

Calvary Church Sunday Worship

March 17, 2024

* Please rise if able.
Bold text is spoken
by the congregation.

Prelude

Be Thou My Vision (hymn tune *Slane*)

Sue Paro, organ

Traditional Irish melody, arr. by Dale Wood

Welcome and Poem

Rev. Cynthia Good

Introit

Glorify Thy Name

Calvary Choir

Donna Adkins

*Gathering Words

Bright Einstein Nogoh, worship leader

Sometimes we lose ourselves

In the busyness of our lives – jobs, chores, driving, biking, cleaning, parenting, adulting, being.

Sometimes we lose ourselves

In worry, in anxiety, in what could be or should be

Sometimes we lose ourselves

In wonder and delight, in beauty and joy

Sometimes we are found

In community and prayer

God meets us here when we are lost and when we are found.

God meets us here today.

Invitation to Confession

Rev. Good

Our lives are full, often to overflowing. Our lives are busy, often too busy. For a moment we pause to reorient ourselves to God and to ourselves.

Prayer of Confession – by Thom Shuman

Rev. Good

Love that knows no boundaries: we crowd our lives with so much activity that it is hard to find time for you. We become so focused on ourselves, we can overlook those around us who are searching for hope. We fill our spiritual emptiness with junk, rather than feasting on your Word.

Abundant Mercy, forgive us. Open our eyes, that we may see your new covenant written in plain sight on our hearts. Open our hearts, that we may join you in serving the broken of the world. Open our love, so we may pour it out as abundantly and graciously as your love is given to us in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Rev. Good

The good news is that we are found, always found, even when all is lost, especially when all is lost. God meets us in love. Always. **Amen.**

*Passing the Peace

Rev. Good

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

*Hymn: God of Beginnings

1 God of be - gin - nings, Loss - es and win - nings,
2 God of our test - ing, God of work and rest - ing,
3 God of all mys - ter - y, God of all his - to - ry,

God of the signs a - long the way:
Teach - er and Guide on all life's road:
God clear - ly seen in Je - sus Christ:

Show us our task, our goal, Lead us and
You ease our bur - den's weight, Dai - ly, wipe
We claim that mys - ter - y, Con - fess that

make us whole, Walk with us still in this new day.
clean our slate, And help us bear our com - mon load.
his - to - ry, Re - deemed and loved by that same Christ.

Words: Jane Parker Huber ©1996 Jane Parker Huber Music: Silesian folk song, in Schlesische Volkslieder, Leipzig, 1842

Scripture: John 12:20-33 – from the Inclusive Bible

Bright E. Nogoh

Among those who had come up to worship at the Passover festival were some Greeks. They approached Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put forth this request: “Please, we would see Jesus.” Philip went to tell Andrew, and together the two went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied, “Now the hour has come for the Chosen one to be glorified. The truth of the matter is, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. If you love your life you’ll lose it. If you hate your life in this world you’ll keep it for eternal life. Anyone who wants to work for me must follow in my footsteps, and wherever I am, my worker will be there too. Anyone who works for me will be honored by God. Now my soul is troubled. What will I say: ‘God, save me from this hour?’ But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. God, glorify your name!” A voice came from heaven: “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowds that stood nearby heard this and said it was a clap of thunder; others said, “It was an angel speaking.” Jesus answered, “It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours. Sentence is not being passed on this world; now the ruler of this world will be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from this earth, I will draw all people to myself.” By these words Jesus indicated the kind of death he would die.

The word of God to us.

Thanks be to God.

Music

Unless a Grain of Wheat

Calvary Choir

Bernadette Farrell

Children’s Time

Song: Hymn of Promise, verse 1

707 (large hymnal)

Unison

1. In the bulb there is a flow-er; in the seed, an ap-ple tree;
in co-coons, a hid-den prom-ise: but-ter - flies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of win-ter there's a spring that waits to be,
un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some-thing God a-lone can see.

