

# Agape

The Newsletter of  
Calvary Episcopal Church  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

APRIL 18, 2021

## Worship Resumes in Person

On Sunday, April 25 at 11 a.m., we will resume worship in person and continue offering a streaming and recorded service. This will be a Rite II celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

Beginning on the Feast of Pentecost on Sunday, May 23, we will add a Garden Service at 9 a.m. If it rains, the Garden Service will be moved into the church.

We are trying to be responsible and balance opening for worship in person and being together that so many desire while mindful of health concerns. The primary factor in deciding the date to resume is that all clergy will have been “fully vaccinated” by April 25. Most church staff will also have been fully vaccinated then as well.

Below is the basic plan for worship at 11 a.m. beginning on Sunday, April 25. We will follow a similar approach for the Garden Service beginning May 23.

### Communion

To help with congestion and to try to practice social distancing, a priest will celebrate from the High Altar. Clergy will bring communion to you in the pews. We will mark off every other pew, by removing the cushion, to allow for social distancing and to make an ambulatory for clergy to deliver communion. This will be bread only for the time being. Gluten free will be available. We anticipate being able to offer both bread and wine as mask restrictions ease.

### Music

We anticipate having the full choir back on or soon after April 25th. All singers will be wearing masks. The choir will not vest or process (as usual during the summer) and will sit in the south transept and nearby areas. As we will be socially distanced and wearing masks, all choir and congregation will be invited to sing.

### Bulletins

We will use the same style of full-text bulletins we have utilized for the past year. Directions or rubrics for worship, including how to receive communion, will be in the bulletin. In this way, those worshipping online and those in person will follow the same text and music and have the same announcements. Use of a full-text bulletin also helps address the concerns of some about

handling prayer books and the spread of the virus. Bulletins will be placed at the entrances.

### Coffee Hour

We will not have food and drink after the service, for obvious reasons, but expect people will want to spend time socializing. We miss seeing you and would love to talk in person. Please feel free to do so before or after the service in the church, outside, or in the Parish Hall taking the usual precautions. We look forward to the day we can eat and drink together without masks.

### Acolytes, Lay Readers, and Offerings

We expect to enjoy the participation of lay readers but no acolytes yet.

We will also have an offertory plate, for donations, at the front of the main aisle and by the door to the Parish Hall. We invite you to make your offering before or after church. Thank you for your continued generosity.

### The Camera System to Livestream Worship

Our system now has six cameras and is integrated with our sound system. It is designed so people worshipping online may feel present and included without the cameras being intrusive to those in the building.

### Christian Education and Nursery

Updated Christian Education and nursery information can be found elsewhere in this issue of *Agape*.

### Group Meetings

Beginning on Monday, April 26, if your church group would like to meet at Calvary, you are welcome to do so. Please contact Kim in the parish office to reserve the space.

### Confirmation

Because of the pandemic, we were not able to offer a Confirmation service in the last year. Bishop McConnell will join us on Sunday, May 9 at 11 a.m. for a regular visitation and again at 5 p.m. that day for Confirmation. This will be his final visit with us before he retires on September 11.

### Masks and Social Distancing

We ask that all who come to Calvary practice social distancing, wear a mask, and wash or sanitize their hands. Please wear your mask properly. All participants will be wearing a mask except when preaching,

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## Worship Resumes in Person, *continued from page 1*

presiding, or reading the lesson. Hand sanitizer is available in multiple locations in the church and offices.

### Flower Delivery

Altar flower delivery after the 11 o'clock service will resume on April 25.

### Future Worship Schedule

The two morning services currently scheduled are only temporary as things seem to be changing rapidly. We will reevaluate later in the summer as we have a better idea about the future. The 8 a.m. service will not resume yet, but we expect it to begin in the future. I know some really miss it. You are welcome to come to church and meet with your friends at that time or later on Sundays. We also anticipate adding mid-week services again, most likely in the fall.

One does not need to sign up or be “fully vaccinated” to come to worship.

### Worship in Person Schedule

**Beginning on April 25 at 11 a.m.**

**Rite II Holy Eucharist in person and online through September every Sunday.**

**Beginning on May 23 at 9 a.m.**

**we will also offer the Garden Service through September every Sunday.**

**On Sunday, May 9, Bishop McConnell will preach and preside at 11 a.m. and at 5 p.m. for Confirmation.**

—Jonathon ■

## Ethiopian Orthodox Church Partnership

Calvary is entering into a partnership with the local Ethiopian Orthodox congregation to welcome them to share space for worship on Saturday mornings in the Refectory beginning in late May. On the occasions the Refectory will be in use for Calvary events (Bazaar or book sale) they will worship in the church.

The congregation is two years old and is currently made up of about 50 adults and 20 children. They will be with us for a year or so as they continue to grow and make plans for their own church building.

This is a new expression of our ministry of hospitality sharing space with groups who work for the good of our community including those who have been partners for many years like Alcoholics Anonymous, or more recently, like the Tree of Life congregation.

The congregation reached out to us in March about the possibility. Their equivalent of a Senior Warden told me she lived down the street from Calvary for ten years when she first moved to Pittsburgh. She had been praying about a new space and thought of us. They spent their first year in the

basement of a coffee shop owned by a member, and the last year on Zoom.

They will be invited to participate in any part of Calvary's life, while remaining an independent congregation, and specifically be invited to join us for the Christmas Pageant and similar events. A new bucket list item of mine is to have a Christmas pageant/Hanukkah party/Ethiopian feast together.

### Ethiopia

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia is a landlocked nation state in the Horn of Africa. It is bordered by Sudan, Kenya, Somalia, Somaliland, Djibouti, and Eritrea. By size of land, it is about 1.6 times bigger than the US state of Texas. It has a population of about 115 million people making it the second most populous country in Africa (after Nigeria) and the 12th most populous country in the world. There are about 800 people from Ethiopia living in Pittsburgh.



Addis Ababa, meaning “new flower,” is the capital city with a metro population of about 4,500,000 people (about double metro Pittsburgh) and sits over 7,000 feet above sea level.

This is the area from which the first humans likely moved out of Africa to the Middle East and beyond. The famous skeleton of “Lucy” was discovered there.

For much of its history, the country was a monarchy tracing its roots back to the legend of the Queen of Sheba who had a son (Menelik) with King Solomon of Israel. Hallie Selassie, the Emperor of Ethiopia from 1930-1974, traced his lineage back to Menelik. Ethiopia and Liberia were the only two African countries not to be colonized by European powers. Ethiopia was the first African member of the League of Nations and United Nations. Their national flag colors of red, yellow, and green were adopted by many other African countries.

### The Church

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The official name of the church in the country is the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church and has about 36 million members. Christianity became the state religion of the country in the year 333. They are one of the only pre-colonial churches in Africa.

The word “Tewahedo” means “united as one” and refers to the Oriental Orthodox belief that the fully human and fully divine natures of Christ are perfectly united in one. At the Council of Chalcedon in 451, this belief and the two natures of Christ caused a major split. What is now the Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Anglican, Lutheran, and most

—continued on page 3

Protestant churches followed the two natures while the Oriental Orthodox (Armenia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sudan, and others) held to the one, unified nature.

