

YOU ARE GOD'S BELOVED,
AND YOU ARE WELCOME HERE.



CALVARY

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Love



CALVARY
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2021

ORDER OF WORSHIP, CONT...

Offering Prayer †*

All: Good and gracious God, we give these gifts for the seekers. We give these gifts for those who need sanctuary. We give these gifts for those who build sanctuaries. We give these gifts for those who have lost sanctuary, and for those who find sanctuary all over the place. Use these gifts to bring us closer to home. With joy and hope in our hearts we pray, amen.

Closing Hymn †* "God, We Thank You For the Churches" — Words to Follow

1. God, we thank you for the churches
That are sanctuaries here—
That give safety, love and refuge
To the ones who live in fear.
For our neighbors, God, are suffering,
And they're yearning to be free;
We give thanks for all the places
That give hospitality.
2. Christ, we thank you for your welcome
That tears walls and borders down,
That gives hope to people fleeing,
That helps churches stand their ground.
For our neighbors, Lord, are asking.
And they're wondering what we'll do.
May our churches give them welcome,
And so find we welcome you.
3. By your Spirit give us courage;
By your Spirit, keep us strong.
May we focus on your mercy;
May we sing your justice song.
For our neighbors are your children,
So prepare us, God, to be
Safe and welcome sanctuaries
In your New Community.

Benediction †

Postlude †

* Words are listed on screen / † Please stand as you are able

PRAYER CONCERNS

IMMEDIATE NEEDS

Joshua (Brian Burns' cousin's son) — brain tumor
Gerald — hospital
Danny (Bova's cousin) — ICU with respiratory issues
John Henderson (Ellen Homitsky's brother) — leukemia
Jane Wederich (Ellen Homitsky's aunt) — heart problems
Lisa Ferguson — father in hospice
John Burke Dr (Truddee's husband) — UPMC Monroeville
Tea Sampson — ICU Presbyterian
Brian (Debbie Neuherz's brother-in-law) — Covid, loss of his wife
Brenda (Debbie Neuherz's sister) — loss of husband Kevin to Covid
Anna Jane (Bova family) — cancer
Tavarious Lee — violence
Kathy (Christine's sister) — severe stroke
Pat's grandson (friends of Christine) — Covid
Kate (Christine's niece) — needs a kidney
Charlee (Zeke's brother) — COPD

ONGOING PRAYER CONCERNS

Joan Sturtz — caring for Bill
Ron and Sally Westerman
Randy & Danny — bone marrow transplant
Dan Souza — cancer
Tom Smith — cancer
Rev. Edward Clarke (Emanuel UMC) — esophageal cancer
Paul Brucker — ongoing health struggles

HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?

If you have a prayer request or a joy that you would like to be lifted up, you can either fill out the "PRAYER REQUEST" card in the back of the pews and place it in the offering plate, or contact the church office directly at 412-231-2007, or you can complete the new "Prayer Request Form" on the Calvary website at calvarypgh.com/contact/prayer-request.php. The information on this form goes directly to the clergy of Calvary UMC. We treat these concerns in a private and confidential manner (unless otherwise directed), respecting the privacy of individuals as the requestor directs us.

ORDER OF WORSHIP, CONT...

Advent Candle Song * "Advent Song" — TFWS #2090 (Verse 4)

Light the Advent candle, four: Think of joy forevermore;
Christ Child in a stable born, gift of love that Christmas morn.

Children's Message

Prayer Concerns *Refer to inside front cover*

Prayer of Confession *

All: God of safe spaces, we wish we were more like Mary, who in the face of great change, went and sought help. She did not wait for help to find her; she walked to the shelter she needed. Too often we wait silently for the world to change around us instead of speaking up for the things we need. Forgive us for failing to care for ourselves the way you would care for us. Give us the courage to be more like Mary. God of safe places, we wish we were more like Elizabeth, who greeted Mary with laughter and contagious joy. How many people have crossed our doorstep and how many times have we failed to see them? Give us the courage of Mary, and the grace of Elizabeth. Gratefully we pray, amen.

Words of Forgiveness *

Leader: Family of faith, even if we miss the person standing on our doorstep, even if we fail to care for ourselves the way God would care for us, even if we forget and ignore, turn away and shut down, God still loves us. There is nothing we can do to lose God's love.

People: Rest in this promise:

Leader: If we get lost,

People: we will be found.