The musical score is written for a unison voice part. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. The second staff continues the melody and lyrics. The third staff continues the melody and lyrics. The fourth staff concludes the verse with a double bar line. The lyrics are: '1. In the bulb there is a flow-er; in the seed, an ap-ple tree; in co-coons, a hid-den prom-ise: but-ter - flies will soon be free! In the cold and snow of win-ter there's a spring that waits to be, un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some-thing God a-lone can see.'

Natalie Sleeth ©1986 Hope Publishing Co.

Scripture: Jeremiah 31:31-34 – from the Common English Bible Bright E. Nogoh

The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah. It won't be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant with me even though I was their husband, declares the Lord. No, this is the covenant that I will make with the people of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my Instructions within them and engrave them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. They will no longer need to teach each other to say, "Know the Lord!" because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord; for I will forgive their wrongdoing and never again remember their sins.

The word of God for us.

Thanks be to God.

Thoughts

Rev. Good

*Hymn: Lord, Be Glorified

2150 (small hymnal)



1. In our lives, Lord, be glo-ri-fied, be glo-ri-fied.
2. In our homes
3. In your church
4. In your world



In our lives, Lord, be glo-ri-fied to - day.
In our homes
In your church
In your world

Prayer of St. Patrick

Rev. Good

**Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down,
Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in the eye that sees me,
Christ in the ear that hears me.**

I arise today

**Through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity,
Through a belief in the Threeness,
Through a confession of the Oneness
Of the Creator of creation.**

Sharing of Prayers and Prayer of the People

Rev. Good

We invite you to use your chosen words for God: Father, Mother, or...

Our Creator, 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.

Offering

*Doxology

Lov- ing God of all cre- a- tion, your will be done.

Keep us true to our vo- ca- tion; your will be done. Here with

you our cove- nant seal- ing, here your ho- ly pres- ence feel- ing.

Our com- mit- ment now re- veal- ing, your will be done.

Words: Jane Parker Huber Music: Trad. Welsh melody; harm. by Luther Orlando Emerson

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Rev. Good

God of the ages, we share our tithes and offerings this day with you, but we acknowledge that most of the time, we are clinging tightly to what we have, afraid we might lose something we need, and afraid somehow there won't be enough to live our lives. The scarcity mindset overtakes us, and it robs us of the joy of our days. Remind us that Jesus has called us to be ready to let go of this life so that we might claim the abundance of life eternal. In our redeemer's name, we pray. Amen.

*Hymn: Now the Green Blade Riseth

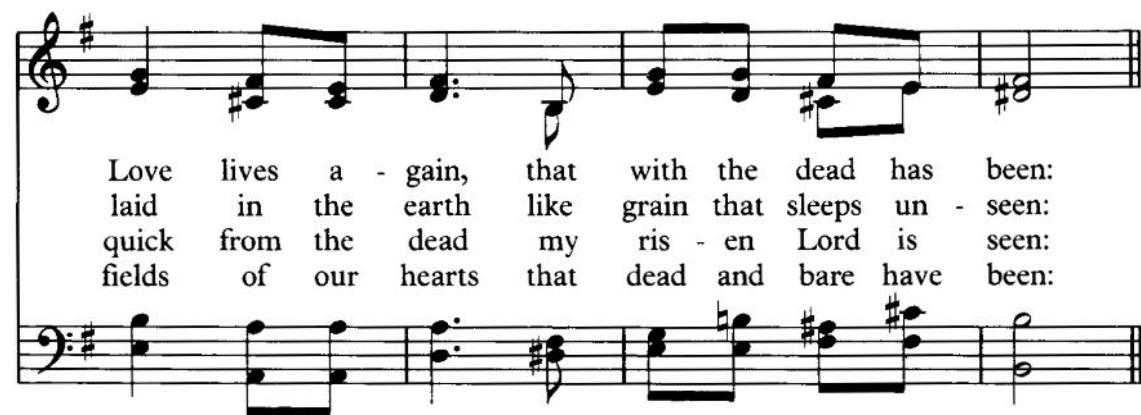
311 (large hymnal)