It is possible there were Ethiopians present at Pentecost and first heard the Gospel. The Apostle Matthew, according to tradition, preached there. The Book of Acts tells the story of the official (Ethiopian Eunuch) in the Queen of Ethiopia's court who encountered and was baptized by Philip. In the fourth century, the fuller church with a priesthood and sacraments was brought to the country by a Syrian Greek named Frumentius who became the first Bishop of Ethiopia.

#### Worship and Church Life

Some of their church life is familiar to us (Trinity, sacraments, church year, crosses, vestments, incense, bishops/priests/deacons, and saints). They have the same books of the New Testament Bible with the Old Testament and additional books including what we call the Apocrypha. The church also has elements of Jewish worship including a replica of the tablets of the Ten Commandments.

The church worships in the language of Ge'ez which is ancient South Semitic in origin. Their worship is somewhat similar to Greek or Russian Orthodox in style and duration.

#### Welcome

Please join me in welcoming the Ethiopian Orthodox congregation to Calvary. ■



Left to right are a visiting priest from Columbus, OH, the Mayor of New Kensington, and Alem (Senior Warden) in 2019.



[www.facebook.com/CalvaryEpiscopalChurch](http://www.facebook.com/CalvaryEpiscopalChurch)

On Sunday, May 9,  
Bishop Dorsey McConnell  
will join us for his final visit  
before retirement, and will  
preach and preside at 11 a.m.  
and at 5 p.m. for Confirmation.  
Please join us!

## CALVARY YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

If you are in your 20s or 30s and new to Pittsburgh, Calvary, or CYAM, welcome! For more information, or to be added to our email list, please contact The Rev. Neil Raman at [nraman@calvarypgh.org](mailto:nraman@calvarypgh.org) / 412.661.0120 ext. 112.

**Wednesday, April 21 at 7 p.m.**

Bible Study over Zoom

**Wednesday, April 28 at 7 p.m.**

Bible Study over Zoom

**Thursday, April 29 at 5:45 p.m.**

Holy Happy Hour in the Swan Garden at Calvary

**Wednesday, May 12 at 7 p.m.**

Bible Study over Zoom

**Thursday, May 13 at 5:45 p.m.**

Holy Happy Hour in the Swan Garden at Calvary

**Wednesday, May 19 at 7 p.m.**

Bible Study over Zoom

**Wednesday, May 26 at 7 p.m.**

Bible Study over Zoom ■



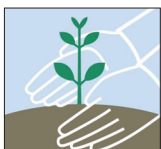
Please Wear a Mask  
While You Are at Calvary Church

Keeping "in touch" –  
Make a Phone Call



Have you called someone from Calvary recently, especially someone living alone? Isolation is particularly difficult, and a ten minute conversation helps to ease pandemic loneliness, depression, and anxiety for people who are alone. We have a basic need to connect with others. No training is required for this ministry. ■

## Planned Giving



### Hamilton (The Musical) and Planned Giving (PG) Opportunities

For those of you who haven't seen Hamilton, it ends by asking who will tell your story after you die? A moment of thoughtful planning now will help to create your legacy and continue to tell your story beyond your lifetime. Your PG gift to Calvary will ensure that your loved ones, future generations and Calvary's outreach partners will have the opportunity to experience the same compassionate, supportive church community that we and those who came before us have been blessed to experience.

#### Bequests comprise 90% of all PG gifts

The simplest way to support the future ministry and outreach of our church is to leave funds, specifically designated for Calvary Church, in your will. You may direct funds in your will be used to preserve the architecture, to fund specific ministries (e.g., music or outreach) or just for the greatest need. **Please note:** Designating a certain percentage of your estate for Calvary eliminates concern about what funds may remain at the end of your lifetime.

#### Charitable Gift Annuities

A donor irrevocably transfers cash or stock to the Pittsburgh Foundation or other agency that can create an annuity – the donor receives the income (from this annuity's interest) – during his or her lifetime, and Calvary receives the remainder upon the donor's death.

#### Life Insurance

There are many ways that you can contribute life insurance policy proceeds to Calvary. Popular methods are to list Calvary as a beneficiary of an existing policy, take out a new policy to benefit Calvary, or transfer a paid-up policy.

#### Retirement Fund Assets

You can designate Calvary to receive all or a portion of your qualified retirement assets which include your pension, 401(k) or 403(b) by naming Calvary in a beneficiary designation form. Qualified retirement fund assets are taxed (as much as 70%) on whatever funds remain when you pass away. **Please note:** Designating Calvary Church as your beneficiary requires no legal assistance with either your life insurance policy or your retirement fund assets.

#### Endow Your Pledge

Some parishioners are leaving funds to sustain their contributions to the church's annual budget. To fund an annual \$1,000 pledge in perpetuity, for example, would require an estate gift of \$20,000 (under the current endowment draw of 5%). Funding all or part of your pledge is a wonderful way to ensure Calvary's healthy future.

For more information about PG Opportunities and The St. Michael's Society, please contact Deborah Kelly, PG Chair, at [dc1kelly@gmail.com](mailto:dc1kelly@gmail.com) or 412.688.9299. Also available to speak with you is our PG Committee: Catherine Davidson, George Knight and Don MacLeod. ■

## Anticipation Conversation

### The Neb



**Calvary Holy Week Binge Watching:** Nine virtual events in eight days. Services each day from Palm Sunday through Easter, including a first-ever streamed concert with Chatham Baroque and our own Quarentet on Good

Friday, and the return of the Great Vigil of Easter. Take that, Netflix.

**Remembering When / Thinking Ahead:** Joe Seamans' short documentation of the preparations for Easter 2019 can be seen in re-run through the Calvary website. It is a visual treat that reminds us of what once was and what can be again. Maybe next year.....

#### An Eye to a Return:

Ministries beginning to poll volunteers on willingness to re-gather include: choir, ushers, greeters, lectors [no chalicists or acolytes yet], altar guilders, flower deliverers, bookstore folk, gardeners [who are pretty spaced-out anyway], and more. Vergers need something to verge, first.

Groups beginning to consider getting back together non-virtually include: Young Adults, Christian Education, EfM [though the term expires soon], Spiritual Reflection, Soup Group, Coventry Circle, Centering Prayer, and more. Heck, Tammy Lewis' Journey Group is already having limited attendance movie nights in the Parish Hall. No popcorn that we know of.

#### Sextons Gird for Gatherings and Garden Service:

Considerations are: Personnel deployment for events and multiple summer services, marking off pews for safe seating, before and after event sanitization of all areas, garden Eucharist layout and logistics, and more. But... no coffee hours allowed, darn it.

**'at's a Bunch-a-Bags:** Over a ton – 2500 lbs. – of plastic film recycled by Calvarians so far. Interesting how plastic bags have become the norm again due to the pandemic. Current campaign, started this month, has goal of a sixth Trex bench, intended this time for Wesley Family Services, Wilkinsburg. The sooner the challenge is met, the sooner they benefit. Do get out and shop, but please recycle.

**Singing the Praises of Craftsmanship:** Damaged choir robing room windows finally restored. Alleluia! Now all that's needed is a choir to appreciate them. See item three, above.

**So: If** all goes well, April 25 at 11 in the Nave – LIVE and virtual. And **If** all continues to go well, May 23 at nine in the great outdoors – LIVE only. Pray for good science and sensible precautions. Got your shot(s) yet?

