

The Lord’s Day

Liturgy for Corporate Worship

December 22, 2024

Prelude

Chris Holmberg

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Choir

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

Zephaniah 3:17

Opening Hymn

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Rejoice, the Lord is King

Corporate Prayer of Confession & Silent Confession

**Holy and merciful Father, we confess this day the absolute folly of our sin. We know that you are the source of all goodness and joy, yet we constantly seek fulfillment elsewhere. You are the source of all light, yet so often we scurry off into darkness. Though we exist only by grace, our hearts are filled with pride. Show us that even when we heed your commands, we are still but your unworthy servants having only done our duty. Show us the holiness of Christ Jesus and make us like him, to the glory of his holy name. Amen.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

Psalm 116:5

The Doxology

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**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. 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

Romans 5:1-5

Anthem

Choir

God Exalted Him

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon Hymn

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Of the Father’s Love Begotten

Sermon

Rev. Pete Scribner

John 3:16

Closing Hymn

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Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

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

**Featured Element of Worship: *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling***, which we sing today to close our worship, includes the following words:

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit  
Into every troubled breast!  
Let us all in Thee inherit;  
Let us find the promised rest.  
Take away our bent to sinning;  
Alpha and Omega be.  
End of faith, as its beginning,  
Set our hearts at liberty.

Do we recognize that as a result of original sin, we are born with a bent toward sinning? Our hearts are in essence, as Calvin put it, “idol factories.” And we can’t free ourselves from our enslavement to sinful desire; rather we need God to work in us if we are ever to have any hope of liberty.

In worship, we turn to God seeking deliverance from this bondage, and are reminded once more of the good news of Christ Jesus. It is through Christ alone and his power in us, that we can be freed to live holy lives, loving God and loving neighbors as we have been called to do. May we all know this freedom and express it through the fruits of repentance.

# Rejoice, the Lord Is King

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1. Re - joice, the Lord is King: your Lord and King a - dore! Re -  
2. Je - sus the Sav - ior reigns, the God of truth and love; when  
3. His king - dom can - not fail, he rules o'er earth and heav'n; the  
4. He sits at God's right hand 'til all his foes sub - mit, and  
5. Re - joice in glo - rious hope! Our Lord, the Judge, shall come, and

Refrain

joice, give thanks, and sing, and tri - umph ev - er - more.  
he had purged our stains, he took his seat a - bove.  
• keys of death and hell are to our Je - sus giv'n. Lift up your  
bow to his com - mand, and fall be - neath his feet.  
take his ser - vants up to their e - ter - nal home.

heart, lift up your voice! Re - joice, a - gain I say, re - joice!

## Unison Scripture Reading...Romans 5:1-5

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>2</sup>Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup>and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup>and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

God Exalted Him

He became a man. Christ became a man;  
and laid aside the glory He had known.  
To be a carpenter. A simple carpenter;  
a lowly servant rejected by his own.

But God exalted Him. God has uplifted Him;  
and has given Him a name above all names.  
That every knee should bow in earth and heav'n above  
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

He became a man. Christ became a man;  
whose destiny was death upon a tree.  
Still, He became a man. a gentle, loving man;  
a man of sorrows acquainted with grief.

But God exalted Him. God has uplifted Him;  
and has given Him a name above all names.  
That every knee should bow in earth and heav'n above  
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

He is Lord, He is Lord.  
He is risen from the dead and He is Lord.

That every knee should bow in earth and heav'n above  
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Words and Music by Tom Fettke & Linda Lee Johnson  
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Unison

1. Of the Fa-ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be - gan to be,  
2. O that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the Vir - gin, full of grace,  
3. This is he whom heav'n-taught sing - ers sang of old with one ac - cord,  
4. O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his prais - es sing:  
5. Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly Ghost, to thee,

he is Al - pha and O - me - ga, he the Source, the End - ing he,  
by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, bore the Sav - ior of our race;  
• whom the Scrip - tures of the proph - ets prom - ised in their faith - ful word;  
all do - min - ions, bow be - fore him and ex - tol our God and King;  
hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing and un - wea - ried prais - es be,

of the things that are, that have been, and that fu - ture  
and the babe, the world's Re - deem - er, first re - vealed his  
• now he shines, the long - ex - pect - ed; let cre - a - tion  
let no tongue on earth be si - lent, ev - 'ry voice in  
hon - or, glo - ry, and do - min - ion and e - ter - nal

years shall see, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!  
sa - cred face, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!  
• praise its Lord, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!  
con - cert ring, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!  
vic - to - ry, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!

<sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

♦ Love is costly

♦ Love is particular

♦ Love is blessed



1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n to earth come down:  
2. Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry trou - bled breast;  
3. Come, Al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy life re - ceive;  
4. Fin - ish, then, thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less let us be:



fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown:  
let us all in thee in - her - it, let us find the prom - ised rest:  
sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave.  
let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in thee;



Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion, pure, un - bound - ed love thou art;  
take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be;  
Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove,  
changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, 'til in heav'n we take our place,



vis - it us with thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.  
End of faith, as its Be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
pray and praise thee with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
'til we cast our crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

WELCOME to this morning's service of corporate worship!

The Flowers adorning our worship this have been provided by Sam & Mary Winegarden in celebration of their 55th wedding anniversary.