1. Now the green blade ris - eth, from the bur - ied grain,
 2. In the grave they laid him, Love who had been slain,
 3. Forth he came at Eas - ter, like the ris - en grain,
 4. When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,

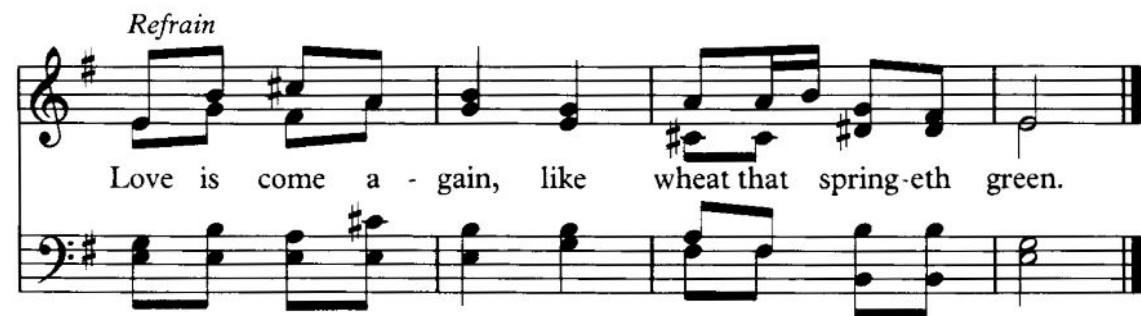


wheat that in the dark earth man - y days has lain;
 think - ing that he nev - er would a - wake a - gain,
 Je - sus who for three days in the grave had lain;
 Je - sus' touch can call us back to life a - gain,



Love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been:
 laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen:
 quick from the dead my ris - en Lord is seen:
 fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:

Refrain



Love is come a - gain, like wheat that spring - eth green.

Announcements

Rev. Good

Theology on Tap 2 PM: ToT will meet at Town Tavern, 201 Mass Ave.

Donkey Parade 3/24 10 AM: Meet on the front lawn at 9:45 AM to get your palms; we leave at 10 AM to meet Clarabelle and our friends from Church of Our Saviour along Mass Ave.

Maundy Thursday Gathering and Service, March 28, 6:30 PM: Join us in the Fellowship Hall for a Maundy Thursday service. Gather over a simple meal. There will be music, scripture, hand/foot washing, crafts, coloring, and slowing down to let go and let God in. We will conclude the event with a silent communion in the Sanctuary.

Good Friday Service, March 29, 7:00 PM: Experience a haunting Tenebrae service as lights are extinguished and darkness descends.

Take the Time and Talent Survey: Visit <https://forms.gle/fzn2d5pmPY3jUJA77> or scan the QR code.



Benediction

Postlude

Londonderry Air

Sue Paro, organ
Irish folk tune, arr. by William M. Felton



Easter Flowers and Memorials

On Easter Sunday, we will decorate the church with flowers. We invite you to order flowers in memory or in honor of loved ones, and take them home after the Easter service or donate them to the church's planting beds. You may also donate to the Living Memorial, which generates interest income that is used to support the mission and ministry of the church for all time.

Orders and payment are due by Sunday, March 17th.

To order flowers and/or donate to the Living Memorial:

- Put this form and cash, or a check made out to Calvary Church, in the church office
OR
- Send this form and a check to Calvary Church, 300 Massachusetts Ave, Arlington, MA 02474

Number of yellow tulips: _____ x \$5 = \$ _____

Number of purple tulips: _____ x \$5 = \$ _____

Number of daffodils: _____ x \$5 = \$ _____

Number of purple hyacinths: _____ x \$9 = \$ _____

Number of white hyacinths: _____ x \$9 = \$ _____

Number of Easter lilies: _____ x \$13.25 = \$ _____

Living Memorial donation: \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

Your name:

Given in Memory of:

Given in Honor of:

_____ I would like to take my flowers home after the Easter service.

_____ I would like to donate my flowers to the Calvary planting beds.