Man, this is worse than waiting for Heinz ketchup to flow!

## The Bookstore at Calvary

With the weather warming, now is the time to incorporate fitness and spirituality together with the following titles:

Laura Everett, pastor in the United Church of Christ, tells how she became a dedicated Bostonian cyclist and uses her story to develop a distinctly urban spirituality in *Holy Spokes: The Search for Urban Spirituality on Two Wheels*.

Dance along with the wind of God, be bathed in primal waters, and look with awe and wonder on the myriad creatures God has made in *For the Beauty of the Earth: Daily Devotions Exploring Creation* by Forward Movement.

L. Roger Owens provides thoughtful exploration of midlife spirituality through the prism of nature walks in *Threshold of Discovery: A Field Guide to Spirituality in Midlife*.

Gil Stafford begins *Wisdom Walking: Pilgrimage as a Way of Life* with the idea that life is a pilgrimage and uses this to guide readers on their own pilgrimage towards wisdom.

### May Coventry Circle

The Coventry Circle book selection for the month of May is Trevor Noah's *Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood* an autobiographical comedy book written by the South African comedian and host of The Daily Show with Trevor Noah. There is a 20% discount to all purchasers on the book designated for Coventry Circle.

### Alibris

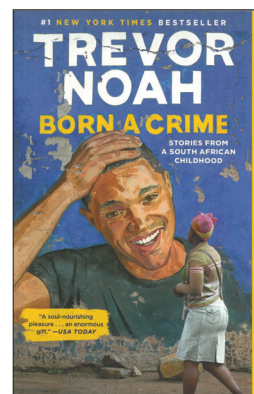
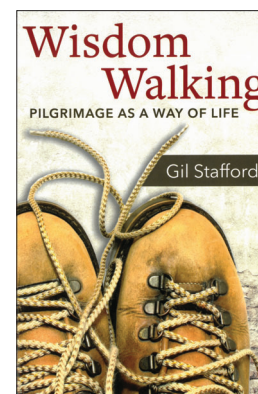
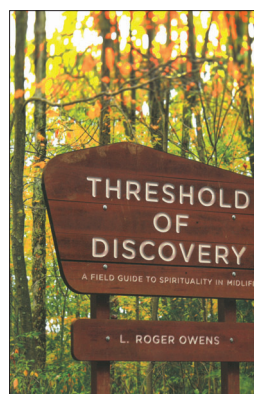
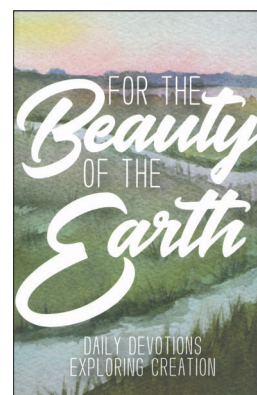
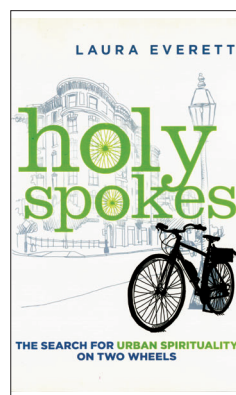
Alibris is an online store that sells new books, used books, out-of-print books, rare books, and other media through an online network of independent booksellers since 1997. Calvary has over 200 mostly out of print, donated books available online at <http://hymnal82.alibrisstore.com>. The collection of offerings includes art, bibles, children's fiction, comics, and graphic novels, fiction, history, literary collections, literary criticism, nature, poetry, and travel to name just a few. Each title listing includes the edition, binding, publisher, date published, description, and condition. Checkout the unique offerings that are reasonably priced.

### Calvary website link to The Bookstore at Calvary

Go to [www.calvarypg.org](http://www.calvarypg.org) and click on The Bookstore at Calvary located in the upper right corner or go directly to the site at <https://www.calvarypg.org/the-bookstore-at-calvary>. You will find a monthly newsletter along with pictures of a featured items available. Be sure to mark the website as one of your favorites!

### How to access The Bookstore at Calvary

This is a reminder that the Bookstore is still available to meet your needs. If you are interested in obtaining any items, contact the Bookstore at 412.661.0120 ext. 133 (please leave a message) or by email at [bookstore@calvarypg.org](mailto:bookstore@calvarypg.org) and we will contact you. In addition, we can arrange for contactless pick-up of your items. ■



Adam Augustine (left) at the controls of Calvary's video streaming equipment during a Sunday service, as he mentors Felix Guillou at the audio board.

## A Savior who has Bound Himself to Me in Love.

*A Reflection from The Rev. Bonnie-Marie Yager-Wiggan*

To say this past year has been different would be a dramatic understatement. Perhaps it is felt most acutely at the holidays. Separated from loved ones, no celebratory gatherings at church, new dresses and suits hanging in the closet waiting to be worn – all the trappings of a holiday stripped away and we are left with...what?



In light of our pandemic experiences, I hear the post-resurrection accounts differently. I've noticed things in the text that have always been there, but now stand out. In many ways the friends and family of Jesus were self-isolating and scattered after his death. Locked in rooms wondering what will happen or what the next day will bring. Just waiting. Grieving the loss of their friend, but also the loss of what they thought their future would be with an earthly king. Now what? Do they go back home and pick up their discarded fishing nets? Were they duped? Did God abandon them?

In Luke, we read of two disciples who make the decision to return home even though there have been reports from women at the grave that Jesus is risen (Luke 24:13-35). They believe all is lost; the stranger from Nazareth had made everything new and now he was dead. They meet a fellow traveler (the risen Jesus) and standing there looking sad tell him of their loss (Luke 24:17).

In each post-resurrection account there seems to be a moment of grief before joy, a moment of fear before assurance, a moment of doubt before worship (John 20:24-29; John 20:19-23; John 20:14-18; Luke 24:30-35; Luke 24:36-49; Matt. 28:8-10). Jesus never shames or rebukes anyone for their grief or doubt. To each wounded disciple and grieving friend Jesus reveals his own scars, the wounds by which we too have been healed, and says again and again, "Peace be with you" (Luke 24:36; John 20:19, 21, 26).

Peace be with you. At each loss, each moment of confusion or grief Jesus is with us offering the same peace and comfort to us as to the distraught disciples. Easter reminds us that a risen Savior journeys with us each and every day. Psalm 91 reminds us of this promise. Read the concluding verses of the psalm and hear the voice of Christ,

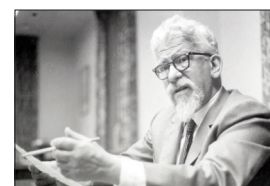
Because he is bound to me in love,  
Therefore I will deliver him;  
I will protect him, because he knows my Name.  
He shall call upon me, and I will answer him;  
I am with him in trouble;  
I will rescue him and bring him to honor.  
With long life will I satisfy him,  
And show him my salvation. (Ps. 91: 14-16)

Hopefully, next year we will gather in our church for Easter, celebrate with our families, enjoy Easter egg hunts, and grimace during obligatory family photo time. But let's not race through these 50 days of Easter. This Easter I am thankful for a Savior who shows me his scars, who is with me in trouble, and who will deliver me. This Easter I am thankful for a Savior who loved me to the end. This Easter I am thankful for a Savior who has bound himself to me in love.

