

“The Gifts of God for the People of God”

We hear these words whenever we gather for Eucharist, the celebration of Holy Communion that is at the heart of our common identity as Christians, as Episcopalians, and as members of Calvary Church. They are a reminder, each time we take part in that act of worship of Almighty God, that we are indeed called to be God’s people, within these walls and out in the world, and are given gifts to sustain us in that ministry.

And what gifts they are! Most especially, they are the gift of God’s very Self, made present in the “hour of banquet and of song” that is our common prayer. But, along with those sacramental gifts given alike to all, are the individual gifts God bestows upon each of us through our diverse natures – gifts of genetics, of formation, and of individual commitment. It is from these individual gifts that we are invited to give back to God, the source of them all.

The prophet Isaiah (11:2) enumerates the gifts of the Spirit as *wisdom, understanding, counsel, knowledge, fortitude, piety,* and the *fear of the Lord*. These gifts sometimes express themselves as a stirring of the Spirit within us, calling us to prayer and service. And they can also express themselves, no less at the prompting of the Spirit, in acts of mercy, loving-kindness, and generosity. These are the outward signs of God’s work within us.

These manifestations are all around us at Calvary Church. They range from the heritage of generosity embodied in our building and grounds to the open-handed welcome offered to friend and stranger as they come among us. They embrace the pastoral care offered by our clergy and laity, our outreach ministries in the community that engage the time and treasure of our members, and the various liturgical and musical ministries that make our worship what it is.

In the next year the generous spirit of Calvary Church will overflow into the lives of those around us. We are inspired by our gratitude for all the gifts entrusted to us, by our deep love of God in Christ, and by Christ’s mandate to love our neighbors as ourselves. Your response to God by giving to Calvary is essential to the realization of our vision. We thank you for all that you offer, and all that you do, as we seek together to welcome new people to join us in our journey, to care for members, to deepen our personal and corporate spiritual lives in Christ, and to live out our faith serving Christ in our neighbors in Pittsburgh and the world. We invite you to join us as we make a financial pledge to support our common work and mission at Calvary Church in 2017.



The Rev. Jonathon Jensen, Rector



The Rev. T.J. Freeman, Associate Rector



The Rev. Leslie Reimer, Associate Rector



Dr. Alan Lewis, Director of Music

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