



The shiny additions to our Advent and Christmas visuals remind us we are called to reflect the sacred each and every day. “Incarnation” is a word meaning God’s presence came to dwell among all people, and we believe this happened in a special way in the birth of Jesus. All creation has always been imbued with the Creator’s brilliance. This season, we will remember the call to shine with this holy light.

GATHERING

Prelude

“The Holly and the Ivy”

Traditional English Carol, Arranged by Joseph M. Martin

Dr. Adela Peeva, piano

Welcome and announcements

*Passing the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Advent Song

TFWS# 2090

Stanza 3

**Light the Advent candle, three:
Think of heavenly harmony,
angels singing “Peace on earth,
at the blessed Savior’s birth.”**

**Candle, candle, burning bright,
shining in the cold winter night;
candle, candle, burning bright,
fill our hearts with Christmas light.**

Lighting the Advent Candles: JOY

The candles are lit this morning by members of the Friendly Circle Class.

*Call to Worship

We pray for JOY this day.

We open our eyes to see the Sacred reflected in all things.

We open to see each place as a gift of holy presence.

This is the gift of the Christ Mystery, lighting the way to joy.

*Hymn

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

UMH #230

Opening Prayer

Eternal Creator, with you each moment of life is full of wonder and surprise. We pray you make us watchful as we wait for the coming of Christ. Grant that we may not be found sleeping in sin, but awake and rejoicing in the newness of life you bring. We pray in the name of Emmanuel – God with us. Amen.

PROCLAIMING

Gospel Lesson

Luke 1: 46b-55

Cindy Mills

Anthem

“Prepare the Way”

Text adapted from Isaiah 40:3-5, Music by John Purifoy
Sanctuary Choir, Joyce Summers, pianist

*Gospel Lesson

Matthew 11: 2-11

Cindy Mills

*Response

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Time With the Children

Following the Time with the Children, all children in K-3rd grade are invited to Children's Church either in the Chapel or in the Nursery for the remainder of the worship service. Parents are asked to walk their children to the narthex/lobby, where they will find the children's church leader.

*Hymn

“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”

TFWS # 2171

Sermon

Sacred Space (Joy)

Rev. Steve Larsen

RESPONDING

Time for Reflection and Commitment

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory Toccatina on “Joy to the World” setting by Brenda Portman

When we pass the offering plate in the worship service, we link our giving with other ways we worship God.

Checks can also be sent to the church office at 131 West 2nd St, Frederick, MD 21701.

Online payments can be made easily and securely by going to www.Calvaryumc.org/give/. (See QR code on the back of this bulletin) You can make a one-time gift or set up ongoing electronic payments.

Please use this time to register your attendance here today in the red folders found in the pews.

*Doxology

UMH #211

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

*Prayer of Dedication

GOING FORTH

*Hymn

“Joy to the World”

UMH #246

*Dismissal with Blessing

When you see lights twinkle,
when you catch a reflection in a mirror,
when you notice the sunlight dancing on a surface
or a nightlight glowing in the darkness,
let these be signs that the Christ Light is revealed
again and again in and through this world.

Know that your brilliant presence
is pouring more joy into a weary world.
God loved us by becoming us.
This means you are already reflecting the sacred.

In the name of the Creator, Christ, and Spirit of Joy.

Amen.

*Postlude

“Tambourine”

by Brenda Portman

*Going Forth

The worship service materials today and throughout this month are adapted from a series called “Reflecting the Sacred” from Worship Design Studio. www.worshipdesignstudio.com/sacred.

Eleanor Bowersox will turn 95 on December 21; if you would like to send her a birthday greeting, please mail it to Eleanor Bowersox, 1910 Rosemont Ave. #227, Frederick, Maryland 21701.

Ushers: Dave Mills, Fran Haller, Paul Nelson, Susan Baggette, Mitch Reading

Altar flowers are in loving memory of our grandparents, the Sasscers, the Gaeta’s, the Tharp’s and the Grove’s. By Mike, Melissa, Xavier and Cooper Gaeta

Altar Flowers: If you are interested in being a flower sponsor, please sign up by calling the church office or at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080d4faaa72fa75-altar1> to sign up for altar flowers, pulpit, or communion table. Many dates are available.

Become an usher, help pass the offering plate, communion, distribute bulletins and direct seating, if interested sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080d4faaa72fa75-monthly> or see Dave Mills at dacmills78@gmail.com

Acolytes Needed! Calvary is seeking youth members (ages 8 and up) to serve as acolytes during Sunday morning worship. If your child may be interested, please contact Stefanie Harris at 301-639-7376 or jujubee820@yahoo.com for more information and training.

The Church Nursery is open for children up to 5 years of age. Look for our **Children's Worship Bags** in the narthex, filled with activities to keep little hands busy during worship!

Our **Nursery** policies and procedures require two adults over the age of 18 be always present when our nursery is in use. We just need a second adult to be on our rotating schedule. Contact Cathleen Gough, in the nursery on Sunday mornings.

