

We Enter into Worship...

Prelude Chris Holmberg

Welcome and Announcements

Introit Choir with Congregation

Christ, Be Our Light!

*Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light!
Shine in your Church gathered today. Christ be our light!*

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Lighting of the Advent Candle

Call to Worship Psalm 98:4

299 Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth re - ceive her
2. Joy to the earth! The Sav - ior reigns: let men their songs em -
3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions

King; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him room,
ploy; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
and heav'n and na - ture sing,

(continued next page)

and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Based on Psalm 98
Isaac Watts, 1719
CCLI# 594962

ANTIOCH C.M.rep.
George Frederick Handel, 1742
Arr. Lowell Mason, 1836

We Meet with God through Prayer, Scripture & Song...

Corporate Prayer of Confession

Our Heavenly Father, as Christmas approaches we confess to you our distraction. We are distracted by the trappings of this holiday that too often lead us away from instead of towards you. We are distracted by the cares of this world, which weigh heavy on us when we should instead be bound to your light yoke. We are distracted by pain, suffering, sickness and sorrow, all too present in our world. Help us to see that Christ's Advent is the beginning of the end for all of these, and may this truth enable us to focus wholly on you and your glory this Advent season and into Christmas. We ask this in the name of Christ Jesus, the Word become flesh. Amen.

Silent Confession of Sins

Assurance of Forgiveness Hebrews 10:15-17

The Gloria Patri

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.**

Prayer of Dedication Elder Chris Holmberg

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. 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.

Unison Scripture Reading

Pslam 25

- ¹ To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.**
- ² O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me.**
- ³ Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame; they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.**
- ⁴ Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.**
- ⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.**
- ⁶ Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.**
- ⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!**
- ⁸ Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.**
- ⁹ He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.**
- ¹⁰ All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.**
- ¹¹ For your name's sake, O LORD, pardon my guilt, for it is great.**

- ¹² Who is the man who fears the LORD? Him will he instruct in the way that he should choose.**
- ¹³ His soul shall abide in well-being, and his offspring shall inherit the land.**
- ¹⁴ The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear him, and he makes known to them his covenant.**
- ¹⁵ My eyes are ever toward the LORD, for he will pluck my feet out of the net.**
- ¹⁶ Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted.**
- ¹⁷ The troubles of my heart are enlarged; bring me out of my distresses.**
- ¹⁸ Consider my affliction and my trouble, and forgive all my sins.**
- ¹⁹ Consider how many are my foes, and with what violent hatred they hate me.**
- ²⁰ Oh, guard my soul, and deliver me! Let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in you.**
- ²¹ May integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait for you.**
- ²² Redeem Israel, O God, out of all his troubles.**

Anthem

Choir

Almost There

Pastoral Prayer

We Respond to the Word of God Preached...

Statement of Faith

Heidelberg Catechism, Questions 1&2

Q. What is your only comfort in life and in death?

A. That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.

He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.

Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

Q. What must you know to live and die in the joy of this comfort?

A. Three things: first, how great my sin and misery are; second, how I am set free from all my sins and misery; third, how I am to thank God for such deliverance.

265 In Christ Alone

1. In Christ a - lone my hope is found, he is my light, my strength, my
2. In Christ a - lone! Who took on flesh, full - ness of God in help - less
3. There in the ground his bod - y lay, light of the world by dark - ness
4. No guilt in life, no fear in death: this is the pow'r of Christ in

song; this cor - ner - stone, this sol - id ground, firm through the
babe! This gift of love and righ - teous - ness, scorned by the
slain; then burst - ing forth in glo - rious day, up from the
me. From life's first cry to fin - al breath, Je - sus com -

(next page)

fierc - est drought and storm. What heights of love, what depths of peace,
ones he came to save. 'Til on that cross as Je - sus died,
grave he rose a - gain! And as he stands in vic - to - ry,
mands my des - ti - ny. No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man,

when fears are stilled, when striv - ings cease! My com - for -
the wrath of God was sat - is - fied; for ev - 'ry
sin's curse has lost its grip on me; for I am
can ev - er pluck me from his hand; 'til he re -

ter, my all in all— here in the love of Christ I stand.
sin on him was laid— here in the death of Christ I live.
his and he is mine— bought with the pre - cious blood of Christ.
turns or calls me home— here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

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Keith Getty and Stuart Townend
Arr. Ruth Coleman

We Depart into the World...

