

# Calvary Church Sunday Worship

## August 23, 2026

\* Please rise as you are able.

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

Nursery care is available; ask a greeter for directions.

Prelude: Sonata in E Major by Domenico Scarlatti

Hannah Shields, piano

Welcome and Poem

Rev. Good

Chime

\*Gathering Words

Bright Nogoh

The road is long and there are many stops.

**We find our way with each step.**

The journey is varied – Tyre and Sidon, Caesarea and Galilee.

**Jesus is in all places and all times.**

God invites us along the way

**To speak and to listen, to rest and to walk.**

Today, God is here.

**In this place, God is with us.**

\*Opening Prayer

Bright Nogoh

**God of love, we follow Jesus, and yet we are not always sure who he is. We follow his path, and yet we are not always sure of our steps. Open our hearts to listen to your word and respond with our lives. Grant us grace and courage to speak your truth. Guide our feet on your way. Amen.**

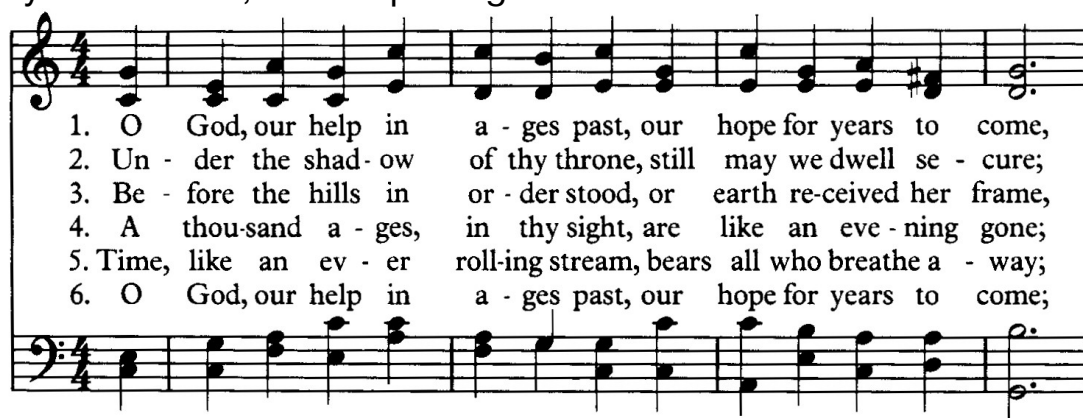
\*Passing the Peace

Bright Nogoh

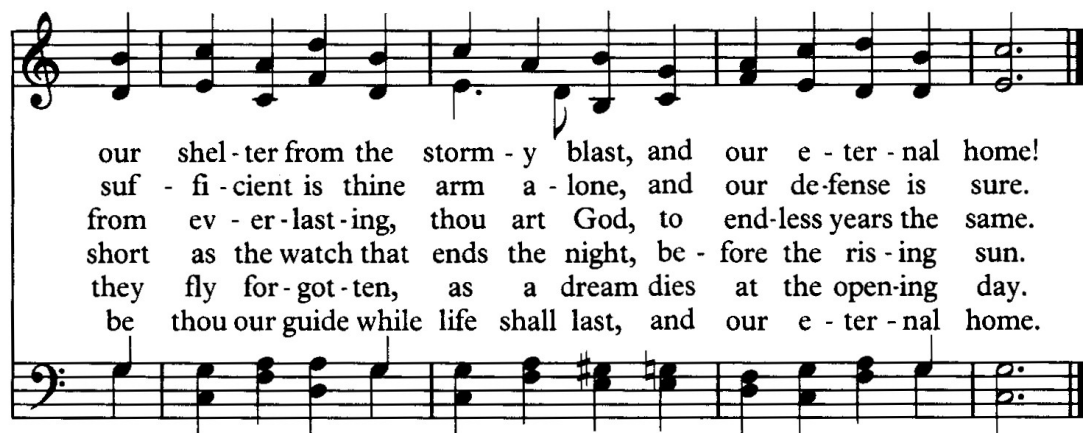
Peace be with you. **And also with you.** *Please share a sign of peace with your neighbors.*

\*Hymn: "O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

117 [large hymnal]