Children’s Church is for ages 5 - 3rd grade and meets either in the Chapel or in the Nursery during our worship service, immediately following our *Time with The Children.* We are in need of adult volunteers to be in the Chapel from 10:15 a.m.-11:00 a.m. on a rotating basis for Children’s Church. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Amy Stone.

AmyStone@calvaryumc.org or sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0949acad2fabfbc61-childrens>

Our Women's Ministry Gratitude Group on Facebook is another place you can join us. We share daily gratitude and joys, daily prayer requests, and share inspirational messages. All are welcome. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/783900735353923/>

We need hosts for our **2023 Coffee and Donut time** in the Parish Hall on Sunday mornings. To sign up go to: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080d4faaa72fa75-coffee2> and chose a date.

Contact Margie Wilde at skywilde@comcast.net for more information, or contact the Church office.



Use this code to learn how to give online, or visit <https://calvaryumc.org/give/>

Please help our community's homeless youth: Homeless for the Holidays!

From mid-November through December, Calvary is collaborating with SHIP of Frederick (Student Homelessness Initiative Partnership), by collecting *personal hygiene articles* for middle and high school age youth who do not have permanent homes. Toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorants and shaving items for boys and girls, shampoo, hairbrushes, feminine hygiene products, and soaps are examples of the types of items needed. For a complete list of needed items, see:


<https://shipfrederick.com/events/homeless-for-the-holidays>

In Parish Hall by the coat racks, each Sunday from November 13 through December, there will be a box decorated with Christmas wrappings and marked HOMELESS-FOR-THE-HOLIDAYS. At this time of year when we give thanks for the many blessings bestowed upon us through God's grace, and prepare our hearts spiritually for the birth of Jesus, let us be generous in helping our community's youth in need. If in addition to or in lieu of giving the items above you wish to make a financial contribution to SHIP of Frederick, you may do so through that organization's website or the offering plate in our church narthex, with a check made out to Calvary UMC noting SHIP in the lower left memo line.



Christmas Eve
5:00 p.m.
Family Service
7:00 p.m.
Candlelight and Communion
9:00 p.m.
Candlelight and Communion

Christmas Day
10:00 a.m. Service


131 West Second Street
Frederick, MD 21701
calvaryumc.org • 301-662-1464

Tour of Churches - 4 - 8 p.m. Monday, December 26! We are looking for volunteers - sign-up sheets can be found at the Welcome Center in the Parish Hall.

Prayer Concerns:

Members of Calvary: Nancy Huffman, Lou Finneyfrock, Todd Main, Shauna Main, Anna Stroh, Donna Loeb, Scott English, Bruce Caruthers, Betty Brewer, Rita Sharpe, Nancy Dobbs, Beth Richards, JoAn Ehlers, Steve Ehlers, Ann Crum, Nancy Crum, Fannie Johnson, Judy Allen, Lois Pacheco, Kitty and Nathan Robinson, Charlotte Elliott, Leo Giambarresi, Lynn Schumacher, Jack Heller, Art Fennington, Nancy Crum, Becky Acklin

Friends of Calvary: Marie Smith (Friend of Susan Baggette), Jerry Black (Son-in-law of Betsy Bryant), Allan Huffman (Son of Nancy Huffman), Brian Jones (Friend of the Linda and Scott English), Bev Hitchins (Friend of Paul Nelson), Erik Karl (Son of Cathy Karl), Janet Stone (Mother of Jeff Stone), Barbara Crutchley (Friend of Jan Cline), Hope Patterson and Cathy Short (Sisters of Charlotte Pasquerette), Ken Kessel (Brother of Susan Baggette), Audrey Cash (Friend of Helen Sheppard), Vivian Warner (Mother of Jan Cline), Kitty Cooley (Sister of Connie Scoggins), Ellie (Friend of Gloria Orrison), Suzanne Simpson and Adam Shake (Sister & brother-in-law to Christy Mossburg), John and Lynn Mills (Friends of Charles Geisbert) Linda Horinie Henke (Niece of Charles Geisbert), Lillian Mingola (Mother of Maria Calcagni), Wendy Koch (Niece of Helen Sheppard), Gay Ann Mazac (Niece of Steve and JoAn Ehlers), Alice Woodward, sister, Jeremy Winn, nephew, Louise Bricto, cousin of Rita Sharpe, Virginia Painter Floyd, Tracy Sizemore, Jamie Marable and daughter Cheryl, Anne Hovis and Bob Ray, friends of Rita Sharp

This Week at Calvary- December 11 ~ December 18

Today, December 11

9:00 a.m. Children's Christmas Pageant
10:00 a.m. Worship
11:15 a.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal
5:30 p.m. Youth Group

Tuesday, December 13

6:00 p.m. AGAPE
6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise Bells
7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Wednesday, December 14

6:30 p.m. Men's Bible Study

Next Sunday, December, 18

9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Worship
11:15 a.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal
5:30 p.m. Youth Group Christmas Party

CALVARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

131 West Second Street, Frederick, Maryland 21701

301-662-1464 • www.calvaryumc.org

Calvary United Methodist Church seeks and invites all to become disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of our community and our world.

Church Staff

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Joyce Summers, pianist

Calvary Weekday School

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