Leader: If we mess up,

People: we are forgiven.

Leader: If we withhold love,

People: God is lavish in loving us.

Leader: We are claimed. We are loved. We are forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Order of Worship continued on following page

** Words are listed on screen / † Please stand as you are able*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COVID-19 Guidelines at Calvary

Masks or cloth face coverings are to be worn at all times inside the Church buildings. Mask or face covering must be covering both your mouth and nose. Every other pew is available for seating. Please space out seating to ensure individuals or families are at least 6 feet apart from anyone outside of their household.

Thank you!!!!!!

A HUGE thank you to everyone that came out on Saturday to make our Christmas Open House a success. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and fun with the community! Thank you to everyone that played a part.

Volunteers Needed by Northside Food Pantry for 2021 Holiday Food Distribution Event

On Thursday, December 23, 2021, the Northside Food Pantry Advisors and the Greater Pittsburgh Community Foodbank are hosting a drive-up food distribution event. Please report to Gold Lot 1 (792 W General Robinson St, Pittsburgh, PA 15212) by 2:00pm on Thursday, 12/23. Parking is abundant throughout the Northside. The event will conclude by 4:00pm and volunteers should be able to head home soon after. You can sign up to volunteer here: <https://forms.gle/MPrBDDaxsXy3KMika>

Items Needed for Northside Food Pantry

The Northside Food Pantry has put a call out to their surrounding neighbors to help collect items they need. We here at Calvary have agreed to start a collection to help stock their shelves. They have specifically asked us to collect the following items: full-size toothpaste, boxes of baking soda, and brownie mix. We will have a collection container at church and we invite you to help us over the next 6 weeks. If you'd rather not go shopping, they do have an Amazon Wish List if you'd like to purchase and have it sent directly to them. The Amazon Wishlist can be found here: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3EW9OQCVKZML1?ref_=abls_nvfly_yf. Thanks in advance for your help!

Special Tax-Saving Ways to Give to Calvary

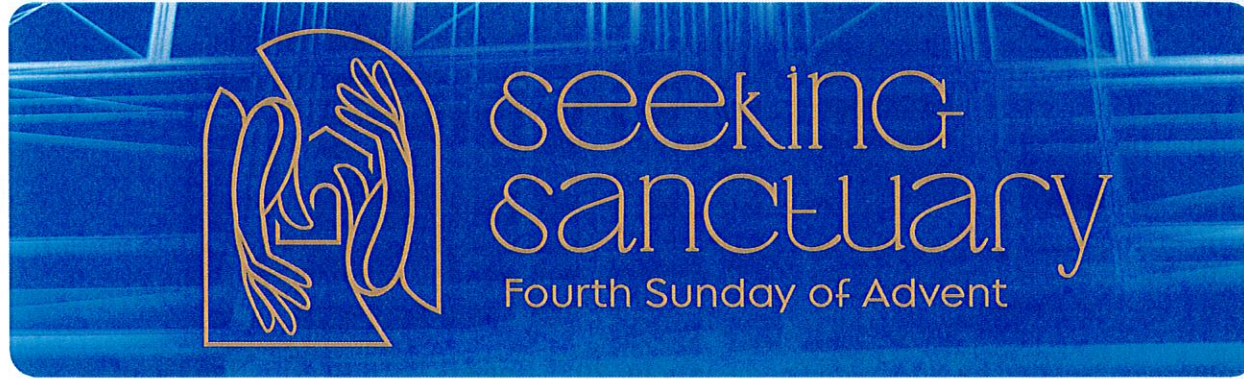
- 70½ years old or older - Tax Free IRA Gift
- Appreciated Stocks/Securities to Reduce Capital Gains Tax
- Donor Advised Fund Grant

Contact the Church Office at 412-231-2007 for information.

Lay Leaders and Liturgists

Liturgists serve an important role in worship. Liturgists help lead the congregation in various parts of the worship service, including the recitation of the Call to Worship and the reading of scripture. This valuable service allows the congregation to take an active part in the worship service and it allows participants in worship to hear multiple voices speak from the pulpit. If you are interested in being a Lay Leader or a Liturgist for an upcoming Sunday worship service, please contact the church office or see Rev. Kelly Smith.

