

# CALVARY

*United Methodist Church*



*Good Friday — April 3, 2026*

Worshipping God Together

# WELCOME TO CALVARY

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## OUR WELCOME STATEMENT

Calvary United Methodist Church believes that all means all. We open our hearts, our minds and our doors to all our neighbors. We gladly invite into our shared life all persons who seek a community of support where they can grow in God's grace. Regardless of your race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, ability, relationship status or background—you are God's beloved, and you are welcome here.

## NEW TO CALVARY?

If you're new to Calvary, you're invited to visit the Welcome Areas to learn more about the church—pick up the monthly newsletter, and fill out a Get Connected card found in the pews. Large-print Bibles and hymnals are available upon request. Our monthly newsletter includes ministry updates, upcoming events, small group opportunities and a monthly calendar insert outlining all activities and gatherings.

## FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

Children are always welcome. A Family Area is available at the back left of the sanctuary, with rocking chairs and toys for your little ones.

## RESTROOMS (FROM THE FRONT EXITS OF THE SANCTUARY)

- To the right, then to the immediate right, there is an accessible restroom and a baby changing table
- To the right then stay to the right, go to the back of the chapel, there are women's and men's restrooms
- There are men's and women's restrooms on the left then down the stairs on the right, or an elevator is available by exiting the right side of the sanctuary and heading toward the back of the building

# THIS WEEK AT CALVARY

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## SUNDAY, APRIL 5 – EASTER SUNDAY

- **Easter Sunday Sunrise Service** | 7:00 AM | West End Overlook
- **Sunday Morning Cafe** | 9:30-11:00 AM | Chapel
- **Choir Rehearsal** | 10:00-10:30 AM | Choir Loft
- **Easter Celebration Service** | 11:00 AM | Calvary UMC
- **Communion** | During Church | Sanctuary
- **A Time for Fellowship** | Following Church | Chapel
- **AA (Alcoholics Anonymous)** | 8:00 PM | Fellowship Hall

## MONDAY, APRIL 6

- **Sleeping Bag Ministry** | 6:00 PM | Fellowship Hall

## TUESDAY, APRIL 7

- **Exercise Class for All Ages** | 9:00 AM | Chapel
- **Choir Rehearsal** | 6:00-7:00 PM | Choir Loft
- **NA (Narcotics Anonymous)** | 7:00-8:00 PM | Fellowship Hall
- **Hand Bell Rehearsal** | 7:00-8:00 PM | Music Office

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8

- **Iron City Squares** | 7:00-9:15 PM | Fellowship Hall

## THURSDAY, APRIL 9

- **Exercise Class for All Ages** | 9:00 AM | Chapel
- **Women's Bible Study** | 10:00-11:30 AM | Parlor

## SUNDAY, APRIL 12

- **Sunday Morning Cafe** | 9:30-11:00 AM | Chapel
- **Opening Gathering** | 9:45-10:00 AM | Chapel
- **Sunday School (K-3rd, 4th-6th)** | 10:00-10:30 AM | Fellowship Hall
- **Sunday School (7th-12th)** | 10:00-10:30 AM | Christian Education Office
- **Choir Rehearsal** | 10:00-10:30 AM | Choir Loft
- **A Time for Fellowship** | Following Church | Fellowship Hall
- **AA (Alcoholics Anonymous)** | 8:00 PM | Fellowship Hall



**PRELUDE** . . . . . "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast", Arr. Benton Price

## CHORAL INTROIT

## WELCOME ★

Welcome to our Tenebrae service this evening. The word "Tenebrae" means darkness in Latin, and this service of deepening darkness mirrors the darkness that came over the world at the crucifixion. As the service unfolds, candles will be extinguished as we remember the final hours of Jesus' life and the reality of his death.

**HYMN** †★. . . . . "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross" – #301 UMH

## A LITANY OF PRAISE †★

Leader: In the beginning, darkness covered the face of the deep. Then God said,

**People: "Let there be light."**

Leader: And there was light. And every day since, the light has come and gone.

**People: The sun has risen and set.**

Leader: The moon has waxed and waned.

**People: The light is still with us.**

Leader: In the beginning was the Word, which brought all things into being. What has come into being through him is life,

**People: the light of all people.**

Leader: The light shined in the darkness,

**People: and the darkness did not overtake it.**

Leader: When God made the light, when the light of all people came into the world, God did not send away the dark.

**People: The darkness remains.**

Leader: God created the night for dreams and clarity,

**People: an exhaling of the light.**

Leader: Let us enter this holy darkness to bear witness to the light of the world who was extinguished by violence.

**People: Let us worship our Incarnate God.**

**FIRST READING: ARREST** ★. . . . . Luke 22:47-53 NRSV

47 While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him,

48 but Jesus said to him, "Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?"

49 When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked, "Lord, should we strike with the sword?"

50 Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear.

- 51 But Jesus said, “No more of this!” And he touched his ear and healed him.
- 52 Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple police, and the elders who had come for him, “Have you come out with swords and clubs as though I were a rebel?”
- 53 When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour and the power of darkness!”

