

APRIL 16, 2023

The angel rolled away the stone and sat on it

Sermon Preached by
The Reverend Jonathon W. Jensen, Rector
on Easter Day, Year A, April 9, 2023

Matthew 28:1-10

And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it.

Why did the angel roll away the stone and sit on it? I have never noticed that detail before. Why did the angel sit on the stone, the rounded boulder that had sealed the tomb of Jesus? The detail is a stumbling block that cries out... "notice me, pay attention to what is right in front of you!"

Any good story needs enough details to create depth and variety but not so many to make it muddled and lose the meaning. I started pondering and praying, reading and researching.

Why was that detail present? It turns out there are no standard interpretations, only some ideas on the web that would make a conspiracy theorist blush.

So, I thought... how would my friends Rabbi Bisno and Rabbi Myers approach this? Jesus was a rabbi after all and the story emerged in that tradition. Play with it.

First thought: The stone was like the vault door to the tomb. It was marked with Caesar's seal... like a police crime-scene tape reading "Do Not Cross." Remove this on penalty of death.

The seal was broken, however, by a promise of new life. It was a sign the greatest human empire, the one that condemned and killed Jesus, had no real power over him. The angel was sitting on the broken seal with yellow caution tape flapping in the spring breeze.

Second thought: In a similar way, the empty tomb and stone door symbolized God's power over sin and death in the resurrection of Jesus. The angel was seated triumphantly on top of the stone, the broken seal of the greatest human power of Rome. It was also the broken seal of the sting of sin, the dominion of evil, and finality of death that had all been conquered.

Third thought: Maybe the angel needed a little lie down, a rest, after descending from Heaven and rolling away the giant boulder. Rolling away stones is hard but good work if you can get it.

Angels are ambassadors of God and are a category all their own, neither male nor female and immortal, that seem to inspire fear each time they arrive with earthquakes and lightning.

They are still recognizable and able to communicate.

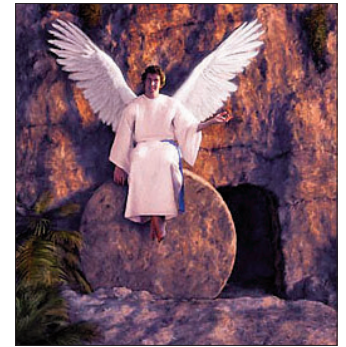
Usually the first thing they say is, "Do not be afraid." Maybe the angel simply sat down to appear more approachable... like you would kneel to get down to a child's level.

Crazy thought: All I said before is true but one more. I imagine the angel sitting cross-legged on the stone serenely with wings folded underneath. She looks into the tomb where death was. There is nothing to see there but some empty wrapping paper labeled fear and injustice, division and despair, sin and death that lie crumpled and tossed aside.

The scene of the tomb fades away as she turns her gaze to focus out to the world. Life is always found wherever the resurrected Jesus is. I can imagine her thinking what all this means for the Creation...

This was not only a metaphorical resurrection but a physical one. Why has the Church always insisted on this? The entire Creation matters to God and is being redeemed through the Resurrection of Jesus. Plants, animals, people, quarks, stars, and galaxies. All matter and energy are redeemed and transformed in the divine vision for Creation... called the Kingdom of Heaven. The Resurrection is the announcement, the earth-shaking, heaven-opening proclamation, this vision is being realized in our midst.

The angel ponders all this, pulls out an apple... we'll assume she's got a pocket somewhere... polishes it on a billowy sleeve and takes a big bite. The angel has her eyes opened and recognizes all human history, starting with Adam and Eve in the Garden, has suddenly and irrevocably been transformed... brought full circle, complete, redeemed.



—continued on page 2

Angel, continued from page 1

Adam and Eve, in the Garden, ate the apple from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and their eyes were opened to know the difference. The communion, the seal between Creation and God, had become severed by their actions... by choosing their own way rather than God's that has been repeated by every person for all human history. Death... in all its forms... ruled in the world. Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden.

With God's Resurrection of Jesus, the Garden begins to be restored. The Tree of Crucifixion and cross of death had become the Tree of Life, healing for all nations (Revelation 22). The angel waited to tell those who would arrive looking for Jesus that death no longer held us captive.

The angel realized her small but significant part in the story in rolling away the stone as she sat atop it and enjoyed the apple from the Tree of Life.

What is your role in the story? A few weeks ago, a young man visited the church and asked to see a priest. He was covered in a long dun coat, hood up, and wore a red bandana across his forehead. A striking shock of curled, raven hair swirled between the bandana and hood conjuring an image of a rooster in a Pittsburgh winter.

His voice was young but his face was lined and leathery from hard work outdoors. He could have passed for Caucasian, Black, Latino, or Native. He was everyone all at once. His name is Christian. He needed someone to hear his story, to recognize him. Christian told me where he was from, about his family and work and challenges, and his true calling to be an artist. His chosen medium was rap and hip hop.

Christian played samples of famous musicians who dedicated songs to him and told me of many more. Over time, the realization dawned that he did not know any of these people personally. He said they were his angels who pointed him in the right direction and gave him hope because he lacked friends.

