

MAY 16, 2021

## When is it easier to do something three times rather than once?

The answer, for me, is when people are present at least when it comes to preaching. For the past year, we have offered worship online only with one service. Considering the circumstances, I am pleased with the results. We have learned many valuable lessons over the last year and are constantly trying to improve the experience of worship for all.

The first thing I learned is that it is very difficult to preach to a stone column rather than people. I know there is a camera there through which people can see well and the sound works but it takes an immense amount of concentration and energy to preach in an empty building. Did they understand that point? Was the joke funny? Is anyone even watching? If I did not focus on the camera, I found I would lose my place in the text and was exhausted every time.

On the first Sunday back with people in April, it was fantastic. It is much easier to preach three times to three different sizes and groups of people than one go in an empty building. Many people noted how much more demonstrative and engaged I was that day. That is because I was talking to people rather than to a pole. I had a written text but did not need it much. I gained energy from the event.

A similar lesson we also have learned is what a band or orchestra goes through when offering their music. A live performance has energy that is exchanged between performers and people and is shared among everyone. A concert, performance, or worship is a type of conversation and event with energy (in Church we call it the Holy Spirit) moving among all the participants. I know we are not performing but offering worship



together but the analogy is valid. God is the “audience” but also a participant. The major drawback with this, of course, is that the event is live with one attempt to get it right.

The alternative for the band or orchestra is to enter a recording studio with as many conditions as possible controlled with as many takes or attempts to get it right as needed. One can keep trying until the sound or mood is perfect. The drawback with this, of course, is that there is no energy from the people and event.

What the clergy and musicians have experienced for the last year in the building is the worst of both a live concert and studio recording. That is, we had one take to get it right live but no people and the energy they share. We now enjoy the ideal of people worshipping both in person and online.

Our goal has been to make the experience online as much like being in church as possible. We realized quickly the views or perspective online are different than those in person. It is roughly akin to experiencing

*—continued on page 2*



## The Day of Pentecost – May 23, 2021

The Holy Eucharist will be celebrated at  
9 a.m. in the Garden (weather permitting)  
and at 11 a.m. in the Nave

Everyone is encouraged to wear red that day

**Three Times**, continued from page 1

the opera or a Steelers game in person from one spot in your seat or watching on television with multiple camera angles. Again, being together with the congregation/audience/fans makes a difference.

Because of the location and the number of cameras (six with an extra portable one), people are able to experience different parts of the church they might not have focused on before. For example, most people did not enjoy the beauty of the Altar and reredos (wall with wooden carvings behind the Altar) for more than about ten seconds when receiving communion at the rail. The reredos is now visible in high definition for about half of the service.

One silver lining of the pandemic is that we have now moved to offering online worship and will do so in perpetuity in addition to worshipping in person. This is a gift for those who have moved from Pittsburgh and still want to connect with Calvary and for those times (ice, snow, dark, distance, vacation, etc.) it is too difficult for some to make it to church. One older parishioner told me she prefers in-person worship but is glad to know she has an alternative when the weather is bad and she does not want to risk slipping on the ice. We also have a new alternative for Marathon Sunday.

A small observation for those who might be concerned is the camera gives the appearance the church is fuller than it is. The camera adds ten pounds and makes objects in the mirror closer than they appear. We can seat 1,000 in pre and post-pandemic times and still have room for more during COVID-tide with appropriate spacing.

This is a blessing but raises many questions for which no one has yet been able to discern an answer. How do we connect with people who worship primarily online in a pastoral, sacramental, social, or other ways? How do we come together as one congregation? Will the “new normal” be a hybrid with some online and some in person? What does it mean for us to be “Church” like this in the future?

While we don't yet know the answers to these questions, Calvary is uniquely positioned to lead as we experienced a similar phenomenon 100 years ago when we began broadcasting our services over the radio that led to significant numbers over the airwaves up to 1,000 miles away. That is, we have done this before. We will figure this out together as we always do with God's help.

—Jonathon ■

## Home Communion

If you would like to have Communion (bread) brought to your home, the clergy are happy to do so. Please contact any member of the clergy or the church office to make arrangements. ■



## Thanks to Those Who Help Make Online Worship Possible

Thank you to all of you who were faithful in worship this past year and for those who made the purchase of the new video system possible with your generous gifts.

Thank you to Fred Roth, Ken Smith, the Rev. Neil Raman, and Adam Augustine. They are mainly responsible for all the technical aspects of worship online including designing and implementing the video system with six cameras, the streaming and recording, and camera work.