The Rev. Bonnie-Marie Yager-Wiggan  
Deacon, Diocese of Pittsburgh, and Former McNulty Intern  
Bonniemarie.yager@gmail.com ■

## Spiritual Reflection – Abraham Joshua Heschel

Adult spiritual formation may be described as the step-by-step discovery of God's presence in our lives and our personal transformation along the way. Calvary's Spiritual Reflection



meetings continue to be a regular and familiar forum for small group peer ministry. We share, reflect upon and discuss inspirational ideas that develop and deepen our personal relationships with God and with one another. Meetings are group-led, and no preparation is required. Our interactions follow the Principals for Contemplative Dialogue of the Merton Institute for Contemplative Living. Every few months, we chose as a guide the writings of a different author. At each meeting, a short reading serves as a catalyst for reflection upon, and discussion of, God in our daily lives.

For Spring and early summer, we will use the writings of Abraham Joshua Heschel (1907–1972). Heschel was a Polish-born American rabbi, and leading 20th century Jewish theologian and philosopher. He escaped from Europe in 1938 while many of his family died in the holocaust. A professor of Jewish mysticism at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, Heschel wrote on many facets of Jewish thought, and was more interested in spirituality than in critical text study. He believed the teachings of the Hebrew prophets were a clarion call for social action in the United States and worked for African Americans' civil rights and against the Vietnam War. His books include *Man Is Not Alone*, *God in Search of Man*, and *The Prophets*. According to one reviewer, "Abraham Heschel finds just the right words to startle the mind and delight the heart." For our meetings, we will use the book, *I Asked for Wonder: A Spiritual Anthology*. Meetings are held using Zoom from 7-8 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday evening of each month. Upcoming meetings will occur on April 20, May 4 and 18, and June 1 and 15. Email Matt Muldoon (mattmuldoon@msn.com) or Sondra Krimmel (sskrimmel@gmail.com) for information or to be added to the email list. Please feel welcome to join at any time. ■



## CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN FORMATION

The Nursery will reopen on September 12. The playground will be open for all children each Sunday during the Garden Service starting May 23.

Spring Break was very kind to us this year! Warm weather and sunny skies allowed our families to spend lots of time outdoors, making it enjoyable staying home during the pandemic rather than traveling to a crowded destination. My spirits were lifted, as were everyone else's! Our teachers are now fully vaccinated and I'm thankful more now than ever that we have all remained safe while attending school in-person this entire school year!

In March, we celebrated World Down Syndrome Day by wearing crazy socks and doing a 3 minute 21 second sock hop (standing for the triplication of the 21st chromosome) to raise awareness for the rights, inclusion and well-being of people with Down syndrome. We also read "I Can, Can You?" by Marjorie W. Pitzer, a book that explains with colorful pictures that children with Down syndrome can play, laugh, and love just as all other children.

April has been amazing! Our Orange and Purple Teams have moved into their "All about Spring" units. We've gone on nature walks, planted small gardens, watched Mr. Dilts plant flowers, and observed the bunnies, squirrels, and birds that are out at play. There's so much to observe and learn just at Calvary alone. We are also learning about rain and are measuring rain with rain gauges. "The Umbrella Dance" and "Singing in the Rain" have become our favorites.

We continue looking at patterns in nature and in the world around us. The Blue Team is learning that patterns are a big part of our lives. We use calendars and clocks, have daily routines, and use patterns to develop math and literacy skills. Our Green Team is focusing more on patterns in nature with the life cycles of frogs and butterflies, seasons, trees, and flowers.

We are looking forward to our summer camps in June. More than half of our current students have already signed up! We invite all children ages 2-8, and we have full and half-day options to meet the needs of our families. We'll continue following strict COVID-19 protocols and will spend as much time outside as possible. For added fun, we'll tie-dye our own camp t-shirts and have a reception at the end of each 2-week camp. Please contact me if you are interested. The online version of this issue of *Agape* has a flyer explaining our planned activities.

We are also enrolling for the 2021-22 school year, ages 18 months to 5years, and we anticipate larger class-sizes as more and more in our community are getting vaccinated. Please let your friends and neighbors know of all the wonderful things Beginnings has to offer. We begin our 40th year this fall!

—Tammy Lewis, Director ■

We will continue having Sunday school via Zoom throughout this current Sunday school year, which ends on May 30. Since we have had such great attendance on-line, we will combine Zoom and in-person classes on September 12, after our summer break.

**Age 3–K** Children in this age group are encouraged to join our Sunday School Zoom sessions with Grades 1–6, 9:50–10:50 a.m. (Meeting ID is listed below.)

**Grades 1–6** Sunday School Zoom sessions, 9:50–10:50 a.m. (Meeting ID: 878 8224 3941, Passcode: 116060). Led by Tammy Lewis.

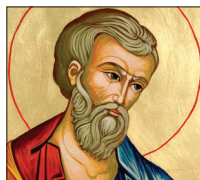
**Confirmation Class (Youth):** Sunday Zoom sessions, 10–10:45 a.m., through April (Meeting ID: 812 6517 4553, Passcode: 839660). Led by Laura Marchl.

**Confirmation will be held in-person at Calvary, 5 p.m. on May 9. Candidates for Confirmation will need to arrive at 4:30 p.m. to meet with Laura Marchl.**

**Journey Group:** (middle and high school age) Lenten series based on *The Chronicles of Narnia* by C.S. Lewis. Sunday Zoom sessions, 12:30 – 1:30 p.m., through May (Meeting ID: 831 2778 2973, Passcode: 035864). Participants will receive all 7 books in the series. It's not too late to sign up! Please email Tammy Lewis at the address below. Friday Movie Night will also be held in the Parish Hall, following COVID safety protocols. Led by Tammy Lewis and Katie Riordan Bucci.

- 4/18 *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*
- 5/02 *The Silver Chair*
- 5/07 Friday Movie Night 6:30 – 9 p.m.  
*The Voyage of the Dawn Treader/The Silver Chair*
- 5/16 *The Last Battle*

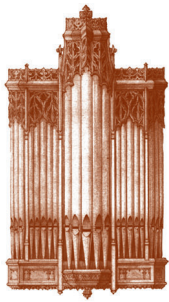
—Tammy Lewis, Director of Children's Christian Formation,  
tlewis@calvarypgh.org, 412.661.0120 ext. 116 ■



## GOSPEL OF MATTHEW CLASS

The Rector leads a class on the Gospel of Matthew on Sundays at 10 a.m. which are recorded and posted to the Calvary website and YouTube. The Calvary bookstore has resources available. Follow the link from the Calvary website: [www.calvarypgh.org](http://www.calvarypgh.org). ■

## MUSICAL NOTES by Alan Lewis



Easter greetings to all, and my thanks to the singers who made it possible for us to observe Holy Week as fully as we did, even under the drastically reduced parameters of Covid-tide. Their steady presence in our services week by week has sustained me, personally, and I think I speak for many others in saying that. I know, too, that the opportunity to continue singing has meant a great deal to them, and has helped inspire them through these difficult months.

As we move toward the planned resumption of in-person worship later this month, I've had some questions about what that will mean, musically. Here is what I think I know so far. First, I anticipate that we *will* be singing congregationally. It's important that each person be vigilant about masking, and keeping both mouth and nose covered, but, based on the research I have seen, singing, with masks properly in place, should pose no more hazard to our fellow congregants than reciting the Creed or prayers aloud.