My heart was heavy, and then he delivered some more truth. He said, with a look of desperation, "I feel like Harry Potter wearing a cloak of invisibility all the time. I can never take it off! People don't see me. Everyone looks past me, through me. Notice me, pay attention to what is right in front of you... or I don't exist."

Silence, at that moment, seemed like the only reasonable response to his revelation. Looking for evidence to prove to him he did, in fact, exist, I asked what albums he had recorded. "None," was the reply. Any songs? No. Have you produced or played on any tracks? No. Have you ever written a song? No, not one.

Let me tell you what I said in response before what the experience made me consider. Christian, I said, if you are an artist you are called to create; that is who you are. Artists make art. Write an album about who you are, where you are

from, what you are afraid of, and what gives you hope. You only need three chords and the truth. Tell your story. I will be your first audience or witness. Because it's Pittsburgh, I happen to know someone with a recording studio.

He seemed more satisfied with that answer than I was. Christian stood up, shook my hand looking me in the eye, and walked away. At least someone had recognized him as he wanted to be seen on that day. He was an artist or would become one. The encounter stuck with me, like a recording on repeat in the back of your head. For a while, I wondered what I could have said to be more helpful. How could I have rolled back the stone for him?

Something he said kept bothering me. He thought of himself as an artist. Fine. Adults can identify however they want. But... he had never recorded, played, sang, produced, or written a single song let alone an album. Are you an artist if you have never created any art? Are you still an artist if you have not created any art for a long time? Are you still an artist if you do not cultivate an artistic life?

Here is the rub. Are you a Christian if you never "Do Christian" or practice it? Do you cultivate an intentional life and start again when you mess up? Technically, if one is baptized in our tradition that makes you a Christian. But that feels a lot like me saying in fifth grade I doodled once and made a papier mache volcano so I am both an artist and a scientist. My mom might think so but no one else will. The point of this is not to judge other people but to evaluate, honestly, my own life. Christian is becoming an artist like you and I are becoming Christians, through practice, by doing it... more art than science... and we all need help.

What does it mean to be a Christian? Quite simply, it is to embrace the resurrected life of Jesus that love wins, hope abounds, and nothing, not even death, shall separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. God's heaven is bursting into this world through that event.

Why did the angel roll away the stone and sit on it? Because that was her mission... to embrace resurrection life and share it. The mission was not complete until the angel told two witnesses about the resurrection so they might experience it for themselves and share it with others. So she sat and waited. Artists make art. Angels deliver messages. Christians practice resurrection.

We don't have to save the world; Jesus has already done that. Your small but significant part in the story is rolling away the stones first for yourself to practice resurrection life. You don't have to be afraid of anything when you live that way. And then to pay attention for what and who is right in front of us. Point them in the right direction. Roll away the stone for those mired in despair, for those who feel invisible, for those facing injustice or grief. For those without hope, point to resurrection life that is not found in the tomb but out there, and in here, wherever you meet Jesus. ■

Through the Desert to Resurrection: A Pilgrim Story

by Florence Atwood

Recently, I returned from a pilgrimage to the Holy Land led by the Rev. Noah Evans from St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon and Canon Iyad Qumri of Qumri Pilgrimages, a family owned business that has guided Christian pilgrimages for 25 years. Our group of 27 included Episcopalians, Methodists, Presbyterians, Roman Catholics and Congregationalists. We spent 11 days visiting sites in Jerusalem, the West Bank, Nazareth and the Sea of Galilee. It was an amazing and transformational experience.

Before I left, friends and family asked me 2 questions: Why are you going on a pilgrimage? What is the difference between being a pilgrim and a tourist? The second question is easier to answer. A tourist is a person who travels for the experience of seeing different places and returns home, perhaps more educated, but essentially the same. Whereas a pilgrim is on a sacred journey to seek a deeper understanding of one's self and one's faith. The pilgrim returns home changed by the impression that the experience has imprinted on their soul.

As to the first question, I found that my life had become cluttered, not just with the material belongings that accumulate, but also with busyness. To get away and develop a closer relationship with God through following the steps of Jesus appealed to the part of me that seemed to be missing the point of being in this world. To be able to do this within a community of other searching Christians was invaluable. The preparation we underwent as a group helped us all to find out why we were seeking this experience. However, most of us found during our pilgrimage that those reasons shifted.

One of the first questions Noah posed was which approach to Jesus Christ appeals to you: the "Jesus of History" or the "Christ of Faith"? Many of us expressed the desire to walk in Christ's footsteps or as St. Thomas would say "to place our fingers in the wounds so that we might believe" more fully, the Jesus of History approach. As our travels progressed, we heard each other saying, it doesn't matter if an event took place here or over there, what matters is that it happened and how what happened deepens our faith, the Christ of Faith approach.

One of the most influential aspects of our journey was the land itself. Seeing the Judean desert, the Jordan River valley, the Sea of Galilee, the highlands of Samaria, the hills and valleys of Jerusalem and the surrounding area provided a vivid backdrop to our scriptural readings. Looking up at the caves on the Mount of Temptation, walking into a Second Temple period home in Bethlehem, feeling the water of the Jordan splash across your face as we renewed our Baptismal vows, standing in The Pit where Jesus was held after his

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Our group meeting with Archbishop Hosam Naoum



Our group in front of the Cathedral of St. George's where we stayed at the Pilgrim Guest House



Charlie and I from the Mount of Olives with the Old City in the background.

scourging and walking along the streets of the Old City, the Via Dolorosa, the path Jesus took to his crucifixion, all touch your soul in a way difficult for words to describe.