Benediction

Parting Hymn

God be with you till we meet again; By his counsels guide, uphold you, with his sheep securely fold you; God be with you till we meet again. Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet; Till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.

Postlude

Following today's service of corporate worship, please join us in the Fellowship Hall for coffee, donuts & fellowship.

WELCOME to this morning’s service of corporate worship!

Flowers for worship this morning have been provided by Mark & Kim Freeman in memory of Kim’s dad, Homer E. Hudson, and by Jerry & Joanne Dosh in celebration of their 37th wedding anniversary on December 18th.

“...and the Two became One...”

The Diaconate, as an expression of the church’s commitment to marriage, recognizes couples who are members of the church on certain wedding anniversaries (their first, all divisible by five, and all over 50).

Today we are pleased to introduce Sam & Mary Winegarden, who will celebrate their 56th anniversary on December 20th!

Poinsettias are being sold by the Diaconate for \$12 apiece this year. Sign up today after worship, and take yours home after our Christmas Eve service.

Christmas Boxes prepared by the Martha Mary Circle will be put together Friday, December 19th, and will be available for pickup that day between noon and 2pm, as well as at church next Sunday, December 21st. Please contact Wanda Knight with any questions.

Christmas Eve Service of Lessons & Carols Be sure to join us at 6:30pm on December 24th as we revisit Scripture’s message of Christ’s birth, and the choir leads us in singing joyful praises in celebration of our Lord!

Annual Congregational Business Meeting

After our worship service today, the Members of Calvary will meet in the Sanctuary to do the business of the church. At this meeting the 2026 budget as approved by Session will be reviewed, and we will elect Elders, Deacons & Nominating Committee members. Materials will be available after the service.

Offerings are received each week in the wooden donation box in the Narthex. We have placed it there as a convenience for our members and friends. If you are visiting us this Sunday, please feel no pressure to make any donation. We are glad to have you simply be our guest today, and invite you to join us for a donut and coffee in the Fellowship Hall after worship!

Featured Element of Worship: *Joy to the World*

Joy to the World is most commonly thought of as a Christmas carol, and it is indeed a perfectly fine hymn to sing at Christmas! What is the celebration of Christmas but a joyful exclamation that the Lord has indeed come to be with his people, and a reminder to prepare room in our hearts for him! But when the great hymnist Isaac Watts wrote *Joy to the World* in 1719, he did not intend it to be a hymn specifically for Christmas.

Watts was inspired by verses four through nine of the 98th Psalm, and in writing this hymn, he intended to speak not of the Lord’s Advent at Christmas, but of Christ’s Second Advent, which we still eagerly await. This morning as we sing this song, let us likewise not just think of a baby in a manger, surrounded by parents and shepherds, with angels singing overhead. Let us think about why it is that Christ came 2000 years ago, and let that point us to why he is coming again. Let us think of (and long for) that day when he will return to *no more let sin and sorrow grow, nor thorns infest the ground*; that day when he will *make his blessings flow, far as the curse is found*!

Christmas Cards: Throughout Advent and Christmas, we have our Friendship Tree in the narthex, decorated with Christmas cards sent to the church. Names of senders will be listed weekly in the bulletin, and any donations included in those cards will be used to support the ministry of Calvary’s Deacons.

Greetings have been received from: Shirley Burghardt, Jim & Chris Campbell, Al & Karen Dipzinski, Jim & Ellen Jones, Hazel Mardlin, Larry & Janet Nichols, Pete & Erin Scribner, Chuck Stevens, Lois Stockford, Randy & Ginny Sturm, Mick & Ann Tulgetske.

