

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 (Cheryl Lawrie, inspired by Jeremiah
18:1-11 & Isaiah 64:8 – adapted)

Take the clay of our lives, O God, and shape it to love.
Take the clay of the church and shape it to grace. Take
the clay of the world and shape it to peace. Take the
clay of today and shape it to hope. And then breathe
your Spirit into all again. Forever and ever. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Special Music

Scripture Lesson: Psalm 139:1-6, 13-15

O HOLY ONE, you have searched me and known me.

2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. **3** You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. **4** Even before a word is on my tongue, O HOLY ONE, you know it completely. **5** You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. **6** Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it. ...

13 For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. **14** I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well. **15** My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

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

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

Scripture Lesson: Luke 14:25-33

Now large crowds were traveling with him, and he turned and said to them, **26** "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. **27** Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. **28** For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it?

29 Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, **30** saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' **31** Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether

he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? **32** If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. **33** So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

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: "Created in and for Love"

Song: "Take My Gifts" *(tune: UMH #384, John Zundel / lyrics: Shirley Erena Murray – adapted)*

Take my gifts and let me love you,
God who first of all loved me,
gave me light and food and shelter,
gave me life and set me free.
Now because your love has (made) me,
I have love to give away,
now the bread of love is rising,
loaves of love to multiply!

Take the fruit that I have gathered
from the tree your Spirit sowed,
harvest of your own compassion,
juice that makes the wine of God,
spiced with humor, laced with laughter—
flavor of the Jesus life,
tang of risk and new adventure,
taste and zest beyond belief.

Take whatever I can offer—
gifts that I have yet to find,
skills that I am slow to sharpen,
talents of the hand and mind,

things made beautiful for others
in the place where I must be:
take my gifts and let me love you,
God who first of all loved me.

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.

Communion / The Great Thanksgiving (*Steve Garnaas-Holmes – adapted*)

One: God is with you.

ALL: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them up to God and to each other.

One: Let us give thanks to the Holy One, our God.

ALL: It is good and beautiful to give God our praise.

One: We thank you, God, for we are wondrously made.
You know us inside and out, and are with us always. Even
in the farthest places you are with us; even in the darkest
times you are light. You set us free from all that enslaves
us, and call us to set one another free. Like a master
potter you shape us by your love. And so we come to
your table to be re-shaped again, singing your praise:

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)

**Blest is the one who comes in the name of (our God).
Hosanna in the highest! (3x)**

One: Blessed are all who come in your name, and blessed is Jesus, your Christ, who loved even at the cost of his life, and asks us to do the same. Under an oppressive power he was crucified, but by your infinite grace he was raised to new life.

At the final Passover meal he shared with his disciples ... And so we remember. As often as we break the bread and share the cup, we remember. We taste the same Spirit, we feast on the same promise, and renew our commitment to follow the same path of love, proclaiming the mystery at the heart 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, O God, on each of us gathered here and virtually, on these gifts of bread and cup, and on all those elements we use to join in this feast of love. May be for the world your Body, created in and for love, with courage and compassion no matter the cost, for the sake of the healing of the world.

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 & 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

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

Celebrating 130 Years (1895-2025)

Celebrating 40 Years as a Reconciling Congregation

801 S. 48th Street / Philadelphia, PA 19143

215.724.1702 / office@allmeansall.org / allmeansall.org

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