One such experience took place on our visit to Capernaum, on the Sea of Galilee, where Peter lived and was called to become the first disciple. We had rain off and on during our day at the Sea of Galilee. When we got off the bus to visit the ruins of Peter's home, heavy rain pelted us and the wind gusted up to 40 mph. Loud waves crashed against the shoreline. In my mind, I could see the fear on the faces of the men in the small fishing boat, hear their disbelief that anyone could sleep through that storm and appreciate their amazement when Jesus woke and calmed the storm. I will never hear that passage from scripture in the same way again.

I would be remiss not to mention the tension that we observed between the political state of Israel and the Palestinian peoples. From discussions led by a Palestinian Christian, a Palestinian Muslim, an Israeli Jew and the Archbishop of Jerusalem and the Middle East, we gained a deeper understanding of the concerns for security, debates over land rights, and oppression of individual rights which are keeping all the peoples of the region on edge. The number of Christians that live in the Holy Land is dwindling. We visited Taybeh, the only 100% Christian town remaining in the West Bank and Israel. The Christian population of Jesus' home town, Nazareth, has dropped to 30%, and Bethlehem, now a walled city, has dipped from 86% Christian in 1950 to just 12% in 2016. The peoples of the three Abrahamic faiths must find a way forward. Please pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

Would I recommend a pilgrimage to the Holy Land? Yes, if you are open to having your sense of self and your faith

challenged, you should go. Praying and worshipping with others in the places we have only read about in the scriptures will change you in ways you will not expect and form close knit bonds with your fellow pilgrims as you seek Christ in his earthly home. ■



Calvary Pilgrimage to Israel

The opportunity to walk through the Old City of Jerusalem and in the Galilean footsteps of our Biblical heroes, to stand in Nazareth where Jesus' arrival was foretold, to fall to one's knees in Bethlehem where Jesus was born, to pray where the disciples encountered Jesus' teachings and miracles (in the Upper Room, at Gethsemane, on the Road to Jericho) is for many a once-in-a-lifetime, life-changing experience! Now the opportunity to travel to the Holy Land can be yours! **This coming October 11-22**, our Rector Jonathon Jensen and Rabbi-in-Residence Aaron Bisno will co-lead a first-ever Calvary Church Interfaith Pilgrimage to the Land of Israel! Take a look at the website describing all you'll need to know, by following this link posted to the Calvary website: www.calvarypg.org/israel.

Plan to join us for information sessions coming soon... in the meantime, questions? Call us! ■



Beer and brewing have a rich history and tradition in the church. What finer place to engage this tradition together than here at Calvary? Join Senior Warden and professional brewer, David Jeong, for a two-part beer-education and brewing workshop on **Saturday, April 29**, and **Saturday, May 20**, in the Calvary kitchen. Enjoy a good craft beer? Curious about or new to the brewing process? Convinced that beer is evidence God loves us and wishes us to be happy? The Blessed Brew Crew is for you!

The workshop will run from 1 to 4 p.m. on both days.

The cost for registration is \$20 per person, and all attendees must be 21 or older. Registrants will:

- Learn about how the history of beer lives in the church
- Learn about the brewing process and receive hands-on instruction on its components and classic ingredients
- Enjoy a guided tasting of various beer styles
- Participate in brewing a beer together
- Collaboratively name the beer, plan a label, and bottle it upon its completion
- Take home a 4-pack of the finished, bottled, and labeled beer to enjoy at home!

Due to the amount of libation we'll produce, registration will be limited to the first 10 to sign-up. Should interest warrant it, however, we will simply schedule another workshop. All interested should send an email to ieongnewton@gmail.com to register. Cheers!

David Jeong has been a beer nerd for over 20 years, a professional brewer for seven years, and is currently the head brewer at ShuBrew Handcrafted Ales & Food in Zelienople. ■

New Votive Stand for Calvary

Thanks to the craftsmanship of Deacon Geoffrey Royce, Calvary has a new votive stand in the All Saints' Chapel. That chapel is to the right as one faces the High Altar near the lectern.

The stand is of the same oak and stain as other woodwork in the All Saints' Chapel. One might also note architectural features of the Chapel reflected in the votive stand. The term "votive" comes from the Latin "votum" meaning a vow or promise. For centuries, Christians have lit candles and offered prayers. It is, in effect, a physical and visual way of praying.

The stand is in the Orthodox style meaning it does not house individual tea candles but is a wooden frame that holds a metal basin, filled with sand, that become a base to place candles. The 6" candles are made from yellow beeswax, burn evenly, do not drip, and are extinguished when the flame reaches the sand. As an added bonus, they smell like honey.



The votive stand being built
by Geoffrey Royce

As an added bonus, they smell like honey.

