

# Calvary Church Sunday Worship

## January 4, 2026

\* Please rise as you are able.

**Bold text** is spoken by the congregation.

Nursery care is available; ask a greeter for directions.

Prelude: Immortal, Invisible; Welsh hymn melody arranged by G. Winston Cassler  
Susan Schmidt, organ

Welcome and Poem Rev. Cynthia Good

Introit: Arise, Shine by Ruth Cunningham Calvary Choir

\*Call to Worship Darcy Coleman, worship leader

In the dark of morning,  
**the stars still shine.**  
In the depth of winter,  
**the birds still climb.**  
At the start of the year, tender and new,  
**God is here. God is near.**  
Do not rest in your fear.  
**God is here.**  
So like the stars and the birds,  
**Let us worship holy God.**

Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession Rev. Good

Friends, on this Epiphany Sunday we stand at the start of a new year,  
and there is nothing better about a new year than the chance to begin again.  
That is exactly what we do in the Prayer of Confession.  
We speak honestly with God and God surrounds us with grace.  
We are able to begin again.  
So may we start this new year, this new season, this new week with God's grace.  
Let us pray. Let us begin again.

**Ever-loving God, we long for Christmas to usher in a season of peace and joy. However,  
we know that is not how the world works. Even just days after Christmas, we find  
ourselves face to face with fear once again.  
So today we pray—forgive us when we allow fear to stop us in our tracks.  
Forgive us when our own fear prevents us from following your call.  
Forgive us when fear is louder than love.  
Show us how to turn our fear into action.  
Show us how to live like the magi who searched for you in a fearful world.  
With hope we pray, amen.**

## Words of Forgiveness

Rev. Good

Family of Faith, whether you are brave and courageous or fearful and timid,  
God's love for you knows no end. So join me in these words of forgiveness:

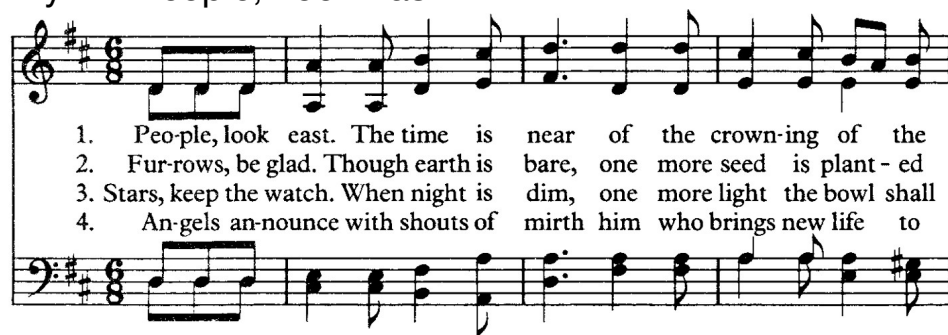
**Whether fear inspires us to action, or stops us dead in our tracks,  
God's love for us is boundless. We are seen. We are surrounded with grace.  
We are sent to serve. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## \*Passing the Peace

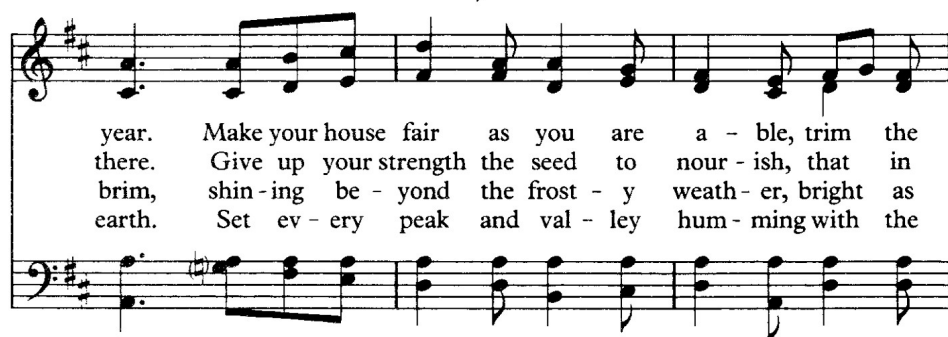
Rev. Good

## \*Hymn: People, Look East

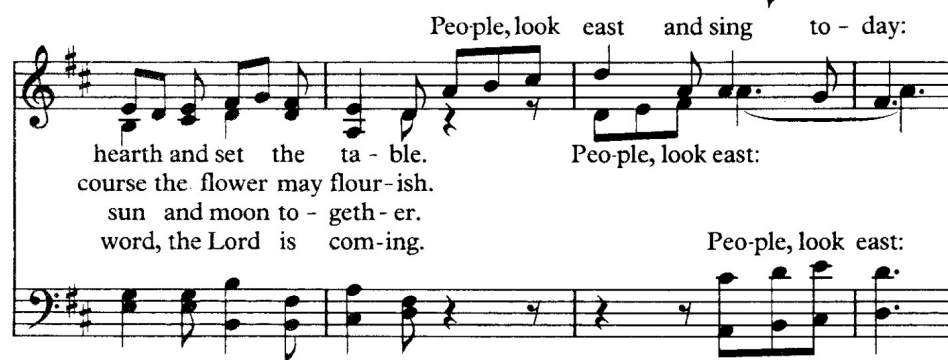
202 (large hymnal)