Christmas Cards: The Deacons realize that the task of sending greetings to all friends in the church is a big undertaking! To lessen the burden during this rushed season they are encouraging us again this year to send just one card to the entire congregation. These cards will be used to decorate the Friendship Tree in the Narthex and the names of senders will be listed weekly in the bulletin. Those wishing to donate all or part of the savings in cards and postage will find them put to good use by the Diaconate.

So far, greetings have been received from: Mike & Janet Adema, Tom & Sue Alarie, Rozie Aube, Jim & Marsha Davis, Al & Karen Dipzinski, Jerry & Joanne Dosh, Jim & Karen Hayden, Anne Haughey, Dorothy Heidtman, Bob & Marion Isaacson, Madeleine Jens, Jim & Ellen Jones, Phil & Sharon Koerber, Frank & Sue Lechota, Mary Jo Lorenz, Hazel Mardlin, Barb Milloy, Larry & Janet Nichols, Andrea O'Hara & Karl Williams, Pat Reedy, Pete & Erin Scribner, Chuck Stevens, Doug & Dana Stoddard, Randy & Ginny Sturm, Mick & Ann Tulgetske, Joe & Esma Walker, Sam & Mary Winegarden.

The Poinsettias beautifully adorning our sanctuary this morning were provided by the following people:

Linn Aikins, Sue & Tom Alarie, Mike & Donna Baynai, Al & Karen Dipzinski, Jerry & Joanne Dosh, Mark & Kim Freeman, Lil & Laurie Goff, Jim & Karen Hayden, Jan & Scott Herriman, Jim & Ellen Jones, Phil & Sharon Koerber, Pete & Erin Scribner, Chuck Stevens, Randy & Ginny Sturm, Mike & Lois Tebo, Joe & Esma Walker, and Dorothy Younce.



Poinsettias may be taken after our Christmas Eve service.

Our Christmas Eve Service of Lessons & Carols will be held at 6:30 on Tuesday night. Join us as the choir leads us in singing joyful praises in celebration of the birth of Christ Jesus, our Lord!

**This Week at Calvary**

<b>Today</b>	9:40	Prayer in Office Conference Room (All Welcome)
	10:00	Worship Service followed by coffee, donuts, fellowship, and our annual
<b>Tuesday</b>		<b>No Tuesdays at Two This Week</b>
	6:30	Christmas Eve Service of Lessons & Carols
<b>Wednesday-Friday</b>		Office Closed
<b>Next Sunday</b>	9:40	Prayer in Office Conference Room (All Welcome)
	10:00	Worship Service followed by coffee, donuts & fellowship <b>No Sunday School</b>

May we all have a blessed Christmas!

**Church Staff**

Pastor  
Director of Music  
Music Minister  
Custodian

Pete Scribner  
Susan Lechota  
Chris Holmberg  
Vicky Haughey

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!



## Meditation for the Week

Christ is full of love, as he is of merit. What was it but love—that he should save *us*—and not the fallen angels? Among the rarities of the loadstone, this is not the least—that leaving the *gold* and *pearl*, it should draw *iron* to it—which is a baser kind of metal. Just so, that Christ should leave the *angels*, those more noble spirits, the *gold* and *pearl*—and draw *mankind* to him—how does this proclaim his love? *Love was the wing on which he flew into the virgin's womb!*

**1. How TRANSCENDENT is Christ's love to the saints!** The apostle calls it a love "which passes knowledge," ([Ephesians 3:19](#)). It is such a love as God the Father bears to Christ; the same for quality, though not equality, ([John 15:9](#)). "As the Father has loved me—so have I loved you." A believer's heart is the garden where Christ has planted this sweet flower of his love. It is the channel through which the golden stream of his affection runs.

**2. How SOVEREIGN is Christ's love!** "Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were *wise* by human standards; not many were *influential*; not many were of *noble birth*," ([1 Corinthians 1:26](#)). In the old law God passed by the noble *lion* and the *eagle*—and took the *dove* for sacrifice. That God should pass by so many of noble birth and abilities, and that the lot of free grace should fall upon *me*—O the depth of divine grace!

**3. How INVINCIBLE is the love of Christ!** "It is strong as death," ([Song of Solomon 8:6](#)). Death might take away Christ's life—but not his love! Neither can our sin wholly quench that divine flame of love; the church had her infirmities, her sleepy fits, ([Song of Solomon 5:2](#)), but though blacked and sullied, yet she is still a dove; Chris could *see* the *faith*, and *wink* at the *failing*. He who painted Alexander, drew him with his finger over the scar on his face. Just so, Christ puts the finger of mercy upon the scars of the saints! He will not throw away his pearls for every speck of dirt! That which makes this love of Christ the more stupendous, is that there was nothing in us to excite or draw forth his love! He did not love us because we were worthy—but by loving us he made us worthy!

**4. How IMMUTABLE is Christ's love!** "Having loved his own, he loved them to the end," ([John 13:1](#)). The saints are like letters of gold engraved upon Christ's heart, which cannot be erased out. Meditate much upon the love of Christ.

Serious meditation on the love of Christ, would make us love him in return. "Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burnt?" ([Proverbs 6:28](#)). Who can tread by meditation upon these hot coals of Christ's love, and his heart not burn in love to him?

(Thomas Watson, *A Treatise Concerning Meditation*)

# Calvary Presbyterian Church

December 22, 2024



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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