The idea is to light a candle and offer a prayer to God for someone, living or dead, or for some other need. A donation of \$1 per candle is suggested but not required. All proceeds will go to purchasing more candles so all might offer their own prayers. —Jonathon ■



A Priest and a Rabbi Walk Into a Classroom

Rabbi Aaron Bisno and the Rev. Jonathon Jensen will continue to teach a class together on the parables of Jesus. We will learn together from Jewish and Christian perspectives and how we all might benefit from this wisdom. The classes will be in person in McClintic Hall, also known as the choir room, on **Sundays at 10 a.m.** Sessions are recorded and available on Calvary's YouTube page with a link in the Friday email. All are welcome to attend.

For class titles, please visit the Calvary website at www.calvarypgh.org, or check the Friday email blast. ■

www.calvarypgh.org

Sand and Light

by the Rev. Geoffrey Royce

There is a part of me that is always going to want to build things. In fact, every few days I manage to build something. Most of the time these are not refined productions and they feel more and more like play to me. This teaches me over and over that God is in the making.

Several months ago, Jonathon mentioned to me that some members of Calvary had expressed an interest in our having a place to light votive candles and pray. He asked me for ideas and drawings for such a votive stand. Once we decided on size and design, I began.

Jim Gubash helped me find amid the "bits and bobs" that remained in the woodshop some pieces of oak that had been part of an organ cabinet long gone. They had been varnished in their previous life, so I spent a couple of sessions applying a stripper to get back to the bare wood. By now these were aged boards that no longer had the inner tension that new boards have. So, when I ripped them on the table saw they didn't curl away from the rest of the board and remained almost perfectly straight.

All these steps are part of a process that is very familiar to me by now. They are necessary aspects of using recycled materials. Starting in my earliest projects I became interested in using materials that had been cast off. In my first construction job, one task I had was pulling nails from full dimension rough cut 2x4's to be reused. I also built things with milled lumber that I found on the beach transformed into driftwood. So many of my projects have been about resurrection.

Once the piece was constructed it had to be stained to closely match the wood in the All Saints Chapel which is a slightly lighter color than the rest of the wood in the choir and behind the altar. This stain had to be custom mixed. Fortunately, all the necessary materials were already present in the Calvary woodshop.

Using sand to hold the candles upright could bring to mind the promise of a blessing that God gives Abraham to make his "descendants as numerous as the stars and the grains of sand on the seashore" (Gen 22:17). Of course the candles are emblematic of Christ. "In Him was life and life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness and darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:4-5)

For generations and ages of ages, people of faith have been lighting candles as a form of prayer, as a marker of some memory or hope, as a kind of sacramental act. My hope is that the people of Calvary will use the votive stand to find comfort and discover a vital connection to the gentle warmth of candlelight as well as to the ancients and their vigilance. ■

CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION

Life in the Vine

Welcome to Children's Faith Formation!

Classes are offered Sundays from 10:00 AM - 10:50 AM Sept through May.
Contact vrispoli@calvarypgh.org for more information

Life in the Vine

Check out the new Children's Faith Formation Blog for updates about what's happening in our classes and reflections on nurturing the spiritual life of children.

www.calvaryfaithformation.org

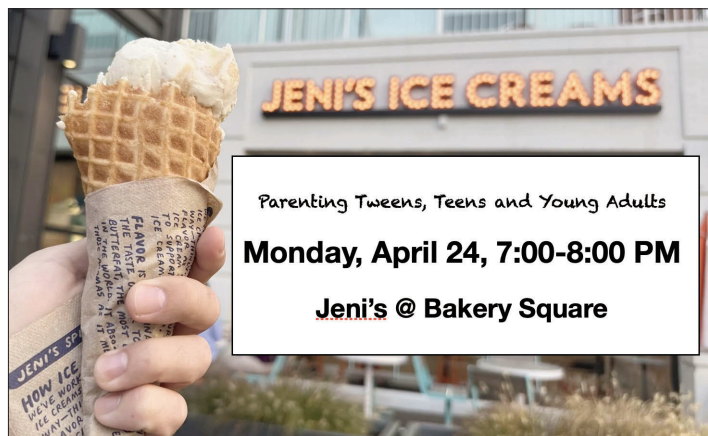
Children's Liturgy of the Word at the 11 o'clock Service



Children's Liturgy of the Word is a special time for children to gather to pray, ask questions, and hear the good news of God's love. The Sunday scripture readings are proclaimed and explained on a level appropriate to children ages 5-9. Any child in this age group may participate - no registration is necessary.

Children are invited to gather with adult leaders after the Opening Prayer and process to the Refectory. They return to their families at the time of the Peace. If you are running a little late and miss the beginning of the service, no worries! Drop in and join us in the Refectory.

Raising Tweens, Teens, and Young Adults



Are you a parent or caregiver of a tween, teen, or young adult looking for a safe place to share your thoughts and feelings? If so, you are not alone! This group provides a

space where we can support each other, share ideas, collaborate, and commiserate while discussing the challenges of raising older children in today's rapidly changing and complex world. We are in this together!

Please join us for our next meeting on **Monday, April 24, 7-8 p.m.** at Jeni's Ice Cream, Bakery Square for casual conversations about our parenting journey. Email vrispoli@calvarypgh.org for more information. Hope to see you there!



Summer Camp: Registration is open for all sessions!

