

Calvary Presbyterian Church

Sunday, March 12th, 2022

WELCOME

Welcome to Calvary Presbyterian Church! We are a first-century church in modern Milwaukee.

Here at Calvary, in the practice of the Presbyterian Church, we are all ministers, and we minister to one another. We are an open and affirming community, creating hand-made worship as the Holy Spirit leads us, in the tradition of the Acts of the Apostles.

My name is [Your Name], an elder in the church, and I will be the liturgist this morning. Our message will be given by [Worship Leader], [Bio]. Our Communion Presider will be [Presider], and our pianist is [Pianist].

Let us now prepare our hearts for worship.

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

On this day, we gather with thanksgiving in our hearts.

For God's love is ever constant in our lives.

On this day, we would talk of all that is ours.

Grace upon grace has been poured into our lives.

On this day, we would speak of what we believe.

We will sing glad songs for all that God has done.

HYMN: #402 HOW LOVELY, LORD

CALL TO CONFESSION

We know what it is like to be rejected, but we also remember turning our backs on others. We have experienced conflict, as well as caused pain to others. Let us confess our foolish lives to the One who seeks to forgive us on this day, and every day.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Everybody else does it, Watching God, and we confess that we do as well. We listen to those whose promises are sold to the highest bidder. We idolize celebrities as if they were teachers of ethics. We long for that one person who will make everything right, once again, once and for all.

Is it any wonder we are a disappointed people, God of Hope? Forgive us for turning our backs on you, even as you continue to stretch out your arms to us. Forgive us for trusting in those who prove to be false, rather than having faith in your love. Forgive us, and fill us with the spirit of faith which is given to us in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

(Silent Confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (STAND)

Do not lose heart! God seeks to strengthen our souls, filling us with forgiveness, wonder, and joy!

Thanks be to God.

PASSING THE PEACE

Since Christ has made us the blessed community, the church, let us greet one another with the peace of Christ. Peace be with you!

And also with you.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Almighty God, give us ears to hear your story in these words of Scripture; give us eyes to see your story in the faces of those that surround us; and give us faith enough, that by your grace, we might serve you until the end of our days.

SCRIPTURE READING: 2 CORINTHIANS 3:1-14

Are we beginning again to commend ourselves? or need we, as do some, epistles of commendation to you or from you? Ye are our epistle, written in our hearts, known, and read of all men; being made manifest that ye are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in tables that are hearts of flesh.

Such confidence have we through Christ to God-ward: not that we are sufficient of ourselves, to account anything as from ourselves; but our sufficiency is from God; who also made us sufficient as ministers of a new covenant; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter kills, but the spirit giveth life.

But if the ministration of death, written, and engraved on stones, came with glory, so that the children of Israel could not look steadfastly upon the face of Moses for the glory of his face; which glory was passing away: how shall not rather the ministration of the spirit be with glory? For if the ministration of condemnation had glory, the ministration of righteousness exceeds in glory. For verily that which hath been made glorious hath not been made glorious in this respect, by reason of the glory that surpasses. For if that which passed away was with glory, much more that which remains is in glory.

Having therefore such a hope, we use great boldness of speech, and are not as Moses, who put a veil upon his face, that the children of Israel should not look steadfastly on the end of that which was passing away: but their minds were hardened: for until this very day at the reading of the old covenant the same veil remained, because it was not revealed to them that it is done away in Christ.

REFLECTION

ANTHEM

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Reconciling Christ, bless our efforts to bring about reconciliation.

Give us the strength to persevere without counting the hurts,
and to find within ourselves the capacity to keep on loving.

Give us the grace to be able to stand in the middle of situations,
and to be a conduit for the deep listening
which can lead to healing and forgiveness.

Help us to conduct ourselves with dignity,
giving and expecting respect, moving from prayer to action,
and from action back again into prayer.

Grant that we may be so grounded in your love,
that our security is not threatened if we change our minds,
or begin to see a better way to act.

Bless those who are called to reconcile on a large-scale –
politicians, world leaders, leaders of business,
and those who stand in the midst of bitter conflict.

Reconciling Christ, bless us and bless all who engage
in the sacred work of envisioning new wholeness,
and bringing people and nations together. We ask all this
through Christ Jesus your true Son who taught us to pray...

Our Father, 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Our God teaches us that the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly; and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Your generous gifts are used to answer the question of who our neighbor with confidence is. Most of the people who worship here at Calvary give electronically. We have a plate here at God's table if you wish to give after service. Let us pray for all these gifts.

We believe, and so we will speak. We speak, and so we will live. We will live, and so we will be generous, because we know that, by your grace, these gifts we offer will extend hope, peace, and life to more and more people. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

OFFERTORY HYMN: #698 TAKE, O TAKE AS I AM

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

My friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God! Come! The scriptures teach that the people will come from north and south, and from east and west, and sit at table in the Kingdom of God. This is the Lord's Table. You do not need to be a member of Calvary Presbyterian Church. You do not need to be a Presbyterian. Christ, our Lord, invites all those who love him. Come to the feast which he has prepared.

The Spirit of God be with you all.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Give thanks to our God!

All our thanks, all our praise!

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

HYMN: #2088 (SING THE FAITH) LORD, I LIFT YOUR NAME ON
HIGH

CHARGE AND BLESSING