ORDER OF WORSHIP



Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship †* Liturgist — Nancy Richards

Leader: We are seeking—
 People: Deeper faith, a place to belong, the feeling that God is here in this room.
 Leader: We are seeking—
 People: Joy that overflows, the movement of the Spirit, a hand to hold, when alone in the dark.
 Leader: We are seeking—
 People: The freedom to be, the courage to love, the conviction to act in the face of injustice.
 Leader: We are seeking, but here in this space,
 People: We are found.
 Leader: Take a deep breath. This is your sanctuary.
 People: God is here. We are found. Amen.

Opening Hymn †* "Christ Be Our Light" — Words to Follow

1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness longing for truth, we turn to You.
 Make us Your own, Your holy people, light for the world to see.
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
 Christ, be our light! Shine in Your church gathered today.
2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled longing for hope, many despair.
 Your word alone has pow'r to save us. Make us your living voice.

Order of Worship continued on following page

** Words are listed on screen / † Please stand as you are able*

ORDER OF WORSHIP, CONT...

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
 Christ, be our light! Shine in Your church gathered today.

3. Longing for food, many are hungry longing for water, many still thirst.
 Make us Your bread, broken for others shared until all are fed.
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
 Christ, be our light! Shine in Your church gathered today.

4. Longing for shelter, many are homeless longing for warmth, many are cold.
 Make us Your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone.
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
 Christ, be our light! Shine in Your church gathered today.

5. Many the gift, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong.
 Let us be servants to one another, making Your kingdom come.
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
 Christ, be our light! Shine in Your church gathered today.

Opening Prayer † Liturgist — Nancy Richards

Community Greetings †

Lighting of the Advent Candle — Third Sunday

Litany * Xavier and Xavier Burns-Elliott

Xavier: God's love is like an open door.
 Bailey: God's love is the streetlight that guides us home.
 Xavier: God's love is a warm bed to fall into.
 Bailey: God's love is a table with room for you.
 Xavier: God's love is a crackling fireplace.
 Bailey: God's love is the sun that streams through the windows.
 Xavier: God's love is the roof over our heads and the floor beneath our feet.
 Bailey: God's love is a home for you and me, for neighbors and strangers, for family and friends, for enemies and partners.
 Xavier: God's love is a home for all.

Candle Lighting *

Bailey: Today we light the candle of love to remind us of this truth.
 Xavier: May it burn brightly in this space and even brighter in our hearts.
 Bailey: Amen.

Order of Worship continued on following page

** Words are listed on screen / † Please stand as you are able*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, December 20, 2021— Longest Night Service

Time / Location: 7:00pm / Calvary UMC Chapel

Description: This creative worship service is designed to create a sacred space for the grief, longing, and heartache that feels close to home—especially during the holiday season.

Friday, December 24, 2021— Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Time / Location: Music begins at 7:00pm, Service begins at 7:30pm / Calvary UMC

Description: You are invited to discover a more meaningful holiday season by celebrating Advent and Christmas at Calvary.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAYS

Children's Sunday School

Time / Location: 10:00-10:45am / Presbytery (Across the street from Calvary)

Description: Calvary offers two Sunday School Classes: (1) Ages 3-10, (2) Ages 11-15.

TUESDAYS

Exercise Class For All Ages

Time / Location: 9:00am / Calvary UMC Chapel

Description: The program is targeted to "older adults", but great for people of all ages. If you have any questions contact Linda Ehrlich at laehrlich927@aol.com.

Bible Study Led By Rev. Larry Homitsky And Rev. Kornelius

Time / Location: 6:30pm / New Destiny CMEC Church (old Emanuel UMC building)

Description: During the next few weeks thru the Tuesday before Christmas, we will be joined by Dr. Steven Tuell from the Pittsburgh Theological Seminar and studying "Why Reading The Bible Is So Important Today".

Renewal Choir Rehearsal

Time / Location: 6:30-7:30pm / Calvary UMC Sanctuary

Description: Love Singing? Thinking About Joining the Choir? Now is the perfect time to give it a try! We are looking to bolster our ranks for the Advent season and beyond. No audition required! All are welcome! See Brian Burns for details.

Hand Bell Rehearsal

Time / Location: 7:30-8:30pm / Calvary UMC Upstairs Music Room

Description: Interested in joining? We are seeking new and energetic people willing to learn and participate. Please consider adding your talents to our group. No experience is necessary to join and it is probably easier to do than you think! See Brian Burns for details.