Calvary Camp is a general activities camp for kids looking to have fun every day in an environment that teaches community-building and models acceptance of differences. The campers live in cabins of 8 or 9 children with two counselors and participate in activities that may include swimming, swimming instruction, fine arts, tennis, athletics/sports, sailing, kayaking, farm and environmental education, archery, team building/low ropes course and photography.

Location: Conneaut, Ohio, on the shore of Lake Erie, approximately 2.5 hours north of Pittsburgh.

Affiliation: Calvary Camp is a ministry of the Episcopal Church. However, we welcome campers and staff members of all denominations and faiths.

Campers: Approximately 200 campers, boys and girls aged 8-16, attend Calvary Camp during coed sessions. Most children come for one week only; some come for two or even more weeks. Additionally, the final two weeks of the summer are designated as Family Camp for the enjoyment of parents and children together.

Camp Staff: Typically around 85 staff members aged 17 - 30 serve in the capacity of camp counselors, activity leaders, coordinators, and directors. The vast majority of staff members are former Calvary Campers. The staff is led by the Calvary Camp Directors who are professional adults and collectively have a long history with Calvary Camp as campers, parents of campers, summer staff and full-time staff. Visit www.calvarycamp.org to learn more. ■

May's Soup Group Session

The Soup Group will be cooking on **Friday, May 12 at 9 a.m.** in Calvary's kitchen. All are welcome to prep, cook, or clean up! Also, please consider delivering soup to a friend, family member or neighbor. Our soup is not limited to Calvary members. We like to share and are happy to make more. Any questions? Please contact me. -Adele Eley, 412.371.6921 home or 412.719.9637 cell, adele.eley@gmail.com ■

Thank You!

On behalf of Calvary, thank you to the following for all their good work in Lent, Holy Week, and Easter:

William Stevens and the Altar Guild for careful preparation of all our vestments, paraments, and flowers to beautify the church.

Alan Lewis, Jon Tyillian and the choir for offering beautiful music all through Holy Week and singing twice on Easter.

Laura Everheart, Laurie Tocci, and Ken Smith for sharing tulips with the neighborhood on Easter.

Linda Lewis and Kim Pieratt for a delicious breakfast for the choir on Easter morning.

Vicki and Damian Rispoli for the Easter Egg Hunt and spring gardens.

Church staff and office volunteers for their tireless and faithful work to make sure everything was clean, the bulletins complete, money counted, sound and video recorded and streamed, and our space comfortable and secure.

To all of you for sharing in a joyful celebration of our Lord's resurrection.

—Jonathon ■



Gospel and Breakfast

Sundays, 10–10:45 a.m.
Continues through May 13

The Parents of Little Ones and Calvary Young Adult Ministry co-sponsor this time to meet for fellowship, light breakfast, and a discussion of the Gospel passage appointed for the day. We gather in the Evans Room during the Christian Formation hour (10–10:45 a.m.). The nursery is open at that time, or you can bring your little one(s) along if you prefer. If you are a young adult and/or the parent of young children, please join us at any time! No prior knowledge needed. Questions? Please contact the Rev. Cameron Soulis (csoulis@calvarypgh.org or 412.661.0120, ext. 123). ■

Special Service Times on Marathon Sunday, May 7, 2023

Because the Pittsburgh Marathon route limits access to Calvary on May 7, we will have a celebration of the Holy Eucharist only at **8 a.m.** and **5 p.m.** The 5 p.m. service will be Livestreamed.

MUSICAL NOTES by Alan Lewis

Happy Eastertide! After our journey through “forty days and forty nights” of Lent (not counting Sundays!), it is lovely to lay aside the rigors of that season, and take up the joyful alleluias of this “season of festivity,” helped along by the return of foliage and flowers as Spring advances. The Easter season lasts from Easter Day until Whitsunday (also known as the Feast of Pentecost), fifty days later; that’s a lot of Alleluias to enjoy!

Warm thanks to all those whose dedication helped to make our musical offerings in Lent and Holy Week and for Easter the best we could do. The generous gift of everyone’s time and talent to make the services of this season possible is an annual inspiration to me, and it has been particularly so in the two cycles for which we have been regathered since the pandemic.

On Saturday and Sunday, April 22 and 23, our ensemble-in-residence Chatham Baroque presents a concert entitled, *The Joy of Bach*. The program is formed of instrumental works (including the double violin concerto and the concerto for violin and oboe) and a gorgeous cantata for contralto, oboe, and strings, and is offered in memory of Pittsburgh’s great Bach scholar, Don Franklin. The Saturday performance is at 7:30 p.m., and the Sunday performance at 2:30 p.m. Both take place here at Calvary; tickets can be purchased at the door, or in advance by visiting www.chathambaroque.org.

Looking further ahead into next month, the Feast of the Ascension always falls on a Thursday, exactly forty days after Easter (echoing the forty days of Lent, and the forty days between Christmas and Candlemas). This year, that Thursday falls on May 18, and we will mark it with a service of Choral Evensong at 7:30 p.m. The music that evening will include Benjamin Britten’s *Rejoice in the Lamb*, a joyous and moving setting of texts drawn from the mysterious and mystical poetry of the eighteenth-century poet Christopher Smart. The service will last about an hour, and all are most warmly invited.