Thank you also to the Calvary Quartet, our name (from Alan) for the four singers who augmented worship each week. The members evolved over the year but the quality remained thanks to Alan Lewis and Jon Tyillian. The original Quartet members were Lisa Nevola, Stan Nevola, Sarah Nadler, and Guy Russo. Elizabeth Gassler, Christian Mazur, Guy Russo, Sr, and Alison Laessig were all significant members of the group. ■

## Calvary Seeking Director of Christian Formation

Calvary Episcopal Church is seeking a new part-time Director of Christian Formation to begin in the summer. Tammy Lewis, the current Director, has concurrently been leading our Beginnings Pre-School Program that is expanding this fall into a full-time position.



Duties include oversight of the program for birth through age 18, leadership of our Christmas Pageant (with multiple animals including a camel and donkey) and related events like the Easter Egg Hunt, recruitment and support of the teachers, supervision of Sunday nursery workers, and similar duties. Familiarity with the Anglican and Episcopal tradition would help immensely.

For a full description of the position and to express interest, please contact the Rector at [jjensen@calvarypgh.org](mailto:jjensen@calvarypgh.org). ■

## Agape Deadline

The deadline for submission of news and notices for the next issue is **Friday, June 4, 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. ■

## A Reflection

by The Rev. Geoffrey Royce, Deacon

Luke 24:36b-48

See. I am real, flesh and blood and not a ghost. Touch my wounds.

Again, Luke's version of Jesus' post-resurrection appearance. I have always imagined this encounter taking place in the same upper room as the last supper. It doesn't actually say this in Luke, but for me it matters somehow.

A small, persecuted group, new to persecution might, return to a place where they last felt safe under the protection of their teacher, now standing before them, his body bearing the wounds of crucifixion and incongruous with their expectations. He lives.

This challenges their reality. There is nothing from their past understanding that can inform this outcome. And yet here is Jesus still with them, still teaching. Do not doubt. Do not be afraid.

See. I am real, flesh and blood, and not a ghost. Touch my wounds.

Every one of us has encountered a moment at least somewhat like this. Staring into the shadows we find light. What had never happened before suddenly reaches past being possible and actually happens – Our first thought is usually to cast doubt. Belief does not come easy to many of us.

No one likes being fooled or deceived. The one deceived is at a disadvantage and has become easier to conquer. Often, we are vulnerable to deception because of beliefs we choose to hold fast. This can't happen. This is not possible. The disciples might not have believed that it was even possible for Jesus to be executed. In fact, we know Peter clearly rejected the idea. Get thee behind me Satan! Clearly it was more than possible. It was the outcome of scripture fulfilled.

There is probably a greater risk in not acknowledging that everything is possible. It goes beyond the practice of having an open mind. It requires seeing things as they actually are. This is the basis of humility. At times it requires great courage. Pretending and denial, while often requiring more energy than courage, in the end leave you with only a fiction, a fairytale. Often pretending and denial are mistaken as a path of hope. This is a grave danger.

Fascism did not become a fact once the concentration camps were built. Racism did not become a fact once Black, Latino, and Asian people were lynched. Misogyny did not become a fact once hunger striking suffragettes were force fed in prison. There was a long steady march towards these outcomes which were built on the belief that these things could not happen here. It could not be possible. There must be some other explanation. Sweeping societal errors require complicity coupled with human limits like ignorance, fear, and want.



See. I am real, flesh and blood. Not a ghost. Touch my wounds.

The cross is a trap for such complicity because it is a trap for the deceivers of this world. There at the foot of the cross we encounter the fact that everything is possible, including a God who could suffer and die like one of us. But we cannot ignore the process built on ignorance, fear and want that led to the cross. The same process is not only possible but is still happening around our world and in our neighborhood. The truth needs always be protected so it can be told. The truth doesn't exist if there are no witnesses to guard it.

See. I am real, flesh and blood. Not a ghost. Touch my wounds. ■

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## Volunteers Needed for Altar Flower Delivery Ministry

We have resumed 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 ■



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

Bible Study over Zoom

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

Bible Study over Zoom

**Thursday, May 27 at 5:45 p.m.**

Holy Happy Hour in the Swan Garden at Calvary ■



Please Wear a Mask  
While You Are at Calvary Church





## MEMORIAL DAY MONDAY, MAY 31, 2021

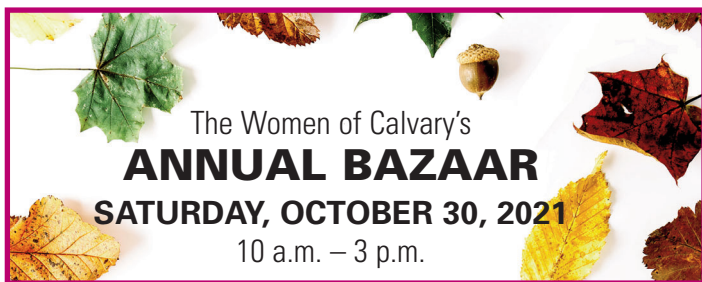
The church and offices  
will be closed this day