1. O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,  
 2. Un - der the shad - ow of thy throne, still may we dwell se - cure;  
 3. Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or earth re - ceived her frame,  
 4. A thou - sand a - ges, in thy sight, are like an eve - ning gone;  
 5. Time, like an ev - er roll - ing stream, bears all who breathe a - way;  
 6. O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come;



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home!  
 suf - fi - cient is thine arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.  
 from ev - er - last - ing, thou art God, to end - less years the same.  
 short as the watch that ends the night, be - fore the ris - ing sun.  
 they fly for - got - ten, as a dream dies at the open - ing day.  
 be thou our guide while life shall last, and our e - ter - nal home.

Scripture: Matthew 16:13-20

Bright Nogoh

When Jesus came to the neighborhood of Caesarea Philippi, he asked the disciples this question: "What do people say about who the Chosen One is?"

They replied, "Some say John the Baptizer, others say Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

"And you," he said, "who do you say that I am?"

"You are the Messiah," Simon Peter answered, "the Firstborn of the Living God!"

Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon ben-Jonah! No mere mortal has revealed this to you, but my God in heaven. I also tell you this: your name is now 'Rock,' and on bedrock like this I will build my community, and the jaws of death will not prevail against it. Here – I'll give you the keys to the reign of heaven: whatever you declare bound on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you declare loosed on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then Jesus strictly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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

Children's Time

Lois Howry

After the song, children are welcome in room 3.

Song: “Walk With Me”

refrain 2242 [small hymnal]

**Walk with me, I will walk with you  
and build the land that God has planned  
where love shines through.**

Scripture: Exodus 1:8-2:10

Bright Nogoh

A new king came to power in Egypt, and he knew nothing of Joseph’s place in the history of his nation or why the Israelite people had been welcomed to live there. In his speeches to his people, he appealed to nationalist sentiments and stirred up racial hostility, saying:

“Look at what is going on. There are too many of these Jews in our country and they are getting too powerful. We need to exercise sound management to ensure that the situation does not get out of hand. Otherwise these people will overrun us, and in the event of war they will side with our enemies, fight against us, and escape, leaving our economy in ruins.”

So the Egyptian authorities brought in a policy of oppression, forcing the Israelites into slave labor gangs with harsh taskmasters cracking the whip. These labor gangs were used in the king’s huge infrastructure program, and among other things, they built the massive royal storage facilities in the cities of Pithom and Rameses. However, the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and the more land they occupied, and that in turn fueled the fear and hostility towards them. The taskmasters became increasingly ruthless in the way they worked the labor gangs, and life for the workers became a bitter misery as they were worked to the bone on the building sites and in every kind of heavy outdoors work. The productivity targets were outrageous and the treatment of the workers was utterly inhumane.

The policies of oppression became increasingly genocidal. The two Hebrew midwives, whose names were Shiphrah and Puah, were given orders from the king that when they assisted Hebrew women giving birth, they were to kill all the male babies born and allow only the female babies to live. But the midwives cared more about what God thought than what the king said, so they did not obey the order and continued to let all the babies live. When he realized that his order had not been carried out, the king called in the midwives and demanded an explanation: “Why have you allowed these baby boys to live?”

The midwives answered, “The Hebrew women seem to have more oomph than the Egyptian women. They pop their babies out so quickly that by the time we arrive, it’s all over.”

And so because the midwives had done the right thing by God, God did the right thing by them and enabled them to have families of their own. The Hebrew people continued to multiply and become a more powerful presence within the country. Eventually the king issued a new order to everyone in his nation: “You are to throw every Hebrew boy that is born into the Nile River. Only the girls are allowed to live.”

A man and a woman from the tribe of Levi got married and fell pregnant. When the child was born, it was a strong and healthy baby boy, and his mother kept him hidden for three months. When he became too boisterous to keep him hidden, she made a little lifeboat for him by

plastering a cane basket with tar. She placed him in the little lifeboat and floated it among the reeds near the bank of the river. The baby's older sister kept watch from a distance to see what would happen to him.