It is my hope that there will be a broader resumption of choral singing; the choir will occupy the south transept, as we have typically done in the summers, to make a bit more distance between singers feasible, and to give a bit more sense of support to the congregation for the hymns and other service-music. They will be masked, as well, of course, and will not be processing through the congregation until it seems clear that the perceived danger of such proximity has receded further.

For the time being, I would ask those wishing to listen to the organ Postlude simply to remain in their pews to do so, rather than gathering in the Choir stalls as is the habit of many.

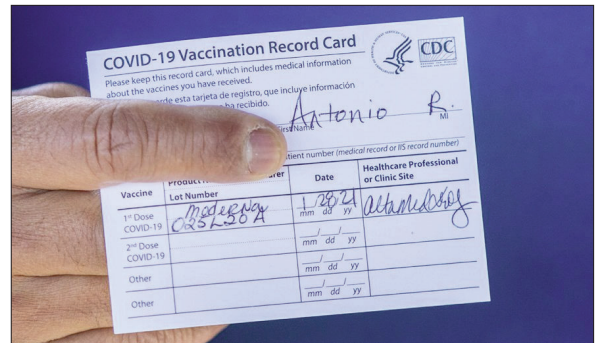
It will be a joy to gather in person again, and I hope to see many familiar pairs of eyes soon! ■



Visit the Calvary website at [www.calvarypgh.org](http://www.calvarypgh.org)

## Volunteers Needed for Altar Flower Delivery Ministry

It is almost time to resume the delivery of the beautiful flowers from the altar at Calvary Church. This ministry brings joy and comfort to the recipients, as well as being a rewarding experience to the folks who deliver the flowers. We need a few more volunteers to help us out. Please contact Bonnie Weiss, Co-Chair Altar Flower Delivery at [Janekeenanweiss@gmail.com](mailto:Janekeenanweiss@gmail.com) or 724.325.9537 ■



## Don't Flaunt Your COVID-19 Vaccine Card on Facebook

Revealing sensitive personal data on social media can trigger identity theft. Once you have received a COVID-19 vaccine, don't post a photo of your vaccine card on social media, the Better Business Bureau warns. Typically, such cards contain your name, date of birth, patient number and other information that bad actors can use to steal your identity and commit fraud. That's especially true if your privacy settings on Facebook, Instagram or other social platforms are not strict, allowing the image to be widely shared.

If you receive an email from Pfizer or Moderna asking you to complete a survey about your vaccination, or if you are offered a gift card for completing the survey, be aware that it is just another scheme to get your personal information, and it NOT a message from either drug manufacturer. ■

Have you completed and returned your 2021 Annual Pledge Card?

If you need a pledge card, please visit the Calvary website or contact Kim Pieratt in the Church office at 412.661.0120 extension 111 or email her at [kpieratt@calvarypgh.org](mailto:kpieratt@calvarypgh.org)

### Stewardship of All Our Gifts

Thank you to all who have made a commitment to support Calvary in this upcoming year. Giving from parishioners constitutes the majority of our income. We appreciate your generosity and commitment during these difficult times. ■



# dates to Remember



## The Day of Pentecost May 23, 2021

Everyone is encouraged  
to wear red that day ■



## MEMORIAL DAY MONDAY, MAY 31, 2021

The church and offices  
will be closed this day

## Red Geraniums for Pentecost

Would you like to donate red geranium plants in honor or memory of your loved ones for Pentecost Sunday, May 23, 2021?

As is the tradition, the plants will be on display during the 11 o'clock service and then planted in the Calvary gardens. Your donation of \$10 will buy two geraniums. Print out the donation form available on the Calvary website, or simply email Kim Pieratt at [kpieratt@calvaryppgh.org](mailto:kpieratt@calvaryppgh.org) with your information, and mail in your check for the geraniums. ■



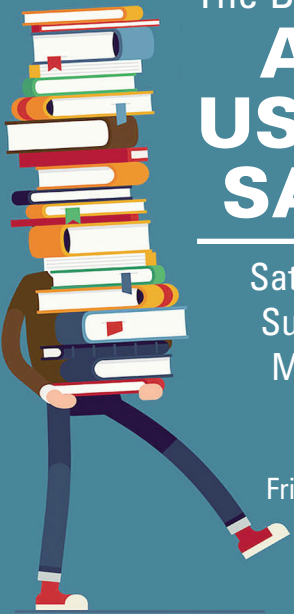
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## The Rector Interviewed for YouTube

Jonathon was interviewed as part of a video series on YouTube entitled *What They Believe*. The creator and interviewer for the series is an atheist who does an excellent job encouraging religious leaders, of various traditions, to tell their story in their own words.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S\\_qXna3PLIE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S_qXna3PLIE) ■



The Bookstore at Calvary's  
**ANNUAL  
USED BOOK  
SALE 2021**

Saturdays • August 14 & 21  
Sundays • August 15 & 22  
Mon–Fri • August 16–20  
10 AM – 2 PM  
[\$10 Preview Party on  
Friday, August 13 from 5–7 PM]

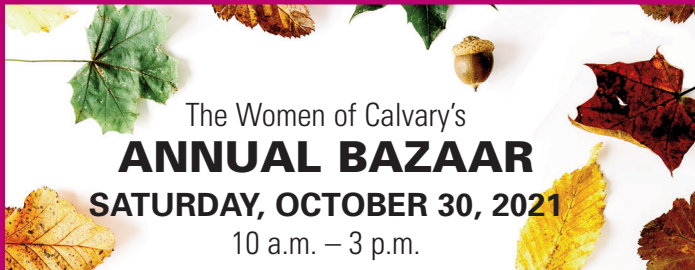
Donated Books accepted  
beginning on June 1



## The 166th Annual Parish Meeting of Calvary Church will be held Sunday, October 3 on the observance of St. Michael's Day

Full details will be announced.

Please mark your calendars, and plan to attend. ■



The Women of Calvary's  
**ANNUAL BAZAAR**  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2021  
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

[www.calvaryppgh.org](http://www.calvaryppgh.org)

## 2021 Holidays and Observances

Wednesday, May 5: **Cinco de Mayo**

Sunday, May 9: **Mother's Day**

Monday, May 31: **Memorial Day** [Federal Holiday]

Saturday, June 19: **Juneteenth**

Sunday, June 20: **The First Day of Summer**

Sunday, June 20: **Father's Day**

Sunday, July 4: **Independence Day**

Monday, July 5: **Independence Day** [Federal Holiday] ■

## Altar Flowers

Help us keep the church in full bloom by donating flowers in memory of, or in honor of, someone special. If you would like to place a memorial listing, please contact Kim Pieratt in the church office at 412.661.0120, ext. 111. ■

## Communicating with the Church and Clergy

Each Friday, Calvary will send out an email with some brief announcements and a link to the full-text bulletin for the upcoming Sunday service. The email will have a direct link (one to click on to take you to the page) to the Calvary website and Calvary YouTube and Facebook pages where the service will be streamed, The Calvary YouTube page has an archive of high resolution videos of past services, sermons, and classes. A direct link is far easier than typing the addresses below which also work.

