



# Agape

The Newsletter of  
Calvary Episcopal Church  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

NOVEMBER 15, 2020

Sermon Preached by  
**The Reverend Jonathon W. Jensen, Rector**  
at Calvary Episcopal Church, Pittsburgh, PA  
on The Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost,  
The Sunday after the Presidential Election  
November 8, 2020

*Matthew 25:1-13*

On October 27, 2019, crowds packed together in Pittsburgh to honor the eleven people killed at the Tree of Life Synagogue one year before. Politicians made speeches, clergy prayed, musicians shared their gifts, and many lit candles to make light in the darkness.

People from all faiths and none gathered with media coverage from around the world. The event was an outpouring of grief, love, and support... for those who died and those left behind. It was a night of communal healing and a witness to who we are and who we long to become.

There was also lament for the innocence lost, for the illusion shattered... that such an act of hate could happen on **our** street. Eleven people were murdered not out of jealousy or greed... that we *might* understand... but from of hate for who they are. The shooting was also experienced as an attack on all of us. We took it personally.

“Stronger than hate” signs appeared everywhere. That message is true but only when we work for it diligently and faithfully. And then what always happens – did. People moved on and got on with their lives and “got back to normal,” whatever that means. It’s not that they don’t care. It is simply too exhausting to sit with that much pain for too long. People did the best they could. Some of the signs remain, weathered but still a witness. The memory of the shooting faded.

Then the pandemic hit with the year of perfect storms. Everything has heightened the sense of anxiety; the economy, overdue social justice concerns, loss of human contact and community, a mental health crisis brought on by a pandemic of physical health that seems to grow worse. People are burned out from so much stress and so much unknown about the future. Oh, and there was an election that just occurred with exhausting waiting. Finally, that is over. There is a flicker of hope growing brighter that things will start to get better.

In our Gospel story, Jesus told a parable about what the Kingdom of Heaven is like. The Kingdom of Heaven is God’s reign of mercy, justice, hope, and love coming into our world. The Kingdom is shorthand for the Creation transformed to look like Heaven on Earth, the world we long and pray and work for. But this is a really strange way to describe it.

One preacher offers a helpful approach for us to hear this parable in our current post-election, ongoing pandemic time. The story of the ten foolish and wise bridesmaids can be heard as one of **burnout**. Half don’t have enough fuel to keep going and are left out.

Ten bridesmaids were waiting for the groom to appear; we are the bridesmaids and Jesus is the groom.

“...a light in the darkness that  
will not go out...”

Their job was to meet him to light his way and escort him to the wedding banquet. For some unknown reason, the groom did not show up when expected. They waited and then waited some more. Presumably, they kept their oil lamps going all night. *If they had them*, they would have been checking their cell phones every five minutes looking for an update about when to expect a result. Exhausted from waiting, they all fell asleep.

At midnight, there was a shout. Finally, the groom was on his way. Five of them brought extra fuel to keep their lamps going. That was their job, after all, to light the way. The other five were not prepared and asked to borrow some oil. They told them to go down to the Giant Eagle and get more. While they were gone, the groom arrived and took those who were ready to the wedding banquet. Those who were not prepared were left out in the dark.

This is not a story about being clever enough or earning your way into heaven. It is about being prepared to welcome heaven and pray and work for it to arrive. To experience burnout is to miss out and be left in the dark. In the story, the ones without fuel do not get to meet the groom and enter the celebration.

–continued on page 2

SERMON, *continued from page 1*

They did not have enough fuel to keep going. Good news doesn't sound as good and the bad sounds worse than it is when you are burned or stressed out. This whole year has been the perfect recipe for widespread disconnection and exhaustion for everyone. When we are burned out from too much of everything, we can't enjoy simple things or engage our mission as well... to pray and work for God's Kingdom here and now, to help light the way.

This moment is one to celebrate that we are headed in a new direction... one that begins to heal and unite us. A gift to help light the way, we can offer the world, is learning to recognize and love our neighbors as ourselves. That one focus enacts the Kingdom above all else. The rest of the Bible is simply ways to describe what that looks like. Using and sharing that gift is also a way to give us fuel to keep going in spite of the uncertainty. Love always requires energy but we receive it by sharing it. That's what Jesus teaches over and over in this gospel. We receive forgiveness and mercy to the extent we offer it. We receive love the more we share it.

It's not too challenging to love neighbors who may be different from us but are generally agreeable. In this time, can we seek to recognize and love our neighbors with whom we disagree or know to be wrong? Whoever you voted for, half the country sees it differently.

I have been asked numerous times this month, "How can the other side possibly believe what they do?" I don't know. But I believe they are tired and scared... about some different things than you maybe... but scared nonetheless. Assuming the best motive for your side and the worst motive for the other is not love or faith... it's also fear. Does that build up or tear down?

