



Calvary Church Sunday Worship

April 28, 2024

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

Prelude: I Need Thee Every Hour by Robert Lowry, arr. by Dale Wood

Sue Paro, organ

Welcome and Poem

Rev. Cynthia Good

Introit: Take Me to the Water (African American spiritual)

Calvary Choir

*Gathering Words

Rebecca Cadigan, worship leader

Everyone who loves is born of God
We are called to live beyond culture

Everyone who loves knows God
We are called to transform culture

Everyone who abides in God feels God's love
We are called to live in Christian faithfulness

Every Christian is given a baptismal identity
We are called to be baptized to belong to another world

God speaks to us to embrace human differences
We are cleansed by God's word

Unison Prayer

Rebecca Cadigan

Giver of Grace, in our baptismal waters, we find our identity as your beloved children, and we are called to live a life of faithfulness. Grant us the courage to live out our baptismal vows daily, embracing the call to love our neighbors as ourselves. Strengthen us with your Spirit, that we may walk in the footsteps of Christ, bearing witness to your grace and truth. May our lives reflect the depth of our commitment to you, as we journey together in faithfulness and love. Amen.

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

*Hymn: All People That on Earth Do Dwell

75 (large hymnal)

1. All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing to the Lord with
 2. Know that the Lord is God in - deed; with - out our aid he
 3. O en - ter then his gates with praise; ap - proach with joy his
 4. For why! the Lord our God is good; his mer - cy is for -

cheer - ful voice. Him serve with mirth, his praise forth
 did us make; we are his folk, he doth us
 courts un - to; praise, laud, and bless his name al -
 ev - er sure; his truth at all times firm - ly

tell; come ye be - fore him and re - joice.
 feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.
 ways, for it is seem - ly so to do.
 stood, and shall from age to age en - dure.

Words: Attr. to William Kethe Music: Attr. to Louis Bourgeois

Scripture: Acts 8:26-40

Rebecca Cadigan

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

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

Music: Down to the River to Pray, arr. by Sheldon Curry

Calvary Choir

Children's Time

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: John 15:1-8

Rebecca Cadigan

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

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

Thoughts

Premkumar Immanuel Clement

*Hymn: Wonder of Wonders

Won- der of won- ders, here re- vealed;
 Here in this sa- cra- ment we see
 This child of God, though young or old,
 Now we our vow of faith re- new,

God's co- ve- nant with us is sealed. And long be- fore we
 God's grace un- bound, for all, for me! May we re- spond with
 we wel- come now in- to Christ's fold, to know with us God's
 stretch wide our sights to glo- bal view, and claim with Chris- tians

know or pray, God's love en- folds us ev- ery day.
 joy- ful praise in lov- ing ser- vice all our days.
 lov- ing care; here all our joys and sor- rows share.
 far and near a lar- ger fam- i- ly held dear.

*Affirmation of Faith

Rev. Good

We affirm our faith in the triune God, the Creator of all, who calls us into a diverse and inclusive community. We believe in one God, embracing the richness of human diversity, where every person is a beloved child of God. We affirm Jesus Christ, who through his life, death, and resurrection, invites us to embrace our baptismal identity as followers of the Way. We acknowledge the Holy Spirit, who empowers us to celebrate our differences and unite in love and service. With one heart and one voice, we affirm our commitment to Christian faithfulness, honoring the sacred worth of all people and striving to build a world where justice and peace are embraced.

Farewell to Premkumar Immanuel Clement

Rev. Good

O God, we give thanks for remembered times when we have shared the life of faith together. We thank you for the moments we have shared with Prem in worship, in learning, in service. We pray that Prem will be aware of your Spirit's guidance as he moves on the next steps of his journey following in the example of Christ. Amen.

Music: Irish Blessing

Calvary Choir

refrain based on trad. Irish blessing; verses based on St. Patrick's Breastplate; music by Bob Fabing, SJ; keyboard accomp. by Lynn Shurtleff

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: Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

94 (large hymnal)

Unison
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise
God, all creatures here below: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
Unison
lu-ia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise
Harmony
Je-sus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spir-it, Ho-ly Spir-it!
Unison
Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

Words: Thomas Ken; adapt. by Gilbert H. Vieira ©1989 The United Methodist Publishing House
Music: Geistliche Kirchengesänge; harm. by Ralph Vaughan Williams

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Rev. Good

We come before you with hearts overflowing with gratitude. We thank you for the gift of baptism, through which we are united with Christ and marked as your own beloved children. We thank you, Lord, for the waters of baptism that cleanse us and bring us into

new life. Help us, O God, to remember that our baptism is not just a one-time event, but an ongoing journey of discipleship. May we continually strive to live out our baptismal promises: to renounce evil, to seek justice and peace, to love and serve others, and to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ.

***Hymn: I Need Thee Every Hour**

397 (large hymnal)

1. I need thee ev - ery hour, most gra - cious Lord;
 2. I need thee ev - ery hour; stay thou near - by;
 3. I need thee ev - ery hour, in joy or pain;
 4. I need thee ev - ery hour; teach me thy will;
 5. I need thee ev - ery hour, most Ho - ly One;

no ten - der voice like thine can peace af - ford.
 temp - ta - tions lose their power when thou art nigh.
 come quick - ly and a - bide, or life is vain.
 and thy rich prom - is - es in me ful - fill.
 O make me thine in - deed, thou bless - ed Son.

Refrain

I need thee, O I need thee; ev - ery hour I need thee;

O bless me now, my Sav - ior, I come to thee.

Words: Annie S. Hawks Music: Robert Lowry

Announcements

Rev. Good

Rev. Cynthia will be away April 29-May 3; if you have an emergency and need pastoral care, please contact the church office at 781-646-8679 or office@calvaryarlington.org.

Benediction

Rev. Good

Postlude: Fugue in C Major by Johann Pachelbel

Sue Paro, organ