### Calvary YouTube Page

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAsWoq8c-yqHDFay\\_hWtkyQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAsWoq8c-yqHDFay_hWtkyQ)

### Calvary Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/CalvaryEpiscopalChurch/>

### Clergy Contact Information

Please feel free to contact any of our clergy. We are ready to help.

- The Rev. Jonathon Jensen, [jjensen@calvarypgh.org](mailto:jjensen@calvarypgh.org)
- The Rev. Leslie Reimer, [ltreimer@calvarypgh.org](mailto:ltreimer@calvarypgh.org)
- The Rev. Neil Raman, [nraman@calvarypgh.org](mailto:nraman@calvarypgh.org)
- Deacon Geoffrey Royce, [groyce@calvarypgh.org](mailto:groyce@calvarypgh.org) ■

## Beware of Email Scams!

During the pandemic, scams are on the rise. Fake emails are again circulating to Calvary members. The email appears to come from the Rector, and requests "a favor" or gift cards. Don't respond to the email, simply delete it. Any email from Calvary always uses @calvarypgh.org, never gmail.com. ■

# CALVARY

## EPISCOPAL CHURCH

315 Shady Avenue ■ Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15206

email: [calvary@calvarypgh.org](mailto:calvary@calvarypgh.org) ■ [www.calvarypgh.org](http://www.calvarypgh.org)

telephone: 412.661.0120

The Reverend Jonathon W. Jensen, *Rector*  
The Reverend Leslie G. Reimer, *Senior Associate Rector*  
The Reverend Neil K. Raman, *Associate Rector*  
The Reverend Ruth Bosch Becker, *Assisting Pastor*  
The Reverend Carol Henley, *Assisting Priest*  
The Reverend Dr. Moni McIntyre, *Assisting Priest*  
The Reverend Geoffrey Royce, *Deacon*  
The Reverend Dr. Harold T. Lewis, *Rector Emeritus*  
Dr. Alan Lewis, *Director of Music*  
Jon Tyillian, *Assistant Organist*  
Jamie McMahan, *Senior Warden*  
G. Frederic Roth, *Junior Warden*  
Robert Eley, *Treasurer*  
Lynda Kennedy, *Director of Finance*  
Tammy Lewis, *Director, Beginnings;*  
*Director of Children's Formation*  
Kim Pieratt, *Parish Administrator*  
Louise Wells, *Special Assistant to the Rector*  
Kenneth Smith, *Director of Communications*  
Jim Gubash, *Head Sexton*  
Adam Augustine, Ron Johnston,  
James Knight, Mary Ann Packer, *Sextons*  
Sherry Bloom, *Manager, The Bookstore at Calvary*  
Robert Dilts, Mary Ann Slater, *Archivists*

## Agape Deadline

The deadline for submission of news and notices for the next issue is **Friday, May 7, 2021**. Please e-mail your text to [calvary@calvarypgh.org](mailto: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](http://www.calvarypgh.org). Contact the Parish office at 412.661.0120 for details. ■

## Plastic Recycling

Thank you to the many people that are recycling plastic film and bags to the box located in the Parish House lobby across from the reception desk. We will continue our practice of recycling here at Calvary. You are helping to keep thousands of pounds of waste out of landfills. (And, Yes, bubble wrap is recyclable!) ■





# News of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh



## The Rev. Beryl Turner Choi April 29, 1926–March 2, 2021

Folks who were part of Calvary Church in the 1970's and 1980's have fond memories of Beryl Choi. They recall her as a teacher, a pastor, and an officiant at baptisms, weddings, and funerals. We welcomed her back to Calvary in January 2002 for a celebration of the 25th anniversary of the ordination of women to the priesthood. As the first woman ordained in Pittsburgh, she left an indelible mark on the life of this congregation, the diocese, and the wider church. Here is a brief reflection on her ministry:

The Rev. Beryl Turner Choi, the first woman ordained in the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh, died on March 2, 2021 in Richmond, Virginia. Bishop Robert Appleyard ordained her to the diaconate on October 19, 1973 and to the priesthood on January 8, 1977, just one week after the ordination of women to the priesthood was officially permitted in the Episcopal Church. In Pittsburgh, she was sponsored by St. James, Penn Hills, served as a deacon at Church of the Ascension from 1974-1976, and as Associate at Calvary Church from 1976-1983. She later served parishes in California, Western New York, and, after her "retirement", in the Diocese of Virginia.

When Beryl, age 18, approached her bishop in her native England about a vocation to the priesthood, she was told that the Church of England prohibited women from being ordained, and that she should study Christian education. She studied theology, and her gifts as a brilliant teacher and writer were valuable, both in her lay ministry and in her priesthood.

She was fifty years old when her early vision of becoming a priest was finally realized. In solidarity and with great

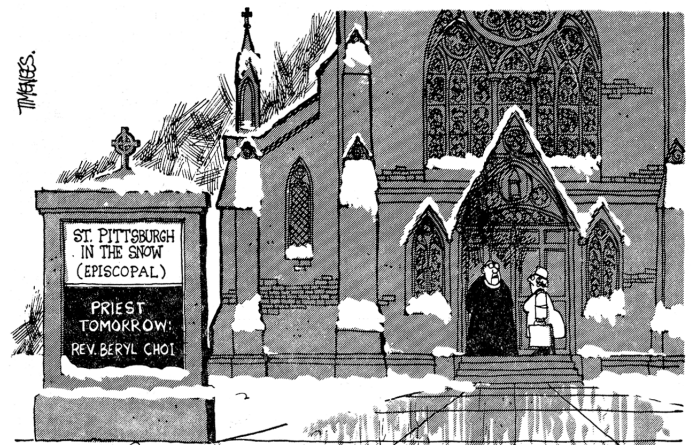
respect, the men who were ready for ordination at the same time as she was, and could have been ordained in December 1976, chose to wait until Beryl could be included in the ceremony in January 1977.

Beryl was thoroughly British, born in the same month and year as Queen Elizabeth II, and never lost her distinctive British manner and perspective. She was clear, outspoken, and uncompromising about what she believed. She was a kind and devoted pastor and a faithful priest. She had a gentle but firm way of ensuring that things were done properly.

Beryl's competence, authenticity, and genuineness helped break through the initial hesitation or refusal to accept ordained women. When Beryl was ordained deacon, the Rev. William G. Lewis, Archdeacon of the Diocese, remarked that, "anyone who thinks women are inferior has not met Beryl Choi." As people came to know her, and to experience her ministry, barriers naturally fell away. She opened the path for many who followed her and willingly served as a mentor in those early years.

Memories, stories, and condolences are welcomed by her children, and can be sent to her daughter Nan Choi, 4909 Bangor Court, Henrico, VA 23228.

We give thanks for the life and witness of the Rev. Beryl Turner Choi, and pray that she may rest in peace. ■



"I can assure you, Madame, Mrs. Choi has *not* changed the prayer to 'Our Mother which art in Heaven.'" [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette]

## Bishop's Visitation Schedule

- April 18:** *No visitation*
- April 25:** All Saints, Brighton Heights
- May 2:** St. Brendan's, Franklin Park
- May 9:** Calvary, East Liberty
- May 16:** *No visitation*
- May 23:** *No visitation* (Pentecost)
- May 30** St. Peter's, Blairsville (Trinity Sunday) ■

# The Reverend Huett Maxwell Fleming, Jr. April 29, 1949–March 28, 2021

The Reverend Huett Fleming, for 23 years the Rector of the Church of the Good Shepherd in Hazelwood, died unexpectedly due to complications from COVID-19 on Sunday, March 28.