Meditation for the Week

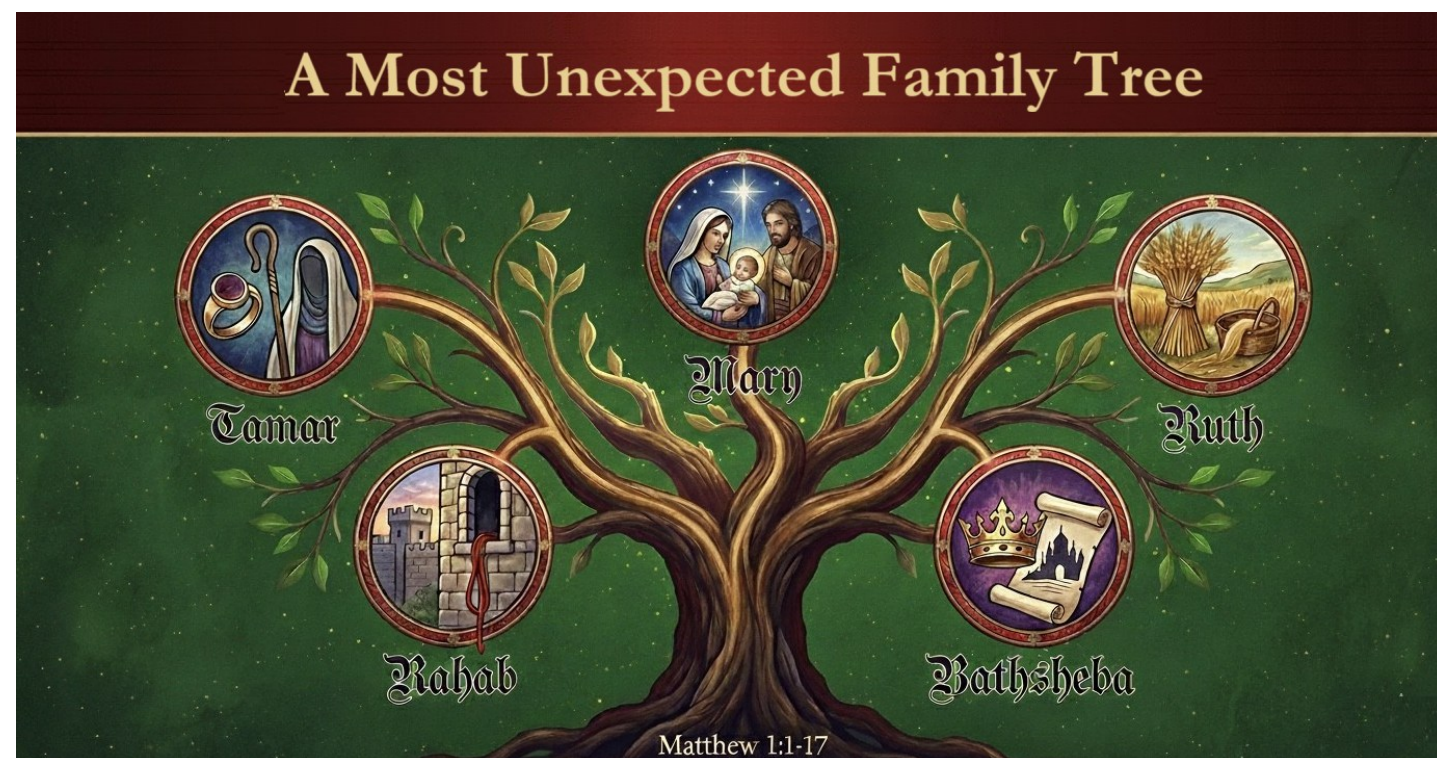
There is another reason why it was necessary for him who was to be our Redeemer to be true God and true man. It was his task to swallow up death. Who could do that but life itself? It was his task to conquer sin. Who could do that but righteousness? It was his task to overcome the powers of the air, that is, the demons. Who could do that but a power greater than world or air? In whom, then, do life, righteousness and the power of heaven reside, but in God alone? Therefore the Lord, in his great kindness, became our Redeemer when he chose to ransom us.

John Calvin (1509-1564)

This Week at Calvary

Today	9:40	Prayer in Office Conference Room (All Welcome)
	10:00	Worship Service followed by coffee, donuts & fellowship
	11:30	Congregational Meeting
Tuesday	2:00	Tuesdays at Two
Thursday		Office Closed
Friday	10:00	Session
Next Sunday	9:40	Prayer in Office Conference Room (All Welcome)
	10:00	Worship Service followed by coffee, donuts & fellowship
	11:30	Sunday School

As you prepare your hearts this week for next Sunday's service of corporate worship, be sure to consider our Meditation for the Week (printed inside the bulletin), and read Matthew 1:1-17 and 2 Samuel 11.



Church Staff

Pastor
Director of Music
Music Minister
Custodian

Pete Scribner
Susan Lechota
Chris Holmberg
Vicky Haughey

Calvary Presbyterian Church

December 14, 2025



Our Mission - We exist to know, worship, serve, and enjoy the one true God.

Our Vision - We seek to love God completely, love others selflessly, and everywhere proclaim Christ: crucified, risen, and reigning forever.

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