



Calvary Church Sunday Worship

May 12, 2024

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

Prelude: Jesus Loves Me, music by William B. Bradbury, arr. by Charles Callahan
Sue Paro, organ

Welcome and Poem Rev. Cynthia Good

Introit: Praise, Praise, Praise the Lord (Trad. Cameroon) Calvary Choir

*Gathering Words Millie Negulu, worship leader

Look around you
God is here

Look above you
God is there

Look below you
God is there

Look within you
God is there

God meets us here
God walks with us from here

In our gathering and in our sending
God is with us

*Unison Prayer Millie Negulu

God of new beginnings, today is a new day. We have a fresh start. Help us to turn our hearts and minds to you, to realign our lives this week to Your ways. We remember and give thanks for all your ways. We remember and give thanks for all you have taught us, and for the ways you continue to surprise us, through the stories of the old and the new testimonies we receive, for you are the Living God, the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Amen.

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

*Hymn: Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise

312 (large hymnal)

1. Hail the day that sees him rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 2. There the glo-rious tri-umph waits, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3. See! the heaven its Lord re-ceives, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4. See! he lifts his hands a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!

To his throne a - bove the skies, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Lift your heads, e - ter - nal gates, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Yet he loves the earth he leaves, Al - le - lu - ia!
 See! he shows the prints of love, Al - le - lu - ia!

Christ, a - while to mor - tals given, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Christ hath con-quired death and sin, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Though re - turn - ing to his throne, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Hark! his gra - cious lips be - stow, Al - le - lu - ia!

Re - as - cends his na - tive heaven, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Take the King of glo - ry in, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Still he calls the world his own, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Bless-ings on his church be - low, Al - le - lu - ia!

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1739
 MUSIC: Robert Williams, 1817; harm. by David Evans, 1927
 LLANFAIR
 77.77 with Alleluias
 Harm. by permission of Oxford University Press

Scripture: Luke 24:44-53 from the Common English Bible Millie Negulu

Jesus said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the Law from Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures. He said to them, “This is what is written: the Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and a change of heart and life for the forgiveness of sins must be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. Look, I’m sending to you what God promised, but you are to stay in the city until you have been furnished with heavenly power.”

He led them out as far as Bethany, where he lifted his hands and blessed them. As he blessed them, he left them and was taken up to heaven. They worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem overwhelmed with joy. And they were continuously in the temple praising God.

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

Music: Non Nobis Domine by William Byrd

Calvary Choir

“Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name give glory, for your mercy, and for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness.”

Children’s Time

Rev. Cynthia

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: Acts 1:1-11 from Laughing Bird

Millie Negulu

Dear Theophilus,

In my first book, *The Gospel according to Luke*, I wrote an account of all that Jesus did and taught from the time he started until the day he said goodbye and was taken up to heaven. Before he left, he gathered the apostles, whom he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and spelled out his final instructions.

For forty days after his suffering and death, he repeatedly showed up and proved in many ways that he really was alive again. Face to face with the apostles, he spoke with them about the culture of God. While he was still meeting and sharing meals with them, he put them on notice that they were not to leave Jerusalem yet. “Instead,” he said, “you must wait here for the gift I told you about – the gift God promised. You remember how John baptized with water. Well, you will be baptized with Holy Spirit in just a few days’ time.”

When they were all together for the last time, the apostles had one burning question: “Lord, is this the time? Will you regain our freedom now and give us our own king to reign over Israel?” Jesus replied, “Only God can decide such things and the timing is none of your business. Just focus on this: the Holy Spirit will flood over you and drench you with power, giving you the passion and courage to be my witnesses. Then you will be able to tell everyone about me, in Jerusalem, all over Judea and Samaria, and even to the ends of the earth.”

That was it – his last words. Right before their eyes, he was carried up into the air where he soon disappeared into the clouds. They just stood there stunned, staring into the sky. Suddenly two men appeared next to them, dressed in white robes! They said, “You Galileans! What are you standing here for, staring into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven, but don’t worry. He’ll be back, just as surely – and just as mysteriously – as he left.”

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

Song: Open the Eyes of my Heart

O - pen the eyes of my heart, - Lord,
 o - pen the eyes of my heart; - I want to see you,
 I want to see you. O - pen the eyes of my heart, -
 - Lord, o - pen the eyes of my heart; - I want to
 see you, I want to see you. To see you
 high and lift - ed up, - shin - ing in the light of your glo -
 ry. Pour out your pow - er and love -
 - as we sing. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho -
 ly. ly. To see you
 high and lift - ed up, - shin - ing in the light of your glo -
 ry. Pour out your pow - er and love -
 - as we sing. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho -
 ly. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly.
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho -
 ly. I want to see you.