Friends were received on Friday, April 2, at the Church of the Holy Cross in Homewood, 7507 Kelly Street, Pittsburgh PA 15208. Due to the pandemic, masks and social distancing protocols were followed. A Mass of the Resurrection, limited to family members, was celebrated at Holy Cross on Holy Saturday.

Huett+ was the loving husband of Donna Ball Fleming; devoted father of Kimberly, Shanyn, Justin (Cindy), Rebecca (Brett, Sr.), Laura (Terrance, Sr.) and Lisa (Kenneth, Sr.); grandfather to 17 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Please keep Donna and the entire Fleming family in your prayers. Condolences may be sent to Donna Fleming, 3000 William Penn Highway, Pittsburgh, PA 15235

May Huett's soul and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen. ■



## Anglican Communion's newest province appoints dean of cathedral in Alexandria, Egypt

Archbishop of Alexandria Mouner Anis has appointed the Very Rev. David Aziz to become the dean of the Episcopal/Anglican Cathedral of St. Mark in Alexandria, Egypt, and the churches of the Alexandria region. In a special service to commemorate the event, Anis said, "Today I appoint one of my sons to assume this great responsibility, which is to take care of the parish of Christ in this great city, the city of Alexandria, whose soil was watered with the blood of the martyrs in the era of the Romans and those who sacrificed their lives for Christ."

The Episcopal/Anglican Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East was inaugurated in 1976, and Egypt and North Africa was a diocese within it. In January 2020, Anglican primates approved the decision of the Anglican Communion's Standing Committee to recognize the Diocese of Egypt with North Africa and the Horn of Africa as the new autonomous Episcopal/Anglican Province of Alexandria, serving 10 countries. It is the 41st province of the Anglican Communion. ■

## Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

**April 18:** Leadership of the diocese, including the Standing Committee, the Board of Trustees, and Diocesan Council; and Episcopal Relief & Development

**April 25:** All Saints Episcopal Church, Brighton Heights, the Reverend Dr. Bruce Robison

**May 2:** St. Brendan's Episcopal Church, Franklin Park, and the Reverend Regis Smolko, and the Reverend Julie Smith

**May 9:** Calvary Episcopal Church, East Liberty, the Reverend Jonathon Jensen, the Reverend Leslie Reimer, the Reverend Neil Raman, the Reverend Carol Henley, and the Reverend Ruth Bosch Becker (ELCA); and the Bookstore at Calvary

**May 16:** Retired clergy, including the Reverend David Casto, the Reverend Nancy Chalfant-Walker, the Reverend David Else, the Reverend Dr. Judith Gentle, and the Reverend John Golden

**May 23:** Episcopal Church Women, Ann McStay, president; and, Andrew Roman, diocesan Chancellor and Suzanne DeWalt, Vice Chancellor ■



Find us on:  
**facebook®**

[www.facebook.com/EpiscopalPittsburgh](https://www.facebook.com/EpiscopalPittsburgh)



## Stay in Touch with the Diocese

Visit the diocesan website at

**[www.episcopalpgh.org](http://www.episcopalpgh.org)**

Submissions for publication on the diocesan web site, calendar, and the *Grace Happens* weekly e-newsletter should be sent electronically to

**[info@episcopalpgh.org](mailto:info@episcopalpgh.org)**.

Please be sure to include your complete contact information with any submission. ■

### The Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh mailing address:

325 Oliver Avenue, Suite 300, Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
412.721.0853 | [info@episcopalpgh.org](mailto:info@episcopalpgh.org)

### The Rt. Rev. Dorsey McConnell, Bishop

412.721.0853 ext. 252 | [dmcconnell@episcopalpgh.org](mailto:dmcconnell@episcopalpgh.org)

### Andy Muhl, Executive Assistant

412.721.0853 ext. 251 | [amuhl@episcopalpgh.org](mailto:amuhl@episcopalpgh.org) ■

# EASTER FLOWERS 2021



**Sermon Preached by The Reverend Jonathon Jensen, Rector  
Calvary Episcopal Church, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
on Easter Day, April 4, 2021**

*Mark 16:1–8*

It was a Sunday night I almost died. January 3rd, three months ago, was the date we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the first worship service on radio here at Calvary. It was as great as a service can be without any people. After that, the day was a normal as they get in the past year. My wife and I ate lunch, watched a show, took a walk with the dog, and then did some reading.

For about six months, I had been feeling a bit out of sorts. That could be attributed to any number of things like the pandemic and everything that goes with it, the middle of winter, or my 50th birthday right around the corner.

I was on the first floor of our townhouse and climbed the stairs to the fourth floor to get a book. All of a sudden, there was a crushing weight on my chest in the middle of my sternum. The pain made me double over and took my breath away. After several minutes, hoping it would miraculously go away, the pain surged more deeply and longer. It hurt far worse than anything in my life. I went to my wife and said, “I can’t take this much longer. It’s going to kill me.”

She drove me to Shadyside Hospital five minutes from our house. They did tests, had me chew aspirin, and said “Sir, you have had a heart attack. The cardiac trauma team is on its way. Do you have an advanced directive?” Those are words no one wants to hear. Ever. A week before everything was fine. Then suddenly one’s world is interrupted and forever changed.

Lying in the Emergency Room bed... the reality of the situation was dawning on me. I asked, “Am I going to be okay?” The nurse said, “Sir, If you had waited another 5 to 10 minutes before coming to the hospital, you would be dead. We’re going to do everything we can.” Then she left. There was supposed to be another hopeful part like you’re going to be okay or don’t worry. I had to lie there and wait for a fearful future over which I had no control.

Jesus died on a Friday. All the good he had done and hope he created seemed to die with him. Just a week before, everything was going so well. The crowds kept growing. Women and men, their own people and foreigners and even enemies –° every type of person was helped and healed. Love and justice were taking root and growing. Jesus might really be the Anointed One to usher in heaven come to earth, the Kingdom of God.

Three years of hope evaporated in a week after they arrived in Jerusalem. Jesus entered as a king and hero only to face a mock trial, humiliation, suffering, betrayal, and finally death on a cross without any dignity... what any common criminal could expect.

This was one of the darkest moments in the lives of the disciples. All they had hoped for died right in front of them without a shred of mercy. So they went home in despair and waited in their grief for a fearful future over which they had no control. Most of us have had some experience like that. The life you thought you knew... is suddenly gone, and there’s nothing to be done but sit there and wait for the inevitable.

Mary Magdalen, Jesus’s mother, and Salome had been followers of Jesus since the earliest days of his ministry in Galilee when he called the disciples. They had witnessed his crucifixion from afar and likely watched the body of their friend and teacher being carried away.

When the Sabbath was over, Saturday night, they went to buy spices or perfumed oil to anoint the body of Jesus at dawn on Sunday morning. This was the first opportunity they could do so. The writer mentions the sun had risen which is the symbolic first ray of hope in the story. Note there were no men on the scene. Peter and the other disciples had either fled in fear, were crestfallen for having betrayed Jesus, or didn't know what to do. Trauma can have that effect.

