

Calvary United Methodist Church

Sunday, March 14, 2021; 10:15 am

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Dee Freeman

Call To Worship

Enable Us To Behold You

Gracious God, so often we have missed your presence
because we are looking for you clothed in a particular way.
Let this time of worship be an encounter with you that will enable us
to behold you in all the people we meet and all the situations we greet.
You are from everlasting to everlasting,
so we are confident that you are here;
help us to be aware of your holy presence. O Lord,
enrich this act of worship with the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray in
Jesus' name. Amen.¹

Invocation of the Spirit

First Testament Lesson

Psalm 107:1-3,17-22

“O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those he redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.”

“Some were sick through their sinful ways, and because of their iniquities endured affliction; they loathed any kind of food, and they drew near to the gates of death. Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress; he sent out his word and healed them, and delivered them from destruction. Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind. And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices, and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.” (NRSV)

Declaration of Praises

Sharing of Prayer Concerns

Prayer Time

¹ T. Anne Daniel, *The Africana Worship Book for Year B*, Discipleship Resources, 2007, p. 130.

Lenten Reading

Leader: We have added to the cross today the mocking sign that hung above the head of our Lord, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." This sign forever symbolizes our spiritual deadness. In our disobedience and death we mock a Kingdom we do not want---while through His death the Ruler of that Kingdom offers us life.

People: Lord Jesus, deliver us from our spiritual deadness. We do not know what it means to live the life of Your Kingdom, to walk in step with Your Spirit. Help us say "no" to our desire for earthly kingdoms. Help us say "yes" to the cross.

Leader: The sign was meant to mock a "king" whose life ended, absurdly, on a cross. Instead, it signifies our inability---or unwillingness---to believe in a Messiah who suffers, because we want a Messiah who conquers.

People: Lord Jesus, in our desire for power and prestige we miss out on Your coming Kingdom. We think being seated with You means having positions of power. Help us say "no" to our passion for earthly success. Help us say "yes" to the cross.

Leader: With this sign we passed judgment upon God's nature as revealed in Christ. But the sign actually reveals our true nature as children of wrath.

People: Lord Jesus, Your cross exposes all the ways we are not like You. We confess the difference between Your life and ours. Help us say "no" to our self-confident boastings. Help say "yes" to the cross.

Leader: Let us pray together...

All: Almighty God, Your cross reveals our true nature. We look at Your Son, and we look at ourselves, and we confess the great difference. Deliver us from our selves; we admit our helplessness apart from Your grace. Thank You for Your kindness, for the riches of Your grace to us in Christ. Create us anew in Christ Jesus for the way of life You have prepared for us. Make us like Your Son, we pray. Amen.²

² <http://www.crivoice.org/lentliturgyYearB.html>

Scripture Lesson

Psalm 85

“Lord, you poured out blessings on your land! You restored the fortunes of Israel. You forgave the guilt of your people— yes, you covered all their sins. Interlude You held back your fury. You kept back your blazing anger. Now restore us again, O God of our salvation. Put aside your anger against us once more. Will you be angry with us always? Will you prolong your wrath to all generations? Won’t you revive us again, so your people can rejoice in you? Show us your unfailing love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation. I listen carefully to what God the Lord is saying, for he speaks peace to his faithful people. But let them not return to their foolish ways. Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him, so our land will be filled with his glory. Unfailing love and truth have met together. Righteousness and peace have kissed! Truth springs up from the earth, and righteousness smiles down from heaven. Yes, the Lord pours down his blessings. Our land will yield its bountiful harvest. Righteousness goes as a herald before him, preparing the way for his steps.” (NLT)

Sermon

Rev. Matthew Williams

Shalom To You: Harmony in Relationships

Closing Hymn

Shalom To You

Benediction

Postlude

Dee Freeman

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Shalom to You

Unison D Em A7 D

Sha - lom to you now, sha - lom, my friends.

Bm Em A7 D

May God's full mer - cies bless you, my friends.

G Em A F#m

In all your liv - ing and through your lov - ing,

Bm Em A7 D

Christ be your sha - lom, Christ be your sha - lom.

Detailed description: This is a musical score for a unison song. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The key signature is D major (one sharp) and the time signature is 4/4. The first system has a vocal line starting with a quarter rest, followed by 'Sha - lom to you now, sha - lom, my friends.' The second system continues with 'May God's full mer - cies bless you, my friends.' The third system continues with 'In all your liv - ing and through your lov - ing,'. The fourth system concludes with 'Christ be your sha - lom, Christ be your sha - lom.' Chord symbols are placed above the vocal lines: D, Em, A7, D in the first system; Bm, Em, A7, D in the second; G, Em, A, F#m in the third; and Bm, Em, A7, D in the fourth. The word 'Unison' is written above the first system.

WORDS: Elise S. Eslinger, 1980

MUSIC: Anon.; harm. by Carlton R. Young, 1989

SOMOS DEL SEÑOR
Irr.

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Announcements

- **CONGRATULATIONS** to Pastor Matt who has been recommended for ordination by the Board of Ordained Ministry. Prayers answered!
- Please take the bulletin(s) that you have touched home with you.
- **Congregational Meeting Scheduled**
An in-person, informational meeting will be held at 6:30pm, Thursday, March 18, in our sanctuary. This meeting will be a time for you to ask questions of the merger team and to share your opinions and thoughts on the process. We will be collecting feedback to understand where you sense God is calling the congregation at this time. There will **NOT** be any official action taken at the meeting.
- **West End Food Pantry Donations**
During Lent this year, we will be collecting non-perishable food items for our local food bank. A collection box is at the Bheam Ave. entrance.
- **Camp Allegheny Shoe Drive**
We can support Camp Allegheny by donating *gently worn*, used or new shoes! Clean out your closets – Kid's, Women's, Men's, any size, any color! From slippers, flip flops and tennis shoes – to high heels, snow boots and cleats. Help put shoes on feet around the world! Drop them off at the Bheam Ave. door. Deadline will be March 28.
- **Just My Smile Donations**
Just My Smile is a new nonprofit operating in our County. Their mission is to ensure that every family with a newborn is offered support and resources in the crucial first year of life. They are seeking donations such as diapers, bottles, pacifiers, formula, blankets, onesies, socks, booties, teething, rattles, ointment, baby shampoo, etc. A more complete list is attached to the donation box at the Bheam Ave. entrance.
- **Feed the Need**
Johnstown Christian School is partnering with an organization to provide meal kits to families in need. JCS students will be taking a day to pack these meal kits as a mission opportunity. If you would like to financially support this mission project, envelopes are available in front of the sanctuary.

