

# Calvary Presbyterian Church

Sunday, May 20th, 2023

## 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.

## CALL TO WORSHIP

We come, bringing our souls to God.

**God delights in us, just as God has found wonder in every generation.**

We come, bringing our hands to Jesus.

**Jesus challenges us to see each person as the neighbor we are to serve.**

We come, bringing our hearts to the Spirit.

**The Spirit teaches all we need to know so that we may be faithful in our lives.**

## HYMN #250 IN THE BULB, THERE IS A FLOWER (HYMN OF PROMISE)

## CALL TO CONFESSION

We are good at rules: making them and then breaking them. Paul reminds us that, when we gain Christ Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we receive exactly what we need forgiveness, grace, hope. Let us confess our sins to God, that we might know God's healing love for us! Please join with me in the Prayer of Confession.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

If we were to name all the gods we have before you, Rock of Redemption, we would be here a very long time. We elevate politicians into saviors, though they are as broken as we are. We misuse your name so much during the day, we have trouble speaking to you in prayer at night. We are so busy; we do not notice how creation witnesses to your goodness and grace. Forgive us, God our Hope. Help us to let go of what we value most, so we may open our emptiness, our hearts, our lives to the healing and loving presence of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

*(Silent Confession)*

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Persistently, patiently, lovingly, God pours out grace and joy into our lives, healing our brokenness, and forgiving our sin. My friends, we are forgiven!

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 all!

And also with you.

## SCRIPTURE READING: DEUTERONOMY 4:1-10

“And now, Israel, listen carefully to these decrees and regulations that I am about to teach you. Obey them so that you may live, so you may enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. Do not add to or subtract from these commands I am giving you. Just obey the commands of the LORD your God that I am giving you.

“You saw for yourself what the LORD did to you at Baal-peor. There the LORD your God destroyed everyone who had worshiped Baal, the god of Peor. But all of you who were faithful to the LORD your God are still alive today—every one of you.

“Look, I now teach you these decrees and regulations just as the LORD my God commanded me, so that you may obey them in the land you are about to enter and occupy. Obey them completely, and you will display your wisdom and intelligence among the surrounding nations. When they hear all these decrees, they will exclaim, ‘How wise and prudent are the people of this great nation!’ For what great nation has a god as near to them as the LORD our God is near to us whenever we call on him? And what great nation has decrees and regulations as righteous and fair as this body of instructions that I am giving you today?

“But watch out! Be careful never to forget what you yourself have seen. Do not let these memories escape from your mind as long as you live! And be sure to pass them on to your children and grandchildren. Never forget the day when you stood before the LORD your God at Mount Sinai, where he told me, ‘Summon the people before me, and I will personally instruct them. Then they will learn to fear me as long as they live, and they will teach their children to fear me also.’

This is God’s Word. **Thanks be to God.**

## SCRIPTURE READING: COLOSSIANS 3:16-17

Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts.

And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.

This is God’s Word. **Thanks be to God.**

## REFLECTION

## ANTHEM

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

United in Christ who gives us the victory, let us pray to God:

For the Church, the Body of Christ, that we might truly live the unity we receive through the Holy Spirit. God our strength: Hear our prayer.

For the leaders of our churches that they may be faithful to the unity to which all Christians are called. God our strength:

For the nations of the world, that they may live in peace with one another and promote justice for all. God our strength:

For all people that we may be good stewards of the earth. God our strength:

For the people of our society that we may be transformed to live as caring neighbors to each other. God our strength:

For the sick and suffering, that they may be transformed by your healing presence. God our strength:

For all families and households, that their struggles and joys may find their fulfilment in your love.  
God our strength:

For the dying, that they may be comforted by your presence. God our strength:

Let us pray the prayer our Lord taught us.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 could hold onto our abundance, Generous God, or we could offer them who have been pushed aside, those who need food and shelter, those who long for healing. May the gifts we offer in these moments, in the name of Jesus, be used for our neighbors. 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!**

We always give you thanks for your good gifts of creation. All that flowed forth from your love was for those shaped in your image, shown the paths of the Garden, but we wandered into the brambles of sin and death, choosing to play there. The prophets came, women and men who noticed us in the ditch of despair, and they sought to pick us up with their words and carry us to your healing heart, but we preferred to listen to the temptations of the world. And so, you sent the One we least expected, to bring the good news of your steadfast love for us. And so we lift our voices to you.

**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.**

You are holy, God of eternity, yet in a little baby, You set aside holiness to wrap yourself in a caregiver's humility; in a young boy, You planted the seeds of hope so we might learn compassion for others; in a young man, You placed the gift of patience so we would discover how to put up with those who drive us to distraction; in brokenness on a cross, You put on love, not staying behind in the grave, but coming forth singing the refrain of resurrection.

And so we remember as we gather around this table, we give thanks and remember that...The Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed, gathered with his closest friends and took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way after supper, he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as we eat this bread and drink the cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Loving God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, Make them the body and blood of Christ That we may be his body for the world. By your Spirit make us one with Christ and keep us faithful until we are united with him in glory. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours

almighty God, now and forever. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come to the table prepared for you.

## HYMN: #192 LORD, THE LIGHT OF YOUR LOVE IS SHINING (SHINE, JESUS, SHINE)

### CHARGE AND BLESSING

Hear this: the Lord our God is the one and only Lord.

Therefore go out into the world  
and love the Lord your God  
with all your heart, soul, mind and strength,  
and love others as you love yourself.

And may God give you justice and freedom;  
May Christ Jesus set you free for love;  
and may the Holy Spirit go where you go  
.....and protect you on your way.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,  
...In the name of Christ. Amen.