May your Eastertide – all the way through Ascension Day to Pentecost – be full of rejoicing. ■



MEMORIAL DAY MONDAY, MAY 28, 2023

The church and offices
will be closed this day.

The Bookstore at Calvary

National Card and Letter Writing Month

Did you know that April is National Card and Letter Writing Month? A handwritten note, while a rarity in this day and age, is a thoughtful and personal gesture for the recipient. While it only takes a moment to send a happy birthday message or a thank you electronically, who doesn't like to receive a card in their mailbox with a heartfelt message! Other benefits of sending cards and letters:

- Not only do cards make the receivers happy, but there are emotional benefits for the sender too! Taking the time to write out a thoughtful message is a great opportunity to reflect on how lucky you are to have your relationships.
 - There is a physical connection as well knowing the card has been touched by both the sender and receiver.
 - Handwritten cards can be touched, kept, stored and read again and again as a cherished memory.
 - Sending a card offers friends and family members the chance to stay connected or reconnect.
- Some consider handwriting to be soothing, a natural way to capture one's feelings and a time to reflect on their love and appreciation for another.
- The feelings conveyed in handwriting are often more beautiful than those conveyed in typing.
 - Studies have found that writing a thoughtful message to someone can make you both feel considerably happier.

Stop by the Bookstore to see our large selection of greeting cards as well as blank cards for you to write your own heartfelt message to someone you miss, you love, who helped you, you are thinking of, or just because! In addition, an assortment of cards including blank, birthday, friendship, and thinking of you are available in variety packets of five cards for only \$1! At this price, why wouldn't you send a card or two? Remember cards make us happy! The impact can be immeasurable.

Support our independent Bookstore via Bookshop.org

Here is now another way you can support the Bookstore, which is a member of the Episcopal Booksellers Association as well as an independent bookstore, when shopping for books. As an alternative to Amazon, go to www.bookshop.org, which gives independent bookstores tools to compete online and financial support to help them maintain their presence in local communities. On the home page in the upper right corner, click **Choose a Bookstore**, then type zip code 15206 in the **Bookstore Near Me** box, click on Calvary Bookstore, then the red **Support this Shop!** box. You will be taken to the Calvary Bookstore homepage where you will find book suggestions.

Bookshop.org will ship your books from their wholesaler's warehouse (usually within 2-3 days) directly to you, manage the customer service, returns and overhead. When you order books through the Calvary page on Bookshop.org, the Bookstore will receive a portion of the profits that can then

be used to help with literacy programs in our neighborhood. Help the Bookstore maintain its presence not only as an Episcopal bookstore, but also an independent bookstore with a share of direct-to-home online book sales.

Calvary website link to The Bookstore at Calvary

Go to www.calvarypgh.org and click on The Bookstore at Calvary located in the upper right corner or go directly to the site at www.calvarypgh.org/the-bookstore-at-calvary. You will find a monthly newsletter along with pictures of featured items available.

How to access The Bookstore at Calvary

The Bookstore is open on Sunday from 8:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. During the week, contact the Bookstore at 412.661.0120 ext. 133 (please leave a message) or by email at bookstore@calvarypgh.org and we will contact you. ■



Alan Morrison

Sunday, April 30, at 3 p.m.
at East Liberty Presbyterian Church



Alan Morrison is recognized as one of America's premier concert organists and enjoys a versatile career as organist, teacher, recording artist, adjudicator and pianist/chamber musician.

Mr. Morrison appears in two episodes of Mister Roger's Neighborhood that were recorded at Calvary in 1994. The episodes are available to watch online at <http://misterrogers.org/episodes> ■



The Day of Pentecost: May 28

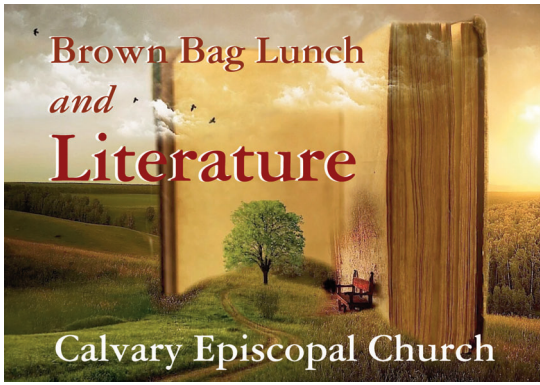
Holy Baptism at the 11 o'clock service.

Starting on May 28, the 9 a.m. service will be celebrated in the Swan Garden (weather permitting).

Strawberries and Ice Cream will be served after the 9 o'clock service this day.

Everyone is encouraged to wear red on May 28.

www.calvarypgh.org



Tuesdays at Noon, in the Nave

Unplug and relax in the beauty of one of Pittsburgh's architectural gems while your imagination is nourished by wonderful readings.

April 18 – Selections from the writing of Wallace Stevens. Born in Reading, Pennsylvania, he was educated at Harvard and New York Law School. He spent most of his life working as an executive for an insurance company in Hartford, Connecticut. He won the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry in 1955 for his *Collected Poems*.

April 25 – Selections from the *Lunch Poems* by Frank O'Hara. Born in Baltimore, Frank O'Hara worked as a curator at the Museum of Modern Art. He was also a writer and an art critic. The *Lunch Poems* were written on his lunch breaks, challenging himself to walk to a nearby typewriter store where he would dash off a poem.

