

Calvary Church Sunday Worship April 14, 2024

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

Prelude Sue Paro

Welcome and Poem Johan de Besche

Introit: Surely the Presence of the Lord by Lanny Wolfe Calvary Choir

*Gathering Words – by Thom Shuman When fear and doubts stroll through our doors: God stands beside us, whispering of peace. Jeanne Le Suer, worship leader

When we toss and turn late at night:

God sits by our beds, singing lullabies of love.

When we stumble through the shadows of life:

God illuminates the paths of goodness and joy.

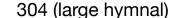
God meets us here

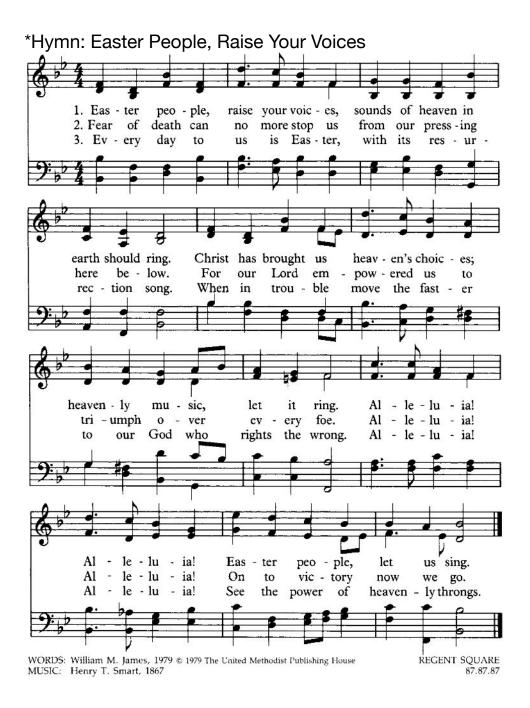
God meets us today.

Unison Prayer-by Rev. Laurie Bayen and Rev. Laura Baumgartner Jeanne Le Suer God of Hope,
We see your love poured out for us in all the world.

Make us more like you.
Teach us to live together
as one community
human and beyond-human,
creature and created
to your glory,
so your love is known
among all the living. Amen.

*Passing the Peace: The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**





Scripture: Luke 24:36-43 – from An Inclusive Bible

Jeanne Le Suer

While they were still talking about this, Jesus actually stood among in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." In their panic and fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost. Jesus said to them, "Why are you disturbed? Why do such ideas cross your mind? Look at my hands and my feet; it is I, really. Touch me and see – a ghost doesn't have flesh and bones as I do." After saying this, Jesus showed them the wounds. They were still incredulous for sheer joy and wonder, so Jesus said to them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" After being given a piece of cooked fish, the savior ate in their presence.

The word of God to us. Thanks be to God.

Music: Easter Alleluia by Marty Haugen Calvary Choir

Children's Time Parke Wilde

Song: Hymn of Promise, verse 3

707 (large hymnal)

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity; in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity. In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

Scripture: Psalm 4:3-8

Jeanne Le Suer

Know that those who love God Have been set apart by divine will – God will hear me when I call!

Tremble, and stop your sinning; Search your heart, Alone and silent in your room. Offer sacrifices of justice, And put your trust in God.

So many are asking, "Does good even exist anymore?"
Let the light of your face, God, shine on us!

You put joy in my heart-A joy greater than being full Of bread and new wine.

In peace I'll lie down; In peace I will sleep: For you alone, O God, Keep me perfectly safe.

The word of God for us. Thanks be to God.

Sermon: Sacrifice of Praise & Justice

The Rev. Nizzi Santos Digan, District Superintendent

The peace that God offers through Jesus Christ is from a mouth that is full of praise AND a heart for acts of justice.

We welcome Rev. Digan to Calvary's pulpit! She is a fourth-generation Methodist from Manila, Philippines, where her grandfather and father were United Methodist pastors and her grandmother and sister Beulah were deaconesses. When she was ordained by Bishop Peter Weaver in 2006, Rev. Digan became the first Filipina elder in the New England Conference.



*Easter Creed Johan de Besche

We believe in an Easter God, who transforms darkness into light, hatred into tolerance, despair into hope. We believe God is always working for good, changing every Good Friday nightmare into an Easter dream of new possibility. We believe in the risen Christ, who befriends us on our roads of searching and worry; who touches us through song and silence, word and gesture; who calls us by name to enter the dance of life. We believe in the Spirit, the hidden presence behind every resurrection, who beckons us to leave tomblike safety and trust the gracious invitation to live joyfully. We believe the Spirit is always renewing the church and making us a people who practice kindness, encourage beauty and work for justice and freedom. We believe we are an Easter people, a sign that with God all things are possible. Amen.

Sharing of Prayers and Prayer of the People

Johan de Besche

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 Johan de Besche

*Doxology: Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

94 (large hymnal)



*Prayer of Intention – by Maren Tirabassi

Johan de Besche

Life-raising God, send us beyond these doors to wear your wounded side and hands as signs of hope to every weary soul. Our bodies have been pierced by hate and fear but our wounds are being healed by love. Our bodies live to sow the seeds of life in waiting hearts that seeing us, believe the risen Christ is real. Amen.





Announcements Johan de Besche

Women's Retreat 4/27: The retreat will be from 9-4 at Rolling Ridge in North Andover. The cost is \$50 per person. **RSVP to the office by April 18th**.

Benediction Rev. Digan

Postlude Sue Paro