## 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. ■



## 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@calvarypg.org](mailto:kpieratt@calvarypg.org). We ask that you keep us informed if you have a home address, phone or email change. ■



## Decisions, Decisions

### (Perplexing Passing Pandemic Pickles)

- Whether Calvary's myriad groups should meet in person or on Zoom or... both at once! A veritable virtual "via media"!
- Whether to attend the Sunday service (at this writing, still only one), and, if so... live, online or replayed later? Hmmm. Shoes or slippers?
- Whether to place a 30-person choral ensemble in the close-proximity Choir or in the spacious South Transept (Transept), and will their masked voices carry as well in the church space (yes), or blend well online (again, yes).
- Whether the eight o'clock service in the intimate Lady Chapel should return to in-person worship now, masked or not, or later in the year. (Decision pending.)
- Whether Confirmands should approach the Bishop or be blessed from a distance. (Hard to have a "Laying on of Hands" virtually.)
- Whether or not the Pentecost reintroduction of the nine o'clock Garden Service should see an expanded seating area beyond the boundary of the flagstones to maintain social distancing, and how to properly space the chairs – singly, in pairs, various groupings? Should attendees help carry them away after the service?
- Whether Greeters and Ushers should closely engage or distantly monitor the re-emerging congregation. Either way, the first people you see on entering are there for you. (Do you even remember where the restrooms are?)
- Whether or not to move, donate, or trash more old or unused stuff (doors, barrels, broken chairs, ancient toilets, things that just make one go "hmmm") to create more storage space – say for the temporary influx of materials for the annual used book sale, again in August and again in the vast spaces of the Parish Hall and Refectory – mark your calendars.

Still,

For all the gnashing of teeth over "ifs", "whens", and "hows", the increasing number of feet crossing thresholds, the presence of real people in a too-long-empty space, the sight of mysterious non-malicious masked persons in pews, the sound of muffled but spoken-aloud prayers and responses, the palpable sense of vitality all around the campus... Why, it's all enough to give one... hope.

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The Episcopal Church has its origins in the Church of England in the American colonies. The first parish was founded in Jamestown, Virginia in 1607, under the charter of the Virginia Company of London. ■

# The Bookstore at Calvary

## The Used Book Sale

Gather your unwanted books, CDs, DVDs, video/audio tapes, and vinyl records and donate them to the Bookstore at Calvary's Annual Used Book Sale 2021. Consider donating whatever book titles you may have including best-sellers, cookbook, hardcover, nonfiction, novel, paperback, and softcover! (Please, no encyclopedias, magazines, or textbooks). Be among the first to browse our huge collection of books at the Preview Party on Friday, August 13 from 5–7 p.m. with an admission donation of \$10. All proceeds of the Used Book Sale benefit local educational and literacy organizations. Volunteers are needed to sort the book donations, please contact Pat Standing at [pstanding@verizon.net](mailto:pstanding@verizon.net) or at 412.481.861 for further details.

## Save the Date: Zoom Conversation with the Very Rev. Michael Battle, Ph.D.

The Episcopal Booksellers Association will be presenting a Zoom conversation with author the Very Rev. Michael Battle, Ph.D., who is currently appointed as Herbert Thompson Professor of Church and Society and Director of the Desmond Tutu Center at General Theological Seminary in New York. He will be discussing his book *Desmond Tutu: A Spiritual Biography*. The event will be on Thursday, June 10, 2021 at 7 p.m. EST. The Bookstore is offering a 20% discount to all purchasers of the book. This is a free event, with registration required. For the direct link, visit our webpage at [www.calvarypgh.org](http://www.calvarypgh.org).

## Spotlight on Calvary Parishioners: Children Authors




Katherine Ayres is the author of numerous books for children including *A Long Way*, which is a simple story about traveling based on a real trip she took with her daughter. Additional titles available include *Up, Down, and Around*, as well as *Matthew's Truck*, to name a few. She has also authored several young adult books including her first two novels, *Family Tree* and *North by Night: A Story of the Underground Railroad*. Additional young adult titles include *Macaroni Boy*, *Silver Dollar Girl*, and *Stealing South*. Signed copies of select books are available.



Margaret Hodges wrote many acclaimed books for children including *The Kitchen Knight: A Tale of King Arthur* and *The Legend of Saint Christopher*. Elegantly told and gorgeously illustrated by Barry Moser, *Moses* is a treasure for the entire family.