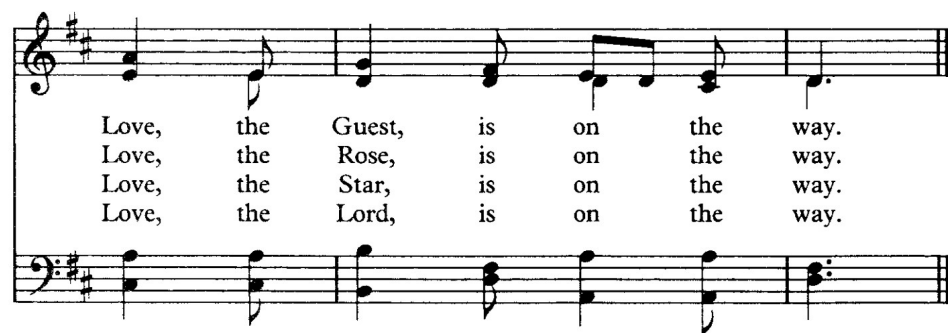
1. Peo-ple, look east. The time is near of the crown-ing of the  
2. Fur-rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is plant-ed  
3. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall  
4. An-gels an-nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new life to



year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble, trim the  
there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish, that in  
brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er, bright as  
earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley hum - ming with the



People, look east and sing to - day:  
hearth and set the ta - ble. People, look east:  
course the flower may flour-ish.  
sun and moon to - geth - er.  
word, the Lord is com-ing. People, look east:



Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
Love, the Star, is on the way.  
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

## Prayer for Illumination

Darcy Coleman

**God of the Stars, like the magi,  
we come to this place searching for you.  
So today, just like every day,  
we ask that you would remove  
any barricades that keep us from your Spirit.  
Clear out the distractions. Wipe away the doubt.  
Open up our hearts,  
and speak to us through these ancient words.  
And as you do, we will keep walking.  
As you do, we will move toward you.  
With hope we pray, amen.**

## Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12

Darcy Coleman

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem village, Judah territory—this was during Herod’s kingship—a band of scholars arrived in Jerusalem from the East. They asked around, “Where can we find and pay homage to the newborn King of the Jews? We observed a star in the eastern sky that signaled his birth. We’re on pilgrimage to worship him.”

When word of their inquiry got to Herod, he was terrified—and not Herod alone, but most of Jerusalem as well. Herod lost no time. He gathered all the high priests and religion scholars in the city together and asked, “Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?”

They told him, “Bethlehem, Judah territory. The prophet Micah wrote it plainly: It’s you, Bethlehem, in Judah’s land, no longer bringing up the rear. From you will come the leader who will shepherd-rule my people, my Israel.”

Herod then arranged a secret meeting with the scholars from the East. Pretending to be as devout as they were, he got them to tell him exactly when the birth-announcement star appeared. Then he told them the prophecy about Bethlehem, and said, “Go find this child. Leave no stone unturned. As soon as you find him, send word and I’ll join you at once in your worship.”

Instructed by the king, they set off. Then the star appeared again, the same star they had seen in the eastern skies. It led them on until it hovered over the place of the child. They could hardly contain themselves: They were in the right place! They had arrived at the right time!

They entered the house and saw the child in the arms of Mary, his mother. Overcome, they kneeled and worshiped him. Then they opened their luggage and presented gifts: gold, frankincense, myrrh.

In a dream, they were warned not to report back to Herod. So they worked out another route, left the territory without being seen, and returned to their own country.

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

## Children's Time

Rev. Cynthia

After the song, children are invited to attend Jr. Church (classroom 1) or the nursery (room 3).