We can tell the mind and mood of the women by their conversation on the way to the tomb. There was no fanciful hope in miracles or all the wonderful things Jesus did and taught. Even though Jesus foretold of his resurrection several times (Mark 8:31, 9:9, 9:31, 10:34) no one believed it. They dealt with the reality of the situation. They discussed their practical concern about who would roll away the large stone blocking the entrance to tomb that was carved into the rock. The question had no answer other than nobody can roll away the stone. It was sealed and immovable. The large stone is a symbol of our lack of power over death and all the emotions that surround it including loss, grief, anger, and fear.

When they arrived, they were in for another shock. As they looked up, a biblical signal for recognizing God's action or presence, they saw the stone had been rolled away. Impressively, they did not run away but entered the tomb. They saw an angel, dressed in white, sitting as if waiting for them. They were rightly alarmed or astonished.

The angel told them not to be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth. The word translated here as "alarmed" is usually rendered as "amazed" and is the reaction throughout the Gospel of Mark to a miracle like the most significant one they are now witnesses to.

Jesus is not here... dead in the tomb... but has been raised. The raising or resurrection is God's action. The angel instructed them to go and tell the disciples and Peter that Jesus is going ahead of you to Galilee and there you will see him. Even though the disciples had all fled, and Peter had denied Jesus three times, none are beyond redemption. You will find Jesus where it all started in Galilee, in the familiar place of home.

Jesus was the Messiah but not in the way they had imagined. Not as a conquering hero or king but as a servant who loves the world to fullness of life beyond death. God has an answer for the immovable stones of death, loss, grief, anger, and fear. The answer is through the person of Jesus, God has destroyed ultimate or final sin and death from within for all time. All the stones, we cannot move on our own, have been cast aside.

The women fled from the tomb because "terror" and "amazement" seized them. The words, in Greek, are "tromos" like trauma and "ecstasis" like ecstasy. They were traumatized and out of stasis or out of sorts. They fled and told no one for they were afraid. That is an astounding way to conclude the Gospel. One would expect a sighting of Jesus. Maybe a reunion with the disciples where all is forgiven with an explanation of what it all means.

The women did not want to tell anyone what they had seen. Would you? Let's tell everyone we saw an angel who said God has raised Jesus from the dead. Everyone will think we are crazy. Sometime later, the three women must have told the story or we wouldn't know it. They overcame their fear to embrace the truth and freedom of the resurrection.

How would you respond to this event and Jesus's life and teaching? That is essentially the question the Gospel writer poses to us and why it is written. Is this the end of the story or the beginning of our part in the story of Jesus? Do we believe we will meet the resurrected Jesus in the familiar? Do we believe God will roll away the immovable stones in our lives?

Lying in the hospital bed, the surgeon came to check on me and told me they were going to insert a stent to deal with a 95% blockage in one of my arteries, the aptly named widowmaker. They had me sign a form to acknowledge the procedure might kill me. Being told that I was 5 minutes from death and signing forms to that effect made me feel the least in control of my entire life. Then I was left naked and alone to wait and ponder my mortality.

Lying there I wondered... what happens if I die right now? It's one thing to imagine we'll be brave in the face of war or death. One never really knows until the bullets start flying and the bombs start dropping how you will react. Courage, of course, is doing one's duty or job even when afraid. We never know if we will be afraid until we face the inevitable.

The first thought that went through my head was practical, not terribly different than the women headed to the tomb. Do I have enough life insurance? It's a little late to do anything about that now. The next thought was more vital. What do I believe happens when I die? You spent 25 years preaching this stuff. Do you really believe it when it's *your* heart that hits the fan?

I thought one of two outcomes to be most likely. First, if this is it, I just flash out of existence like a puff of wind and am gone. That's not terribly compelling or worth basing a life around.

The second outcome is that I believe it's all true. I believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and Jesus and the resurrection. I have no idea about all the details and frankly don't care very much. Every story, great ones at least, are always bound by specifics and limitations of time and place but can reveal universal truth.

I realized that I believe that God is real and loves me just as much as God loves everyone who has ever lived. The implications of that are astounding in how you think of yourself, how you treat other people, how you interact with the world for the good of all. This was not simply an intellectual assertion but a revelation down to my bones, deep in my soul. If I closed my eyes for the last time I would open them again to a Glory so profound that stunned amazement and silence are the only appropriate response.

In that moment I realized that I am not afraid of death, not in the least. That is unbelievably liberating. At Christmas, I said the message of the Incarnation is do not be afraid to live. At Easter, God's message through the Cross and resurrection is you do not have to be afraid of death. Whatever heavy burden you bear God can transform it through the resurrection.

That's what the women and the disciples all realized. The resurrection of Jesus transformed their lives and later transformed the world. If you welcome it, the resurrection can transform you. You will be free to live and love your neighbors as yourself. If you are no longer afraid of death, what fear can hold you? •





2021

## Beginnings at Calvary Episcopal Church

Sign up for 1, 2, 3, or all 4 weeks!  
You have the following options to choose from:

<p><b>Music Camp</b> Ages 2 - 8</p> <p>Choose 1 or 2 Weeks</p> <p>June 1 - June 4 (<i>Tuesday - Friday</i>) and/or June 7 - June 11 (<i>Monday - Friday</i>)</p> <p>Choose Full Days or Half Days</p> <p>Full: 8 am - 5 pm Half: 8 am - 12 pm or 1 - 5 pm</p> <p>Basic Music Theory   Rhythm and Dance Musical Genres   Song Writing Learn to Play a Variety of Instruments Make Instruments   Record our Own Music Listen for Sounds in Nature   Play Musical Games and more...</p> <p>Music Camp T-Shirt will be provided. Reception and Performances June 11 at 5 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Art Camp</b> Ages 2 - 8</p> <p>Choose 1 or 2 Weeks</p> <p>June 14 - June 18 (<i>Monday - Friday</i>) and/or June 21 - June 25 (<i>Monday - Friday</i>)</p> <p>Choose Full Days or Half Days</p> <p>Full: 8 am - 5 pm Half: 8 am - 12 pm or 1 - 5 pm</p> <p>Splatter Paint   Nature Art   Digital Photography Cartooning   Paper Mache   Stained Glass Embossed Tin Art   Mosaics   Tie Dye Art Face Painting   Color Run Games   Outdoor Fun and more...</p> <p>Art Camp T-Shirt will be provided. Reception and Art Gallery June 25 at 5 p.m.</p>
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For more information, contact Tammy Lewis, Director  
[beginnings@calvarypgh.org](mailto:beginnings@calvarypgh.org) • 412-661-3025 • 315 Shady Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15206



# Too many books at home?

Gather up your used books  
and donate them to  
The Bookstore at Calvary's

## **2021 Used Book Sale August 14–22 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

Bestsellers, bibles, cookbooks,  
hardcovers, nonfiction,  
novels, paperback, softcover –  
save it for us!

DVDs, CDs, and vinyl records too!

## **We are accepting donations beginning on June 1!**



**Calvary Episcopal Church**  
315 Shady Ave. at Walnut St., East Liberty 15206  
Off-street Parking • [www.calvarypgh.org](http://www.calvarypgh.org)