Elizabeth Fitzgerald Howard is the author of nine children's books based on her extended family stories including *Papa Tells Chita a Story*, *Aunt Flossie's Hat (and Crab Cakes Later)*, and the 2001 Coretta Scott King Honor Book for Illustration, *Virgie Goes to School with Us*



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

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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]

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**Donated Books accepted  
beginning on June 1**

*Boys*. Additional titles available include *Flower Girl Butterflies* and *What's in Aunt Mary's Room?* A train trip two sisters take by themselves to Baltimore to visit their aunt Lulu is the premise of *The Train to Lulu's*. Signed copies of select books are available.

## 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. 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. Visit the Calvary website link to The Bookstore at Calvary at [www.calvarypgh.org](http://www.calvarypgh.org).

On the Bookstore's webpage, you will find a monthly newsletter along with pictures of featured items available. Be sure to mark the website as one of your favorites!

## How to access The Bookstore at Calvary

The Bookstore is open on Sundays 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](mailto:bookstore@calvarypgh.org) and we will contact you. In addition, we can arrange for contactless pick-up of your items. Cash, check, Discover®, MasterCard®, and Visa® are accepted. ■

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





## Confirmations

Bishop McConnell made his final annual visitation to Calvary on May 9. He was present in the morning as the celebrant and preacher at the 11 o'clock service, and returned that evening at 5 p.m. to preside at the rites of Confirmation, Reception, and the Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows.

These three rites are deeply connected to one another and to the promises made and the new life received in baptism. For much of its history the church has made provision for those who were baptized as children to take ownership of the promises made on their behalf by making "a mature public affirmation of Christian faith" (BCP 412) and receive laying on of hands by a bishop through the sacrament of confirmation. **Confirmation** is the rite by which those who were baptized as children take ownership of the promises made on their behalf. When laying hands on the confirmand's head the bishop prays that they be sustained and strengthened by the Holy Spirit. **Reception** is the rite by which the bishop welcomes those who have been confirmed in the Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Moravian, and some other churches into the fellowship of the Episcopal Church. In addition to confirmation and reception the church provides an opportunity through the **Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows** for those who either want to mark their return to church or wish to renew their commitment to the Christian faith to do so publicly in the presence of both the congregation and the bishop. These rites are touchstones in a person's walk with Christ.

This year Calvary presented 24 people for these rites.

Congratulations to all who have taken this step in their walk with Christ! I invite and encourage you to extend both your congratulations and prayers in support those all who have been confirmed, received, or reaffirmed their baptismal vows.

—The Rev. Neil Raman ■

### *For Confirmation*

Benjamin Bugaile  
Katharine Jamison Byrd  
Ben Callaway  
Douglas Holmes  
Carrington North  
Fiona Madeline Brown  
Dmetrius Charles Cicchitto  
Austin Childs Holden  
Benjamin Allan Maye  
Quinn Barkley Randall  
Sara Tebbs Woodside

### *For Reception*

Mary Jane Bent  
Brian Crossley  
Kasey Walls  
Michael Jeffrey Grott  
Peter Hughes  
Wanda Hughes  
Erin O'Rourke  
Mary Ann Owens  
Robert Jessen Owens, Jr.  
David Riehl  
Ashleigh Riehl  
Michelle Woods

### *For Reaffirmation*

Lucinda Fulton Clark

## EECM Food Pantry

East End Cooperative Ministry Food Pantry is still operating during the pandemic, with appropriate plans to protect those receiving food. Donations can be dropped off at Calvary during office hours: Monday thru Friday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday mornings from 10 a.m. until Noon. Below is a list of items particularly requested at this time. **Thank you to all who have continued to donate to the EECM food cart.** Your support is greatly appreciated.

- Bottled Water • Instant mashed potatoes
- Canned tomato sauce, vegetables, beans
- Spaghetti and macaroni pasta
- Canned soups • Mac & Cheese boxes
- Oatmeal and whole grain cereals
- White and brown rice
- Disposable utensils (fork, spoon, knife)
- Disposable plates • Disposable bowls
- Ziploc bags, any size • Napkins
- Paper Towels • Sugar • Salt ■





We have exciting news to share!

This upcoming school year marks the 40th anniversary of Beginnings which started in 1981 as “A Program for Women and Mothers with Pre-schoolers.” Hats off to everyone who has contributed to 40 years of success!