Contact The Rev. Geoffrey Royce at groyce@calvarypgh.org for more information ■



Notes from the Archives

The East Window in Calvary's Chancel tells the story of Christ's Passion. It was conceived by Calvary's architect Ralph Adams Cram, designed and made by William Willet and installed in Calvary in 1907.

Willet opened his own stained glass studio in Pittsburgh after working with other firms in New York City and Philadelphia. He began the Willet Stained Glass Company in Pittsburgh in 1899. In making his windows in the early 20th century, Willet shunned the contemporary glass-making styles of the day that featured opalescent glass. Instead, he embraced centuries-old techniques using transparent antique glass. In a book about Willet in Calvary's archives, glassmaker Charles J. Connick of Boston praised Willet, saying his "designs in water colors were masterpieces in that medium, and he did very much to encourage the younger men in their revolt against opalescent glass." Connick designed and made other stained glass windows for Calvary, including several for the South and North Nave and the Crossing.

The East Window is composed of three tall lancets, with seven scenes in each lancet. Twelve of the scenes relate to the Passion and include Christ in the Gethsemane; the Last Supper; Christ bearing his Cross and the Empty Tomb. The other nine scenes are from the Old Testament and depict events that foretell the coming of the Son of God.

Cram was also pleased with Willet's work on the East Window, as noted in "Calvary Episcopal Church: A Guide to the Art and Architecture." The window was among the first American examples of a return to what Cram called "the principles that marked the great French glass of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries," moving from modern muted secondary colors to vivid primary ones. "Its success is brilliant and complete," Cram said. ■

Red Geraniums for Pentecost

In Memory of In Honor of

Donor's name: _____

Donor's telephone: (____) _____-_____

**Both geraniums will be planted
in the Calvary garden.**

Please mail to: Lynda Kennedy
Calvary Episcopal Church
315 Shady Avenue,
Pittsburgh, PA 15206-4388

Please make checks payable to Calvary Episcopal Church and write "Geraniums" on the memo line.

Your donation of \$10 for the 2 red geraniums is needed at Calvary by **Tuesday, May 23, 2023** so we can place our order with the greenhouse.

Thank You!

An expanded version of this issue of *Agape*, with additional content may be viewed on the Calvary website at
www.calvarypgh.org



Trex Recycling at Calvary

Since April 2019, the Calvary Community has been actively recycling plastic bags and other types of recyclable flexible plastic film. Since then, we have collected more than 4,500 pounds of recyclable plastic and we have earned nine benches from the Trex Community recycling program. These benches are on our campus, at Sheldon Calvary Camp and in other locations in our community. Soon, the City of Pittsburgh's Single-Use Plastic Bag Ban Legislation will go into effect. We agree that plastic waste does not belong in the environment while noting too that plastic products provide health and safety benefits to our everyday life. While people in the Pittsburgh region transition to this change, at Calvary, we will maintain and monitor our site-based recycling program and continue to keep you updated. You are welcome to keep recycling.

Thank you to everyone who brings their recyclable film products to our collection bins and to our volunteers who ensure each week that the collected material is "upcycled" by Trex into Composite material for decking and outdoor furniture. Learn more here. For more information contact Wendy Lomicka at wenlom@gmail.com ■

Agape Deadline

The deadline for submission of news and notices for the next issue is **Friday, May 5, 2023**. Please e-mail your text to calvary@calvarypgh.org or deliver it directly to the church office.

Agape, the newsletter of Calvary Episcopal Church, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, is published monthly (except July), and is mailed to active members and friends of the Parish. You may opt out of receiving a printed copy and read each issue online at www.calvarypgh.org. Contact the Parish office at 412.661.0120 for details. ■

Staying in Touch

Please contact Calvary's Parish Administrator Kim Pieratt at the Church office if you have any questions about flower memorials, prayer list additions, or scheduling of events. Kim can be contacted at 412.661.0120, ext. 111 or send an email to kpieratt@calvarypgh.org. We ask that you keep us informed if you have a home address, phone or email change. ■



315 Shady Avenue ■ Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15206
email: calvary@calvarypgh.org ■ www.calvarypgh.org
telephone: 412.661.0120

- The Rev. Jonathon W. Jensen, *Rector*
- The Rev. Neil K. Raman, *Senior Associate Rector*
- The Rev. Cameron J. Soulis, *Associate Rector*
- The Rev. Ruth Bosch Becker, *Assisting Pastor*
- The Rev. Carol Henley, *Assisting Priest*
- The Rev. Geoffrey S. Royce, *Deacon*
- Rabbi Aaron Bisno, *Rabbi-in-Residence*
- Ms. Deanna Briody, *McNulty Intern*
- Dr. Alan Lewis, *Director of Music*
- Jon Tyillian, *Assistant Organist*



ANNUAL MEETING

The Nominating Committee of the Vestry will receive nominations in the Parlor for Vestry and Parish Council members on Sunday, April 16, 2023 after all services.

Laurie Tocci, Jim Cassaro, Gillian Cannell,, Jon Mazur, and Matt Muldoon are the members of the committee.

The Rector is an ex officio member.

