



*The shiny additions to our Advent and Christmas visuals remind us that we are called to reflect the sacred each and every day. “Incarnation” is a word that means that 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

“Hallelujah”

Leonard Cohen, arr. by Stephen Desare  
 Agape - Lainey Davy and Donna Coakley, soloists  
 Brad Davy, Bob Summers, Dr. Ray Moreland  
 Bob Abbott, guitarists, Joyce Summers, pianist

Welcome and announcements

\*Passing the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

\*Advent Song (Stanza 2)

TFWS # 2090

**Light the Advent candle, two:  
 Think of humble shepherds, who  
 filled with wonder at the sight,  
 of the child of Christmas night.**

Refrain:

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

\*Lighting the Advent Candles (LOVE)

*The candles are lit this morning by the Mission Team.*

\*Call to Worship (read responsively)

We pray for Love this day.

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

We open our hearts to see each person as a gift of holy presence.

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

\*Hymn

“People, Look East”

UMH #202

Opening Prayer (said together)

**Merciful God, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach  
repentance and prepare the way for our salvation. Give us grace to heed  
their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming  
of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy  
Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

### PROCLAIMING

Time With the Children

*Following the Time with the Children, all children in K-3<sup>rd</sup> 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 narthex/lobby where they will find the children's church leader.*

\*Gospel Lesson

Matthew 3: 1-12

Bonnie Strine

\*Response

The word of God for the people of God.

**THANKS BE TO GOD.**

\*Hymn

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

UMH #206

Sermon

Sacred People (Love)

Rev. Steve Larsen

## RESPONDING

Time for Reflection and Commitment

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory "Come, Emmanuel" Don Besig and Nancy Price  
Sanctuary Choir, Joyce Summers, pianist

*When we pass the offering plate in the worship service we are linking our giving with other ways we worship God.*

*Checks can also be sent to the church office at 131 West 2<sup>nd</sup> St, Frederick, MD 21701. Online payments can be made easily and securely by going to [www.Calvaryumc.org/give/](http://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.**

## THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

\*The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

...and so, with you people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**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.**

...and so in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ... as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

...all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

**Amen**

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever.**

**Amen**

Sharing at the Lord's Table

*All are welcome to receive Holy Communion in this service of worship. Those wishing to receive should follow the direction of the ushers. The server will hand each person a piece of bread. The bread is to be dipped in the cup of juice and then eaten. Individual juice cups and bread are also available on the tables near the front if you prefer to use these instead. There is also a gluten free option for those who need it. If you need to be served where you are seated, please speak with the usher and a server will come to you.*

### GOING FORTH

\*Hymn

“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”

UMH #218

\*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 love 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 Love.

**Amen.**

\*Postlude

“In Dulci Jubilo”

J. S. Bach

## \*Going Forth

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Material for the worship service today and throughout this month are adapted from a series called "Reflecting the Sacred" from Worship Design Studio. [www.worshipdesignstudio.com/sacred](http://www.worshipdesignstudio.com/sacred).

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

**Altar flowers** – Thanking God for 51 years of marriage. Mike and Becky Isaacs

**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](mailto:dacmills78@gmail.com)

**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.

**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](mailto: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 - 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 at [AmyStone@calvaryumc.org](mailto:AmyStone@calvaryumc.org)

**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](mailto: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.

**Kris Kringle Procession** will be held Friday, December 9 at 6:30 p.m. Cookies and hot cocas will be served in the Parish Hall to follow the procession. All are welcome to join in the procession! We will meet on South Carroll Street, with line-up starting at 5:30 p.m. We will parade through downtown Fredercik, ending at Baker Part around 7:15 p.m. Please join us in the Parish Hall afterwards to enjoy some cookies and hot cocoa! Contact Amy Stone at [AmyStone@calvaryumc.org](mailto:AmyStone@calvaryumc.org) for more information.



### **Saturday, December 10, 10 a.m.-noon**

Children's Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal in the Parish Hall.

### **Sunday, December 11, 9:00 a.m.**

**Annual Children's Sunday School Christmas Pageant**

Seating is available in the Parish Hall

## **Bake A Batch is BACK!**

We are pleased to announce after a two-year hiatus, our beloved Bake-A-Batch fundraiser for Jenn Esler is back. Jenn is a Calvary member and served as the Nursery Director before being diagnosed with a brain tumor years ago. Following surgery, she had extensive rehabilitation to improve her quality of life. Proceeds from Bake A Batch serve to help Jenn in her rehab and to remind her that she is not forgotten by her Calvary family. All cookie donations can be dropped off in the kitchen or church office on Friday, December 9 or the parish hall by 9:00 a.m Saturday, December 10.

Cookie trays will be available for purchase Sunday, December 11.

Baking cookies is a great activity to do with your children or grandchildren and for a great cause. All homemade cookies whether family favorites or holiday classics are welcomed. So get those mixers moving!!

Any questions, please contact Julie Schwarzenberg at 240-626-7666.

**Tour of Churches on December 26<sup>th</sup>** from 4:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m., 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, Sharon Cole, Rev. Harry Cole, Becky Acklin

**Friends of Calvary:** 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 Bricco, 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 4 ~ December 11**

Today, Sunday, December 4

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

Tuesday, December 6

10:00 a.m. Pastor's Bible Study  
1:30 p.m. UMW Ex. Committee  
6:00 p.m. AGAPE  
6:30 p.m. Joyful Noise Bells  
7:30 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 7

Calvary Blood Drive  
8:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.  
6:30 p.m. Men's Bible Study

Friday, December 9

6:30 p.m. Kris Kringle Parade

Saturday, December 10

7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast  
9:00 a.m. Bake A Batch  
10:00 a.m. Pageant Dress Rehearsal

Next Sunday, December 11

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



## **CALVARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

131 West Second Street, Frederick, Maryland 21701

301-662-1464 • [www.calvaryumc.org](http://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**

Rev. Dr. Steve Larsen, Lead Pastor  
[revsteve@calvaryumc.org](mailto:revsteve@calvaryumc.org) or 301-848-8216

Rev. Ken Humbert, Visitation Pastor  
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Dr. Adela Peeva, Director of Music Ministries  
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Joyce Summers, pianist

### **Calvary Weekday School**

133 West Second Street, Frederick MD 21701

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