Even more exciting is our very first significant change to our curriculum! “Beginning” this fall, we will be offering our families the option to attend on Mondays and Fridays in addition to our regular three-day program. Times change and we have to change as well. For those students needing additional hours of care, we have also expanded our Early Bird and Extended Day programs to all 5 days. Everyone at Beginnings, from our teachers to our families, is grateful to Calvary for supporting this expansion and for continuing to provide such a beautiful space for our children to learn and grow. Thank you so much!

As we wind down to the end of our 39th year:

Our Blue Team continues their pattern unit by looking at wind patterns and creating art using the students’ own breath. They will discuss the water cycle supported by an experiment in condensation. The students will continue looking at patterns in stories and compare two versions of *The Three Little Pigs* – wolf version vs. pig version. Plans are to wrap up the year with a few lessons in *Growing up Wild* with a study of animals (wild and domesticated). The students will take time to think about their own likes and dislikes when it comes to animals in nature and discuss how we should appreciate all animals no matter our personal preferences.

Our Purple Team’s last unit, *Tell Me a Story*, will combine literacy, art, and performance. Each child will make a mini-book while learning about nouns, adjectives, and verbs to describe the character they have chosen to create. They will illustrate their books by using their drawing skills and cutting skills to compose a collage. In preparation for their year-end fashion show, they will design and create their very own paper mache hat (inspired by the book *Caps for Sale* by Esphyr Slobodkina) and tie dye a T-shirt, choosing their favorite pattern.

To celebrate Mother’s Day (and dads too), our students made art projects and personalized cards to give as presents to their parents. Many were made with children’s hand-prints. Each team discussed all the many things our parents do for us and how much we (should) appreciate them.

Thursday, May 27, is the last day of the 2020-21 school year. Our teams are preparing for their year-end programs. While

still following our COVID safety protocols, all class parties and performances will be recorded and sent to the parents along with their child’s portfolios, photo collages and more. Over 30 children have already signed up for one or both of our summer camp programs in June. Our teachers are hard at work planning the curriculum and activities, inviting special guests, and organizing our camp-end receptions. Both camps will be both culturally rich and fun for all. We will make space available for anyone who wants to attend.

We are also enrolling for the 2021-22 school year, ages 18 months to 5 years, and we anticipate larger class sizes as more and more in our community are getting vaccinated. If you have friends, families, or neighbors with young children who are interested in a warm, safe, nurturing, diverse and inclusive preschool, please have them email Beginnings at [beginnings@calvarypgh.org](mailto:beginnings@calvarypgh.org).

—Tammy Lewis, *Director* ■

## CHILDREN’S CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Congratulations to our youth, Fiona Brown, Dmetrius Cicchitto, Austin Holden, Ben Maye, Quinn Randall, and Sara Woodside, all of whom were confirmed by Bishop McConnell on May 9, 2021. Congratulations as well to Gabby Abdalla, who will be confirmed by Bishop McConnell on June 6, 2021 at Christ Church North Hills.

A special thanks to Laura Marchl for teaching the Confirmation Class this year.

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

We will continue having Sunday School via Zoom throughout this current Sunday school year, which ends on May 30. 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.

**Journey Group:** (middle and high school age) Continuation of our Lenten study of *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*) Led by Tammy Lewis and Katie Riordan Buccì.

*5/16 The Silver Chair*

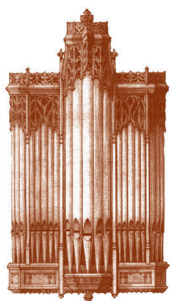
*5/23 The Last Battle*

*5/30 Final meeting and discussion about the series*

—Tammy Lewis, *Director of Children’s Christian Formation*,  
[tlewis@calvarypgh.org](mailto:tlewis@calvarypgh.org), 412.661.0120 ext. 116 ■



## MUSICAL NOTES by Alan Lewis



With our return to in-person worship a few weeks ago came a return of congregational singing as well. I am sure that I was not alone in finding the raising of our collective voice in musical praise once more to have been a deeply moving experience, after missing it for so long. All through the pandemic, I have been mindful of the deprivation of this central part of so much of our worship – a part that may indeed be expendable, as 8-o’clock-services around the church have long demonstrated, but a part in whose absence many of us have felt bereft.

In a recent word-search of the scriptures, I found that the word “sing” appears (with its cognates) more than half as often as the word “pray.” It appears considerably more frequently than the word “hope,” and even about a third as often as the word “love.” Singing, in our scriptural tradition, is a big deal. This is particularly so in the Hebrew Scriptures, and nowhere more than in the Psalter. The Psalms constantly encourage and exhort us to “Sing to the Lord” (and often to do so, shockingly, with a *new* song!) This understanding of the importance of song helped shape our Lord and his first disciples – recall that one of the last recorded acts before Jesus’ arrest was the singing of a hymn at the close of what we know as the Last Supper.

