

Calvary Church

A Reconciling Congregation



*“But she answered him,
‘Sir, even the dogs under the
table eat the children’s crumbs.’”*

- Mark 7:28

September 8, 2024

16th Sunday after Pentecost

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

Community Sunday

GATHERING

Prelude: "Crowded Table" (*Highwomen*)

Gathering Song: "Friendship Train" (*Gladys Night & the Pips*)

Welcome & Announcements

- **Community Rummage Sale:** inviting donations of clothing, household items, toys/games, books, etc.
 - drop off Sundays or contact Shakirah to make alternate arrangements: office@allmeansall.org
- **Fall Book Study:** The False White Gospel: Rejecting Christian Nationalism, Reclaiming True Faith, and Refounding Democracy (*Jim Wallis*)
 - Mondays, Sep 23 – Oct 28, 8-9 pm (*timing negotiable*)
 - allmeansall.org/book-studies
- **Fall/Winter Bible Study:** Gospels of Matthew & Luke
 - Mondays, Nov 18 – Dec 16, 8-9 pm (*timing negotiable*)
 - allmeansall.org/bible-studies
- **Previous sermons:** allmeansall.org/sermons
- **Previous bulletins:** allmeansall.org/bulletins

Calendar

Today, Sep 8

- **12:45-2 pm:** 2nd Sunday Potluck (*monthly*)
- **3-5 pm:** New Sanctuary Movement Quarterly Meeting & Potluck
 - Holy Innocents Parish / 1337 Hunting Park Ave
 - contact Pastor Tim to get involved with Calvary's NSM Team

Tuesday, Sep 10

- **12-1 pm:** Midweek Prayer (*weekly*)
 - allmeansall.org/midweek-prayer
- **7:30 pm:** Trustees

Thursday, Sep 12, 7-8:30 pm: POWER West/Southwest Cluster

- location TBA
- contact Pastor Tim to get involved with Calvary's POWER Team

Sunday, Sep 15

- **11 am-12:30 pm:** Hybrid Worship
- **12:30-1:30 pm:** Congregational Meeting (*hybrid*)

Tuesday, Sep 17

- **6-8:30 pm:** Philly Pathway to Power Debrief and Training (*POWER*)
 - Spirit & Truth Fellowship / 4455 N. 6th St
- **7 pm:** Finance Committee

Saturday, Sep 28, 10 am-3 pm: Calvary Community Rummage Sale (*see above*)

- allmeansall.org/rummage

Saturday, Oct 19, 10 am-5 pm: Calvary Fall Retreat

- allmeansall.org/fall-retreat

Sunday, Nov 3, 5-8 pm: Calvary Center Gala

- honoring Rich Kirk

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.

CENTERING & CONNECTING

Breathing Our Way In

Singing Our Way In: "The Breath of God" (*Rickie Byars*)

The breath of God is breathing me,
and resting in the breath of God,
I know that all is well.

The grace of God is grace in me ...

The peace of God is peace in me ...

The love of God is love in me ...

Call to Worship (*United Church of Christ's Worship Ways, inspired by Psalm 146 – adapted*)

One: Happy are those whose hope is in God, maker of heaven and earth –

ALL: for God keeps faith forever!

One: God executes justice for the oppressed and gives food for the hungry.

ALL: God sets the prisoners free and opens the eyes of the blind.

One: God lifts up those who are bowed down.

ALL: God watches over the strangers and upholds the orphan and the widow.

One: People of God, sing praise to the One who gathers and holds you, the One who is your help –

ALL: for God keeps faith forever. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Opening Song: “Gather Us In” (*TFWS #2236, Marty Haugen – adapted*)

Here in this place new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away,
see in this space our fears and our dreamings,
brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry,
we are the old who yearn for your face,
we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,
called to be light to the whole human race.

Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,
gather us in, the proud and the strong;

give us a heart so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song.

Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away,
but here in this place the new light is shining,
now is the (kindom), now is the day.

Gather us in and hold us forever,
gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Offering Ourselves & Our Gifts / Passing the Peace

One: The peace of God be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

GROUNDING

Community Prayer *(Steve Garnaas-Holmes – adapted)*

Gentle God, we often hear voices telling us we are not worthy of your love, voices around us and within us. But your Spirit intercedes and pleads for our wholeness, for our belonging. And in your grace, you open yourself to us. Give us faith to receive your grace, to open ourselves to your healing, and to be made new in the power of your love – that we may be bearers of that same grace and healing and love. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Special Music

Scripture Lesson: James 2:8-13 *(A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church, Wilda C. Gafney)*

You all will do well if you actually fulfill the majestic law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." **9** But if you show favoritism, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. **10** For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point

becomes accountable for the whole. **11** For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.

12 So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. **13** For judgment will be merciless to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy shouts victory over judgment.

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

Scripture Lesson: Mark 7:24-37

From there (Jesus) set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,

25 but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. **26** Now the woman was a gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. **27** He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." **28** But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." **29** Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go – the demon has left your daughter." **30** And when she went home, she found the child lying on the bed and the demon gone.

31 Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went by way of Sidon toward the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. **32** They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech, and they begged him to lay his hand on him. **33** He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. **34** Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." **35** And his ears were opened, his tongue

was released, and he spoke plainly. **36** Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one, but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. **37** They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Choral Alleluia

Sermon: "Community, for Real"

Song: "O Christ, the Healer" (*alternate tune: UMH #318, anonymous / lyrics: Fred Pratt Green – adapted*)

O Christ, the healer, we have come
to pray for health, to plead for friends.
How can we fail to be restored
when reached by love that never ends?

From every ailment flesh endures
our bodies clamor to be freed;
yet in our hearts we would confess
that wholeness is our deepest need.

How strong, O (God), are our desires,
how weak our knowledge of ourselves!
Release in us those healing truths
unconscious pride resists or shelves.

In conflicts that destroy our health
we recognize the world's disease;
our common life declares our ills.
Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?

Grant that we all, made one in faith,
in your community may find
the wholeness that, enriching us,
shall reach the whole of humankind.

SHARING

Prayers of the People / Joys & Concerns

Sung Response (*tune: UMH #145 / lyrics: John Pritchard*)

Hear us, Creator. Hear us, O Lover.
Hear us, O Spirit moving within.
Hear all our longing; hear all our sorrow.
Hear every joy and praise that we bring.

ENGAGING

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

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: "Let the Church Say Amen" (*Andraé Crouch*)

Let the church say, "Amen" (*repeat*)
God has spoken, let the church say, "Amen"

Calvary United Methodist Church

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