THURSDAYS

Exercise Class For All Ages

Time / Location: 9:00am / Calvary UMC Chapel

ORDER OF WORSHIP, CONT...

The Lord's Prayer * #895

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Special Music Renewal Choir

Scripture * Luke 1:39-55 (NRSV)

39 In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, 40 where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. 41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit 42 and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. 43 And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? 44 For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. 45 And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." 46 And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, 48 for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; 49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. 50 His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. 51 He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. 52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; 53 he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. 54 He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, 55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Leader: The word of God, written by the people of God, for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Reflection "Seeking Sanctuary", Rev. Kelly Smith

Invitation to Offering

Doxology †* Refrain from "Angels We Have Heard on High" — #238

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

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WELCOME TO CALVARY

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OUR WELCOME STATEMENT

Calvary United Methodist Church believes that all means all. We open our hearts, our minds and our doors to all our neighbors. We gladly invite into our shared life all persons who seek a community of support where they can grow in God's grace. Regardless of your race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, ability, relationship status, or background – ***you are God's beloved, and you are welcome here.***

WELCOME TO CALVARY!

If you are a first time guest, thank you for visiting Calvary! We would invite you to check out our Welcome Tables for more information about who we are. We would also ask you to fill out a "GET CONNECTED" card in the back of the pews so we can get to know you. If you are in need of a large print bible or hymnal, please see any greeter for help.

FAMILIES WITH BABIES OR YOUNG CHILDREN

Families with babies or young children? We have a family area in the sanctuary with rocking chairs and toys so your family can participate in the service.

HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

There are many ways you can become involved at Calvary United Methodist Church. If you have been promising yourself to join a small group experience for not just a continuing learning opportunity but also to meet new friends, please fill out a "Get Involved" card in the back of the pews. You can also email CalvaryPgh@gmail.com or visit our website at CalvaryPgh.com for information about the many ministries available. If you are ready to serve or just want to connect and grow, there are plenty of opportunities for you to use your gifts and talents.

HAVE SOMETHING TO SHARE?

There are a multitude of ways to get your news to the members of Calvary and the wider community: (1) weekly bulletin, (2) prayer list, (3) Sunday morning worship slides, (4) website, and (5) Facebook. Here are the guidelines for each:

1. **Weekly Bulletin:** Announcements or events for the bulletin must be submitted by 12:00pm Wednesday for inclusion in the following Sunday's bulletin. For announcements that you wish to have run more than once, please include the dates you'd like to have it run.
2. **Prayer List:** If you have a prayer request or a joy that you would like to be lifted up, you can either fill out the "PRAYER REQUEST" card in the back of the pews and place it in the offering plate, or contact the church office directly at 412-231-2007, or you can complete the new "Prayer Request Form" on the Calvary website at calvarypgh.com/contact/prayer-request.php. The information on this form goes directly to the clergy of Calvary UMC. We treat these concerns in a private and confidential manner (unless otherwise directed), respecting the privacy of individuals as the requestor directs us.
3. **Sunday Morning Worship Slides:** Announcements or events for the slides must be submitted by 12:00pm Thursday for inclusion in the following Sunday's slides.
4. **Website:** Changes, additions, edits, announcements, etc... for the website can be submitted at any time. Changes will be made as soon as possible, but there may be up to 7 days between submission and execution.
5. **Facebook:** Facebook posts can be submitted at any time. Posts or edits will be made as soon as possible, but there may be up to 24-48 hours between submission and execution, so please provide info as early as possible.

All submissions are subject to editing, and pictures are encouraged wherever appropriate. Around major church holidays, the deadlines may change. To make a submission for any of the above, or if you have any questions, contact Karen Ferguson via phone at 724-448-1429, email at karen.ferguson.15202@gmail.com, or in person.

A banner for Facebook Live Streams. It features a dark blue background with a white Facebook logo and a thumbs-up icon. Below the logo, it says "like us." with a curved arrow pointing to the text. The main text reads "CALVARY UMC STREAMS LIVE" in large, bold, white letters. At the bottom, it says "SUNDAYS @ 11AM ON FACEBOOK" in white text. The Calvary United Methodist Church, Pittsburgh logo is also present.

A banner for online giving. It features a dark blue background with the text "online giving" in a white, cursive font. Below this, it says "fast, simple, secure" in a smaller white font. At the bottom, it says "CALVARYPGH.COM" in large, bold, white letters, with the PayPal logo below it.