Singing changes the way we process information. By introducing song, the verbal centers of the left brain hemisphere seem to be brought into cooperation – even into harmony – with the musical functions of the right hemisphere. This is thought to be why coupling words with music makes everything from a hymn to a commercial jingle stick in our minds more enduringly than mere words alone. And the act of utterance in song takes more out of us – more effort, more air, more attention – than the recitation of words alone. In taking more out of us, it also allows us to give ourselves more fully to that utterance, to attend more completely to it, to be more “in the moment,” more fully present to that act of prayer.

So it has seemed to me a matter of some spiritual peril that singing has, in the course of the pandemic, come in for so much disapproval. A scientific study early on in the crisis assessed the relative potential for the spread of airborne viral particles through singing and speaking, and determined that there was little difference between these two forms of communication. But that parity seemed not to get much traction in the wider discourse. There were some isolated, but highly-publicized, instances of choral singing leading to viral transmission as the pandemic set in, but the institution of various now-common forms of precaution (chiefly masks and distancing) seems to mitigate the danger effectively. Moreover, the fact that Calvary parishioners (including our choir members) have proven to be highly

motivated to comply with public-health exhortations toward vaccination, is an important factor in making singing safe for choir and congregation alike.

The phrase “joyful noise” has never seemed more apt: there is true, deep joy in the sound of our return to singing, however rusty we may feel, after so long on the sidelines. Breathe deeply, sing joyfully, and know that, with a bit of practice, our voices will return to their familiar ranges. Perhaps the joy of recovered song will even help us not to take it for granted again, but to join in with renewed and increased vigor. In the words of the great 20th-century hymnographer, Erik Routley,

*New songs of celebration render  
To God who has great wonders done;  
Love sits enthroned in ageless splendor;  
Come and adore the Mighty One. ■*



## Free Documentary on Immigration

Worldwide Documentaries in collaboration with the Falk Foundation is presenting to a global audience, a free download of **Oh Mercy**, a new documentary on immigration and conditions at the US-Mexican border.

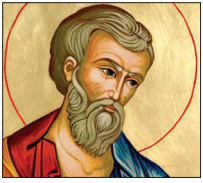
“Oh Mercy’ is by far the best film on US immigration issues that we have. It is beautifully crafted and deeply humanistic in its approach. Most importantly, it is deliberately short, and therefore accessible on a wide range of platforms to the huge audiences it is designed to reach. These local, regional, national, and global audiences are the ones we must have if we are to influence policy in any sustained or impactful way at this pivotal time in our nation’s history.”

*–Lee Gelernt, Deputy Director,  
ACLU Immigrants’ Rights Project*

Watch the 12-minute documentary free of charge at **[www.ohmercyfilm.com](http://www.ohmercyfilm.com)**. Registration is for usage tracking only. For more information, please call Phil Hallen at 412.681.5159 ■

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





## 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). ■

## Holy Baptism

The sacrament of Holy Baptism will be offered at the 11 a.m. liturgy on Pentecost, Sunday, May 23, 2021. If you, or someone you know, desires to partake in this sacrament, please contact the Reverend Neil Raman ([nraman@calvarypgh.org](mailto:nraman@calvarypgh.org) or 412.661.0120, ext. 112) as soon as possible, so that the appropriate preparation and arrangements can be made. ■



## Did You Know?

Pentecost is the longest season of the year from the completion of Easter to the beginning of Advent lasting roughly from early-June until late-November. The feast occurs on the seventh Sunday after Easter whose date varies annually (this year it is May 23).

The term “Pentecost” means “fiftieth day” as in the fiftieth day after Passover. Pentecost was a feast in both the Old Testament and New Testament. In the Hebrew world it was a type of agricultural festival. In the early life of the Church, it took on new meaning with the gift of the Holy Spirit to the disciples, a fulfillment of Jesus’s promise that Christ would be with us always.

The color of the season is red for the first Sunday of Pentecost, white for Trinity Sunday which is the second Sunday of the season, and green thereafter. ■

## The Average Hippopotamus

The average hippopotamus is big from top to bottom, it travels at a trot, and swims when days are hot.

Because it eats a lot, it’s practically a yacht, so it’s a cinch to spot the average hippopotamus. ■



A poem written by Jack Prelutsky. It can be found in many of his books including his anthology *Be Glad Your Nose is On Your Face*. #NationalPoetryMonth. A selection of poetry books is available in the Calvary Bookstore.