## Song: We Three Kings (refrain)

254 (large hymnal)

**O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

## Scripture: Isaiah 60:1-6

Darcy Coleman

Arise! Shine! Your light has come;  
the Lord's glory has shone upon you.  
Though darkness covers the earth  
and gloom the nations,  
the Lord will shine upon you;  
God's glory will appear over you.  
Nations will come to your light  
and kings to your dawning radiance.  
Lift up your eyes and look all around:  
they are all gathered; they have come to you.  
Your sons will come from far away,  
and your daughters on caregivers' hips.  
Then you will see and be radiant;  
your heart will tremble and open wide,  
because the sea's abundance will be turned over to you;  
the nations' wealth will come to you.  
Countless camels will cover your land,  
young camels from Midian and Ephah.  
They will all come from Sheba,  
carrying gold and incense,  
proclaiming the Lord's praises.  
The word of God for us. **Thanks be to God.**

Music: O Beautiful Star of Bethlehem by R. Fisher Boyce, harm. by Adger Pace

Calvary Choir

## Thoughts

Rev. Good

## \*Hymn: Jesus, the Light of the World

1. See the bright and Morn-ing Star, Je-sus, the Light of the  
 2. He's the lamp that lights our way, Je-sus, the Light of the  
 3. No more dark-ness, no more night — Je-sus, the Light of the

World! He has ris-en in our hearts, Je-sus, the Light of the  
 World! Step by step and day by day — Je-sus, the Light of the  
 World! He will shine for-ev-er bright, Je-sus, the Light of the

World! Walk in the light, beau-ti-ful light;

come where his love and his mer-cy are bright. Shine all a-round us by

day and by night, Je-sus, the Light of the World.

## 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.**

Music: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence, trad. French melody, Gilbert M. Martin  
 Susan Schmidt, piano

## Offering

If you wish to make a monetary donation to the Parish Fund, you can use the Love Offering envelopes near the offering baskets located at the entrances to the sanctuary, or scan the Venmo code at the right (please indicate “Parish Fund” in the “What’s this for?” box. The Parish Fund is used for emergency needs of our members and neighbors. If you have a financial need of any kind, please contact Rev. Cynthia. Disbursements from this Fund are kept in confidence.

Rev. Good



\*Doxology words by Vicki Kemper, tune Old 100<sup>th</sup> (95, large hymnal)  
**Praise God whose light upon us shines, praise Word made flesh by love’s design,  
praise Spirit who reveals the way to wise ones seeking to this day. Amen.**

## Sharing in Communion

God is shining upon you!

**And God’s light streams upon you!**

Open your hearts.

**We open them to the brilliance of God.**

Let us give thanks for the light and love of God.

**We praise our Creator with joy and thanksgiving.**

## Prayer

We enter this space eager to experience the presence of the Christ. Notice the Christ in the cries of the children. Spot the Christ your neighbor’s singing. The Christ is gleaming here, summoning us to share love and light as we greet our neighbors, share peace, pass the bread and cup, and love kindness across this earth.

On the night before Jesus died, when some were plotting to extinguish the Holy Light, warmth was shared between friends.

Jesus took bread. In his blessing, he passed the Divine Glow to his followers. As he broke the bread, he reminded them to eat in remembrance of him. Later that same evening, Jesus took the cup. He blessed it and invited his friends to taste from the cup of grace. “Do this, as often as you drink of this, for the remembrance of me.”

Holy Spirit, may your Divine Glow bless this bread and cup. Warm our hearts made cold by a chilled world. May this meal inspire us to carry your warmth into our world. Amen.

## Distribution of the Elements

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

**God of Light and Love, we cherish this table in this season when the nights are long and cold. Through this meal, the Christ, and our neighbors, our hearts have warmed. May the comfort in our souls sustain us through winter and nudge us to create welcoming spaces for our neighbors. With gratitude, we leave here energized to kindle your love in this world. Amen.**

# \*Hymn: We've Seen God's Face

Like the ma - gi from the east we tra - vel in - to the un - known  
 If we find our path has led us to King Her - od's den of fear  
 We will trust that star to guide us to the place where we were called  
 When new threats de - rail our jour - ney from the path we planned to take

Step by step - we make the jour - ney, called - by God - to seek the - throne  
 Still we'll keep our fo - cus fixed on chas - ing down - that star so clear  
 Find - ing God em - bod - ied in the humb - lest dwell - ing place of all  
 We won't let fear - par - a - lyze - us, no we won't stay locked in place

O - ver moun - tains, through the des - erts Seek - ing Christ we fol - low e - ver  
 Though the ty - rants rage and threat - en Noth - ing weak - ens our pro - fess - ion  
 As King Her - od sends his sol - diers Time stands still while we be - hold him  
 Stay - ing nim - ble, we'll move for - ward Keep - ing safe by cross - ing bor - ders

'Til at last we reach the place Where we hope to see God's face  
 It is God's voice we have heard Fear will not have the last word  
 Here's where we were called to be God's in - car - nate love to see  
 Move a - round the fear with grace For we know we've seen God's face

Words: Anna Strickland ©Anna Strickland, 2025. Music: Traditional Polish carol

## Announcements

Rev. Good

Monday Muddle 10 AM in the Parlor

Bible Study Wednesday 10 AM in the Parlor

Choir rehearsal Wednesday 7:30 PM in the choir room under the sanctuary

Helping Hands Thursday 10 AM in classroom 1

## Benediction

Rev. Good

Postlude: Prelude in G Major, JS Bach

Susan Schmidt, organ