**ANTHEM.** . . . . . “Ah, Holy Jesus” – Renewal Choir

**SECOND READING: SENTENCING** \* . . . . . Luke 23:13-25 NRSV

- 13 Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people
- 14 and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people, and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him.
- 15 Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death.
- 16 I will therefore have him flogged and release him.”
- 18 Then they all shouted out together, “Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!”
- 19 (This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city and for murder.)
- 20 Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again,
- 21 but they kept shouting, “Crucify, crucify him!”
- 22 A third time he said to them, “Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him.”
- 23 But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified, and their voices prevailed.
- 24 So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted.
- 25 He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

**CALL TO CONFESSION** \*

In his book *What Will You Do with King Jesus?* James A. Harnish writes, “Is it possible that our world still knows better how to deal with a bandit, a murderer, and insurrectionist than it knows what to do with the Prince of Peace? ... Is it possible that we would rather deal with raw power that rides on a stallion than with this one who comes on a donkey, with the weapons of love, patience, suffering, and peace? Given the choice, isn't it possible that we would take Barabbas, too?”

Friends, the passion narrative invites us to place ourselves in the story, to examine our own complicity in cycles of violence. And the good news is, we don't have to do this alone. The God who made us knows our hearts, knows our flaws, and knows all our best intentions. We don't have to hide. There's no need to save face. Let us simply turn to God in prayer with our whole hearts.

*Continued on following page.*

† Please stand as you are able / \* Words on screen / Bold text is unison.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** ★

Leader: Holy God, we can easily see ourselves in any number of the people surrounding Jesus in his final days. We are Judas, betraying what we hold most dear for status, wealth, and security. We are the soldiers, using our power to maintain the status quo which serves us. We are the disciples, brandishing our weapons to fight violence with violence, and we are the high priest's servant, victims of a world hell-bent on winning.

**People: Prince of Peace, forgive us.**

Leader: We are Herod, finding our entertainment at the expense of other people's dignity. We are Pilate, excusing ourselves from the blame that is rightfully ours. We are the crowd, foaming at the mouth and demanding blood, and we are Barabbas, our lives spared while others are crucified.

**People: Prince of Peace, forgive us.**

Leader: Forgive us, we pray, for the parts we have played. Set us free from the sin that chokes the world, threatening to extinguish all that is good and beautiful. Break the cycles of violence, step into the machinery of a world fueled by division and disrupt us.

**People: Forgive us, Prince of Peace. Have mercy on us. Amen.**

**WORDS OF FORGIVENESS** ★

Family of faith, the impossibly good news is that we are forgiven. No matter what we have or haven't done, our God is always waiting with open arms to receive us.

**HYMN** ★ . . . . . "O Sacred Head Now Wounded" – #286 UMH

**THIRD READING: CRUCIFIXION** ★ . . . . . Luke 23:33-38 NRSV

- 33 When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left.
- 34 Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing.
- 35 And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!"
- 36 The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine
- 37 and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!"
- 38 There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

**MEDITATION** . . . . . "Tell Me Something Good on Good Friday"

**REFLECTING ON THE CROSS**

*You are invited to come and ad your strip of paper to the chain.  
If you have a gift to offer, please place it in the offering plate.*

**HYMN** ★ . . . . . "What Wonderous Love Is This" – #292 UMH

**FOURTH READING: DEATH** \* . . . . . Luke 23:44-46 NRSV

- 44 It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon,
- 45 while the sun's light failed, and the curtain of the temple was torn in two.
- 46 Then Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last.

**FINAL WORDS**

**HYMN** \* . . . . . "Were You There" – #288 UMH

**EXTINGUISHING THE LIGHT**

*When the final candle, the Christ candle, is extinguished, we will experience the utter darkness which fell upon the world with Christ's final breath. As the worship service comes to an end, we will depart in silence without a benediction, because until Easter Sunday, there is simply nothing more to say.*

**DEPARTING IN SILENCE**

† Please stand as you are able / \* Words on screen / Bold text is unison.

*You* ARE GOD'S BELOVED.  
*You* ARE WELCOME HERE.



## **CALVARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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## **SOCIAL MEDIA – BE PART OF OUR COMMUNITY. FOLLOW US!**

**Facebook:** [Calvary United Methodist Church, Pittsburgh](#)

**YouTube:** [Calvary UMC Pittsburgh PA](#)

**Instagram:** [calvaryumc\\_pittsburgh](#)

## **OFFICE HOURS**

**Monday:** 9:00 AM–Noon

**Tuesday:** 9:00 AM–3:00 PM

**Thursday:** 9:00 AM–3:00 PM

## **PASTOR**

**Rev. Beth L. Nelson** (412-398-7894 / [revbeth@calvarypgh.com](mailto:revbeth@calvarypgh.com))

## **CHURCH STAFF**

**Music Ministry:** Brian Burns

**Office Administrator:** Mary Emili

**Family Ministry & Education:** Megan Bova

**Communications:** Karen Ferguson

**Lay Leader:** Ken Elliott

**Treasurer:** Georgia Brucker

**Assistant Facilities Manager:** Susan Derouin

**Facilities Manager/Wedding Coordinator:** Aleata Weis

**Queer Ministry Coordinator:** Tim Napieralski

**Social Media Coordinator:** Judith Melvin

**Worship Tech Coordinator:** Aiden Weis

**Food Ministry Coordinator:** Michael Schnitgen

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OUR MINISTRIES**

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to give. Thank you!