## Soup Group News

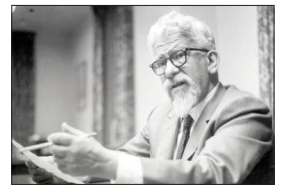
The Soup Group will not meet this month because we have an adequate supply of soup in the pantry freezer. Check next month’s Agape or Calvary’s weekly emails if you are interested in joining us when return to cooking at the church. An easy and safe way to be involved is by taking soup to a friend, relative or family member. Our soup is made to be shared and is not restricted to members of Calvary. If you have any questions, please contact me.



–Adele Eley, [Adele.eley@gmail.com](mailto:Adele.eley@gmail.com), 412.371.6921 ■

## Spiritual Reflection – Abraham Joshua Heschel

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 from 7–8 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday evening of each month. Upcoming meetings will occur on May 18, and June 1 and 15. Email Matt Muldoon ([mattmuldoon@msn.com](mailto:mattmuldoon@msn.com)) or Sondra Krimmel ([sskrimmel@gmail.com](mailto:sskrimmel@gmail.com)) for information or to be added to the email list. Please feel welcome to join at any time. ■

## Indiana Episcopalians open state’s first LGBTQ youth shelter

Even before the ribbon was cut to officially open Trinity Haven, Indiana’s first residential facility for LGBTQ youth and young adults who are at risk of homelessness, two people were living in the house. Organizers learned that LGBTQ youth homelessness is an invisible crisis in Indianapolis, 40% of all homeless youth identify as LGBTQ. 68% say that family rejection of their gender identity or sexual orientation is a major reason that they are homeless. Moreover, they learned that there are LGBTQ youth who are sleeping on park benches, in doorways, and on city buses trying to stay warm and safe. Read more at [www.episcopalnewsservice.com](http://www.episcopalnewsservice.com). ■

## 2021 Holidays and Observances

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] ■

## 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!) ■



## 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. ■

## Please remember Calvary Church in your will.

## 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. ■

## 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. ■



photo by Geoffrey Royce

# 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 McMahon, *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 Diltz, Mary Ann Slater, *Archivists*





# News of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh



## A Letter from the Standing Committee Regarding a Petition Process in the Election of the IX Bishop of Pittsburgh

May 7, 2021

Dear friends in Christ,

One week from now, we expect to identify a slate of nominees who will stand for election to be the Ninth Bishop of Pittsburgh. As of this writing, no one, including the members of the Nominating Committee themselves, knows the composition of that slate. We do know that the committee is in its final stages of discerning a shortlist of candidates; that they began with a pool of applicants that numbered in the high end among all Episcopal dioceses in the current electing cycle, regardless of size; and that the committee has been deeply and prayerfully engaged in this process since February 2020. In the coming days, the Nominating Committee should recommend its slate for our approval, and we intend to reveal those names by way of the diocesan website and newsletter on Friday, May 14. Please pray for all involved in these decisions.

In truth, no one person or group knows whom God will use to lead this diocese. While the principal method for calling candidates is through the discernment of the Nominating Committee, the Canons of the Episcopal Church provide for a wider process in which all laity and clergy can join with the Holy Spirit to raise up a new bishop. Accordingly, the Canons allow for a means to nominate by petition.

The petition process is intended to address those situations where a person may be called to stand for election, but for whatever reason was not part of the Nominating Committee process or ultimately recommended for the slate. In such cases, the petition candidate must be endorsed by a wide cross-section of the diocese, and undergo the same application process and personal background checks required of other candidates. Because of these steps, the former practice of nominating from the floor during the electing convention is no longer permitted.

The documents and forms that provide more detail on the requirements and process for nominating by petition are available on the Diocesan website: [www.episcopalpgh.org](http://www.episcopalpgh.org). The petition period will begin when the slate is announced on May 14 and remain open for seven days, closing at noon on Friday, May 21. The names of persons put forward by petition will remain confidential until the individual's candidacy is approved by the Standing Committee. Any petition nominee will then be introduced to the diocese in the same manner as the initial slate. All nominees, regardless of how they came to be on the slate, will participate in our planned pre-election activities, including the June 14–19 meet-and-greet opportunities, and will appear on the ballot at our electing convention on June 26.