Before long, the daughter of the king came down and took a dip in the river while her bodyguards walked along the bank. She spotted the little lifeboat among the reeds and sent one of her servant girls to get it. When the king's daughter opened the lid and saw the baby crying inside, she began to feel all clucky. "This must be one of the slave children," she said.

Then the baby's sister spoke up and asked the king's daughter, "Would you like me to go and find a slave woman to nurse the baby for you?"

"Yes," said the king's daughter. "Go and get one right away."

So the girl went off and came back with the baby's mother. The king's daughter said to her, "Take this baby and nurse it for me. I will pay you to be his nanny."

So the mother took the baby home and raised him. When he had grown up enough, she delivered him back to the king's daughter, who adopted him as her own. She named him Moses, because it sounded a bit like the word meaning to pull someone out of the water.

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

Music: "Walkin' on the Heaven Road" by Norman L. Starks

Calvary Choir

Thoughts

Rev. Good

\*Hymn: "There Came a Time in Egypt" by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

tune 545 [large hymnal]

**There came a time in Egypt when Joseph wasn't known —  
when people had forgotten the seeds of help he'd sown.  
With immigrants increasing, the leaders lived in fear.  
That fear turned into murmuring: "We do not want them here!"**

**The rulers told the midwives, "Don't let their numbers grow."  
But Shiphrah said, with Puah, a quiet, faithful, "No!"  
When they were tasked with killing, they saved the baby boys.  
God, may we, too, be willing to challenge what destroys.**

**O God, you sent us Jesus who said, "Take up your cross!"  
He taught that faithful living will often have a cost.  
He taught us to be daring, creative, wise and strong —  
to make the world more caring, to challenge what is wrong.**

**When immigrants are struggling, when children live in fear,  
when forces of destruction are threatening people here,  
God, make us like those women, and may we seek to be  
the ones who usher life in, till all are whole and free.**

\*Psalm of Faith: Psalm 124, paraphrased by Nan Merrill

Rev. Good

If it were not for You, O Beloved, You who make all things new,  
Fear and chaos would reign in every heart; in You will I trust forever.

When doubt threatens to overwhelm and separate me,  
when anger makes me blind, Then You, O merciful One,  
are ever-ready to Awaken the holy, the sacred within me;  
Then do your Living Streams of Grace enfold me.

Blessed are You, who are a very Presence to us, a comfort to troubled hearts!  
Grant us the strength of eagle wings, the courage to soar to new heights!  
Break within us the bonds of fear that we may live with love!

Our guidance comes from You, O Counselor,  
Blessed are You, O Giver of Life! Beloved of my heart!

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

If you wish to make a monetary donation, you can leave cash or a check in the offering baskets located at the entrances to the sanctuary or scan the Venmo code at the right.



\*Doxology

Old 100th [95, large hymnal]

**Praise God whose breath fills all the earth  
Whose love reveals our sacred worth  
Whose Spirit forms one family  
Whose grace brings peace and harmony. Amen.**

\*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Rev. Good

**We give you thanks for your presence, O God, in questions and answers, in courageous and subversive action. May we be faithful followers of Jesus in these days of difficulty. May we know your peace and live your justice. Amen.**

\*Hymn: "Jesus Asked One Day" by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

133 [large hymnal]

Jesus asked one day, "What do others say?

Who do people tell you that I am?"

His disciples said, "John — back from the dead,

Or a prophet sent by God's own hand."

*Refrain:*

Lord and Savior, you are the One who bore the cross;

May we follow, serving you no matter what the cost.

He said, "Tell me, then, who you say I am."

Peter answered, "You are God's own Son."

Jesus said, "You Rock! You're the building block

That my church will be established on."

*Refrain*

Jesus told his friends, "See how love extends:

I must suffer, die and then be raised."

Peter disagreed: "That can never be.

God's Messiah will know glorious days!"

*Refrain*

Jesus said to him, "Get behind me, then.

Those who cling to life will surely die.

Come and follow me! I will make you free.

Seek God's kingdom and you'll find new life."

*Refrain*

Announcements

Rev. Good

Weekly Event:

Helping Hands Thursday 10 AM

Benediction

Rev. Good

Postlude: Postludium Op 13, no. 10 by Erno Dohnanyi

Hannah Shields, piano