



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

Jeanne Le Suer, worship leader

When fear and doubts stroll through our doors:

God stands beside us, whispering of peace.

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.**

*Hymn: Easter People, Raise Your Voices

304 (large hymnal)

1. Eas - ter peo - ple, raise your voic - es, sounds of heaven in
 2. Fear of death can no more stop us from our press - ing
 3. Ev - ery day to us is Eas - ter, with its res - ur -

earth should ring. Christ has brought us heav - en's choic - es;
 here be - low. For our Lord em - pow - ered us to
 rec - tion song. When in trou - ble move the fast - er

heav - en - ly mu - sic, let it ring. Al - le - lu - ia!
 tri - umph o - ver ev - ery foe. Al - le - lu - ia!
 to our God who rights the wrong. Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Eas - ter peo - ple, let us sing.
 Al - le - lu - ia! On to vic - tory now we go.
 Al - le - lu - ia! See the power of heav - en - ly throngs.

WORDS: William M. James, 1979 © 1979 The United Methodist Publishing House
MUSIC: Henry T. Smart, 1867

REGENT SQUARE
87.87.87

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.

*Hymn: In Times of Great Decision

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The key signature is two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines.

1 In times of great de- ci- sion, be with us, God, we pray!
2 O God, whose gifts are count- less, you send us bear- ing peace.
3 O God, you bridged the dis- tance; you o- pened wide your door.
4 You call on ev- ery na- tion to put a- side all greed,
Give each of us a vi- sion of Je- sus' lov- ing way.
You fill our dreams with jus- tice for all com- mu- ni- ties.
You call us by our pres- ence to reach to serve the poor.
To care for your cre- a- tion and for your ones in need,
When loud- er words seem end- less and oth- er voi- ces sure,
You give us glo- bal neigh- bors, that all may just- ly live.
You teach us: Wel- come stran- gers! Seek jus- tice on the earth!
To care for those in pri- son, for child- ren, for the ill.
Re- mind us of your prom- ise: your love and truth en- dure.
May those we choose as lead- ers re- flect the life you give.
May those we choose as lead- ers see ev- ery per- son's worth.
In times of great de- ci- sion, may we choose lead- ers well.

Words: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette Music: Samuel Sebastian Wesley

*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 tomblife 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)

Unison

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise

Harmony

God, all crea-tures here be - low: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -

Unison

lu - ia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise

Harmony

Je - sus Christ, whose power up lifts! Praise the Spir - it, Ho - ly Spir - it!

Unison

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

WORDS: Thomas Ken, 1674; adapt. by Gilbert H. Vieira, 1978
MUSIC: Geistliche Kirchengesänge, 1623; harm. by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906
Adapt. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House.

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*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.

*Hymn: Christ Has Risen

2115 (small hymnal)

WORDS: John Bell (Matt. 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20-21; 1 Cor. 15:3-8) HOLY MANNA
 MUSIC: William Moore 87.87 D
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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