Asking the Spirit's guidance on all of us as we move toward calling our next bishop,

The Rev. Noah H. Evans, *Standing Committee President*

Lisa Brown, *Secretary*

Kathy Baird

Robert Johnston

The Rev. Dr. Moni McIntyre

The Rev. Neil K. Raman

The Rev. Annis Rogers

Steve Stagnitta ■

## Bishop Loran Mann, a Partner in Reconciliation, RIP

*Bishop McConnell issued this statement after the death on May 2 of Bishop Loran E. Mann of Pittsburgh's Pentecostal Temple Church of God in Christ. The two bishops have been partners in efforts to bring racial justice and reconciliation to the people of southwestern Pennsylvania.*



"The death of Bishop Loran Mann is a great loss to the whole Church on this side of heaven. He was a lion of the Gospel – outspoken and loving in his proclamation of Jesus Christ, always full of grace and good humor. He was a 'pastor's pastor' and his leadership was felt across all lines of race and denomination. I treasured our friendship, and I grieve his loss. May God comfort especially the hearts of his wife, his family, his congregation and those he oversaw. May he rest in peace and rise in glory."

*More about Bishop Mann is available in the Tribune-Review and the Post-Gazette.*



## Bishop's Visitation Schedule

<b>May 16:</b>	<i>No visitation</i>
<b>May 23:</b>	<i>No visitation</i> (Pentecost)
<b>May 30:</b>	St. Peter's, Blairsville (Trinity Sunday)
<b>June 6:</b>	Christ Church, North Hills
<b>June 13:</b>	Christ Church, Indiana
<b>June 20:</b>	St. Michael's, Ligonier ■



## Episcopal Church statement on new refugee cap

Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations | May 4, 2021

President Biden followed through on his promise to raise the Fiscal Year 2021 refugee cap from 15,000 to 62,500. The Episcopal Church commends President Biden for recognizing the United States' obligation to protecting some of the most vulnerable individuals in our world. The Episcopal Church has called on the United States and other wealthy nations to "contribute to resettlement, establish and maintain safe and orderly humanitarian protection for refugees, internally displaced persons, and other migrants seeking long-term solutions and safety." Given that the Episcopal Church has put these words into practice through its refugee resettlement work with Episcopal Migration Ministries and the welcoming work of its parishes, we appreciate the White House has done the same with its campaign promises to expand refugee resettlement and strengthen the refugee program.

Today's decision was a very important moment to mark a return to form for the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program and the United States' commitment to refugees," said the Rev. Dr. C.K. Robertson, canon to the Presiding Bishop, "for decades we've seen Republican and Democratic administrations make robust refugee resettlement an important part of their immigration and foreign policy and appreciate that the Biden administration will follow in their footsteps to serve these populations. The Episcopal Church also commends the work of its members and staff who have been instrumental in advocating for the refugee program and refugees in recent weeks. "The Episcopal Church has a long history of welcoming the stranger and we're incredibly proud that our members met with and contacted their members of Congress to encourage the Biden Administration to meet its 62,500 pledge," said Demetrio Alvero. "We stand ready to work with the administration to implement this new goal and its future efforts to expand refugee resettlement in Fiscal Year 2022." ■

## Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

**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

**May 30:** St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Blairsville, and the Reverend Joseph Baird

**June 6:** Christ Episcopal Church, North Hills, the Reverend Canon James Shoucair, the Reverend Christine McIlvain, and the Reverend Lorena Ringle

**June 13:** Christ Episcopal Church, Indiana, and the Reverend William Geiger; and the Reverend Marc Jacobson, missionary

**June 20:** St. Michael's of the Valley Episcopal Church, Ligonier, and the Reverend Dr. James Simons; and Sheldon Calvary Camp, Tim Green, executive director, summer staff and campers ■



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



## Stay in Touch with the Diocese

Visit the diocesan website at

[www.episcopalpgh.org](https://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:

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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) ■



2021

## Beginnings at Calvary Episcopal Church

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

### Music Camp Ages 2 - 8

#### Choose 1 or 2 Weeks

June 1 - June 4 (*Tuesday - Friday*)  
and/or  
June 7 - June 11 (*Monday - Friday*)

#### Choose Full Days or Half Days

Full: 8am - 5pm  
Half: 8am - 12pm or 1 - 5pm

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...

Music Camp T-Shirt will be provided.  
Reception and Performances  
June 11 at 5p.m.

### Art Camp Ages 2 - 8

#### Choose 1 or 2 Weeks

June 14 - June 18 (*Monday - Friday*)  
and/or  
June 21 - June 25 (*Monday - Friday*)

#### Choose Full Days or Half Days

Full: 8am - 5pm  
Half: 8am - 12pm or 1 - 5pm

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...

Art Camp T-Shirt will be provided.  
Reception and Art Gallery  
June 25 at 5p.m.

For more information, contact Tammy Lewis, Director  
[beginnings@calvarypgh.org](mailto:beginnings@calvarypgh.org) • 415-661-3025 • 315 Shady Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15206



# The Bookstore at Calvary's

Bestsellers, bibles, cookbooks,  
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**We are accepting  
donations beginning  
on June 1!**