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*Hymn: O God, Whose Steadfast Love

Gen. 18:9-15; 1 Sam. 1:1-20; Luke 1:26-56; 2:1-7

James L. Haddix, 1986; rev. 1994

1 O God, whose stead-fast love true moth - er - hood has blessed;
 2 Your prom - is - es, O God, so sure through-out the years,
 3 In your great love, O God, full par - ent - hood is known:
 4 May your house-hold of faith one fam - i - ly be - come,

who shields the in - fant small up - on its moth - er's breast:
 have lived in moth - ers' hearts, have bloomed from moth - ers' tears.
 a fa - ther mourns his child, a moth - er's strength is shown.
 that love may be in - creased and none may be a - lone;

Em - brace us, too, O God, our God, and hold us in your
 So Sar - ah laughed, and Han - nah wept, and sing - ing Mar - y
 Let par - ents' faith - ful lives un - bind your love that through them
 That moth - er's love and fa - ther's care and chil - dren's joy we

lov - ing arms, and hold us in your lov - ing arms.
 se - crets kept, and sing - ing Mar - y se - crets kept.
 we might find Christ's deep - er love for hu - man - kind.
 all may share, and chil - dren's joy we all may share.

United Church of Christ minister James Haddix wrote this text for the "Festival of the Christian Home." It was dedicated and sung to his mother, Margaret Ann Lewis Haddix, at a reception in Missouri recognizing her thirty-year career as a first-grade teacher.

Tune: RHOSYMEDRE 6.6.6.8.8.8.
 John D. Edwards, c. 1840

Litany for Mothers by Janice Hill

Rev. Good

Mothers come in many different forms, and today we celebrate them all!

Thank God for mothers!

Everyone here is a child.

Thank God for our mothers!

For those women who have died and whom we miss dearly.

Thank God for the mothers who are no longer with us.

For every woman who is working day and night to raise her children, right now.

Thank God for mothers of today.

For all women who are expecting but aren't quite mothers yet!

Thank God for soon-to-be-mothers.

For women who took in others' children through adoption and foster care.

Thank God for mothers with hearts so big.

For women who have lost a child to death and must carry on in their grief.

Thank God for mothers who are so strong, and may they receive comfort from you.

For those who were not emotionally, mentally, physically ready to have children and made heart wrenching decisions.

May God bless these hurting women who have made hard decisions.

For women who choose not to have children, yet their influence is felt by many.

Thank God for the ability to make choices.

For women who have desperately wanted to have children of their own but chose instead to mother children of others.

Thank God for abounding love.

For women who have 'less than' mothers and struggle with this day.

Thank God for the ability to heal.

For women who were and maybe are 'less than' caregivers to their children.

Thank God for the forgiveness and hope offered to all.

We give thanks for all the women who have influenced our lives in so many ways.

May we be an encouragement to all.

We will honor them

As God honors all humankind.

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)

The musical score is written for a choir or congregation, featuring a treble and bass clef with a 3/2 time signature. It is divided into sections: Unison and Harmony. The lyrics are: "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here be - low: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Je sus Christ, whose power up - lifts! Praise the Spir - it, Ho - ly Spir - it! 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

Thank you God for your presence in all times and places. May our gifts reflect our gratitude, and our lives reflect your grace. Amen.

*Hymn: God Made From One Blood

1 God made from one blood all the fam - ilies of earth,
 2 We turn to you, God, with our thanks and our tears
 3 Through fam - ilies we've tast - ed the val - ue of trust
 4 Help fam - ilies in all of their var - i - ous forms

the cir - cles of nur - ture that raise us from birth,
 for all of the fam - ilies we've known through the years,
 and felt what it means to be lov - ing and just,
 to face with in - teg - ri - ty strug - gles and storms;

Com - pan - ions who join us to work through each stage
 The in - ti - mate net - works on whom we de - pend
 Yet fam - ilies have al - so be - trayed their best goals,
 Grant peace to our homes that will nur - ture the bud

of child - hood and youth and a - dult - hood and age.
 of par - ents and part - ners and chil - dren and friends.
 mis - treat - ing their mem - bers and bruising their souls.
 of peace for the fam - ilies you made from one blood.

Words: Thomas H. Troeger ©1988 Oxford University Press, Inc. Music: adapt. from a Welsh ballad in John Roberts' Caniadaeth y Cyssegr

Announcements

Rev. Good

Next Sunday we will welcome new members. Please speak with Rev. Cynthia if you would like to join Calvary Church!

Benediction

Rev. Good

Postlude: Toccata by Jan Pieters Sweelinck

Sue Paro, organ