Names may be also be submitted at any time to members of the Nominating Committee, or by email, to the chair, Laurie Tocci, at lollyb13@gmail.com or the Rector at jjensen@calvarypgh.org.

The relevant by-laws regarding the annual meeting and nominating committee have been posted on the bulletin board and may be viewed on our website at www.calvarypgh.org

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The 168th Annual Parish Meeting of Calvary Church will be held on Sunday, May 21, 2023 at 10 a.m., in the Parish Hall

Election of members of the Vestry and Parish Council will take place and reports from the Wardens, Treasurer and others will be given. Please make every effort to attend. ■

WEB VERSION

2023 PITTSBURGH PASTORAL CARE CONFERENCE

Resilience, Joy and Living in the Present Moment

Christ United Methodist Church
44 Highland Road, Bethel Park, PA 15102

Please join us for the 23rd Annual Pittsburgh Pastoral Care Conference to be held on Friday, May 12, 2023, 8am - 4pm at Christ United Methodist Church in the South Hills.

This conference has been specifically designed to provide education and support for pastors, clergy, laity, physicians, psychologists, nurses, counselors, social workers, students, volunteers and caregivers. Topics include addiction and recovery, mental health and wellness, family and marriage, outreach and reflections in ministry.



Scan QR code for more and to register for the conference.



Keynote Speaker
Tod Bolsinger, MDiv, PhD,
Co-Owner and Principal of
AE Sloan Leadership

Interested in an exhibition opportunity? Ready to register?
Visit: www.pghpcc.org Questions: karenplavan@gmail.com or 412.281.8362

Calvary Movie Night: Thursday, May 18, 2023

Philistine
Films
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de ANNEMARIE JACIR



SELEÇÃO OFICIAL

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TORONTO INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL 2022



FESTIVAL DE LOCARNO
PRÊMIO DON QUIXOTE E PRÊMIO DO JÚRI JOVEM

NOMINADO
AO PRÊMIO DE
MELHOR ATOR PELO
ASIAN PACIFIC SCREEN AWARDS

MELHOR FILME E
MELHOR ATOR
FESTIVAL INTL. DE
MAR DEL PLATA

MELHOR FILME E
MELHOR ATOR
FESTIVAL INTL.
DE DUBAI

PRÊMIO DO JÚRI
BFI FILM FESTIVAL
LONDRES

PRÊMIO DO JÚRI
MED FILM ROMA

MELHOR FILME E
PRÊMIO DO PÚBLICO
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FILM FESTIVAL

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FESTIVAL INTL.
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EM ASSOCIAÇÃO COM CACTUS WWORLD FILMS DIREÇÃO DE FOTOGRAFIA ANTOINE HEBERLE DIREÇÃO DE ARTE NAEL KANJ MONTAGEM JACQUES COMETS EDIÇÃO HAMADA ATALLAH
SON CARLOS GARCIA E KOSTAS VARYMPOIOTIS PRODUZIDO POR OSSAMA BAWARDI ROTEIRO E DIREÇÃO POR ANNEMARIE JACIR

Metaphora
Ape&Bjorn

CACTUS
WWW.CACTUSFILMS.COM

JBA
PRODUCTION

SCHORTCUT
FILMS

Ciudad Lunar

(snowglobe)

Philistine Films

MPA

CNC

Dubai
Film Market
ENJAZ

PYRAMIDE
DISTRIBUTION

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DISTRIBUIÇÃO

Film starts promptly at 7 p.m.

followed by a brief discussion led by Clint Van Dusen, in the Parish Hall



The East Liberty Valley Historical Society

History Talks at Calvary

Marilyn Evert Lecture Series

Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall
Calvary Episcopal Church, 315 Shady Avenue, 15206
Free and Open to the Public



Wednesday, May 3

“American Workman: The Life and Art of John Kane”

Maxwell King, past president of the Heinz Endowments and The Pittsburgh Foundation, and historian and former curator Louise Lippincott will talk about their new biography of the Scottish-born Pittsburgh painter. The authors will highlight Kane’s East End connections through his jobs, paintings and patrons. A book sale and signing follow the talk.



Wednesday, June 7

“Walter L. Roberts: Black Modern Architect in Pittsburgh”

Martin Aurand, former architecture librarian and archivist at Carnegie Mellon University, will speak about Walter L. Roberts, who labored to attain and preserve a foothold in a city and professional culture that largely excluded him. This talk traces his training at Carnegie Tech, his work in New York City, where he helped plan the 1939 World’s Fair, and his post-World War II career in Pittsburgh. As head of his own firm, Roberts was an accomplished designer whose buildings, including the Westinghouse Electric Vehicle Plant and the Hill House Center, embodied modern architectural materials, technology and practice and were conceived to benefit inner city communities.

Deadline (Friday):

Publication Date (Sunday):

January 6	January 15
February 3	February 12 [Lenten Issue]
March 10	March 19 [Easter Issue]
April 7	April 16 [End of Program Year]
May 5	May 14
June 2	June 11 [Summer Issue]
August 11	August 20 [Beginning of Program Year]
September 8	September 17
October 6	October 15
November 3	November 12 [Advent Issue]
December 1	December 10

2023 CALENDAR

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