Can you begin to see and respect the dignity of *those* human beings even while disagreeing? I am not suggesting you change your beliefs or compromise on justice, Jesus doesn't – not for a moment – but can you try to love them as Jesus does? That is creating a light in the darkness that will not go out. That is a gift of hope our country desperately needs.

I experienced a gift of creating a hopeful light together this past week. It was a service to mark two years since the shooting at the Tree of Life. The second remembrance was dramatically different from the first. There were no crowds packed together, no cameras, and no political promises. It was quiet with about forty people present, all online. For most of the world, that date was on October 27. On the Jewish calendar, which marks years with the sun and months with the moon, the two-year date was on November 4. That happened to be the night after the election. The timing turned out to be a blessing.

This was a yizkor or memorial service in which we prayed, read from the Bible, and remembered the dead, specifically the eleven. It was remarkably similar to our All Saints Requiem a few nights before. Rabbi Myers lit candles and

sang the mourner's kaddish in tears. We prayed for those who died and for our country. We pledged to work together for the good of our community and to pray for and with one another. The event was solemn but undergirded by hope in God's promises and what the Lord can do through us.

The participants were black, brown and white, male and female, young and old. They were Jewish, Catholic, Protestant, Muslim, and Hindu. As we prayed together, I thought that is what heaven must be like, without the Zoom meeting of course.

There are a lot of things we don't agree on; who Jesus is or how many gods there are, and other points that are significant. But we recognize each other as neighbors that comes with responsibilities rooted in communal relationship.

Together we seek to establish a "new normal" by doing Kingdom work in our own way. We are not going to make another sign or write a declaration and will *not* form a new committee. We are too tired for that. We seek instead to share love that will give us all we need for the work ahead.

We know all those signs for Stronger than Hate, Black Lives Matter, No matter where you are from, Trump, or Biden will fade and fall at some point. Signs are great but the light needs to be manifest in our actions and kindled in our hearts. There is a time for the celebration or fanfare. Then follows the quiet work of the Kingdom, neighbor recognizing and loving a neighbor when most have forgotten how. That is a gift we can all share and a light in the darkness that will not go out.



*In the Jewish tradition, they honor the dead by doing a good deed or make a financial gift to charity. Calvary sent a memorial gift to Tree of Life on October 27.*

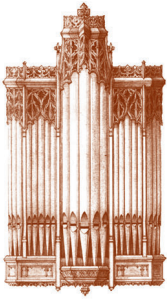
*Idea to interpret burnout with foolish bridesmaids comes from the Rev. Charles Hoffacker.*

The yizkor (may God remember) or memorial service for those who died was held online on November 4, 2020. Participating, in order they appeared, in the service were:

- Jeffrey Myers, Rabbi Hazzan of Tree of Life-Or L'Simcha Synagogue in Pittsburgh
- David Zubik, Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh
- Som Sharma, Hindu leader of the Alliance for Humanitarian Initiatives and Spiritual Advancement
- Eric Manning, Pastor of Mother Emmanuel AME Church of Charleston, SC
- Liddy Barlow, Executive Minister of Christian Associates of Southwest PA
- Chris Caras, Imam of the Islamic Center of Pittsburgh
- Jonathon Jensen, Rector of Calvary Episcopal Church in Pittsburgh
- Donna McLemore, Widow of James McLemore, African Methodist Episcopal Presiding Elder of Pittsburgh District

–Jonathon ■

## MUSICAL NOTES by Alan Lewis



Advent is a-coming, beginning on Sunday, November 29. In accord with time-honored custom at Calvary, we will mark that day with a service of Lessons and Carols, this year to be livestreamed (only) at 5 p.m. and then posted to YouTube for later viewing

We often describe Advent as a season of expectation, and this service generally develops themes drawn from the dual nature of our waiting during Advent. First, of course, we await our annual recollection of the birth of Jesus, at a particular time and place in history. And, no less importantly, we look ahead to the second “Advent” of that Savior, “when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world,” as the Eucharistic Preface for Advent so stirringly puts it.

This year, it might be noted, we all wait with eager longing for a third form of deliverance, from the pandemic that has so limited and reshaped our individual and common lives for the past nine months. That we are offering this service by livestream, rather than in person, is in part an acknowledgement of those limitations: the handful of singers who will be presenting the music can be heard far better through the intimacy of the livestream medium than by a congregation (of whatever size) physically distanced throughout the Nave.

This technologically facilitated form of liturgical offering also celebrates the possibilities that have been opened by the remarkable transformation in Calvary’s audio-visual arsenal across the past few months. Through both the physical facts of cameras and our growing comfort in deploying this technology to convey an expansive experience of worship services, we have been able to broaden our reach even in the midst of a situation whose most defining attributes have been loss and deprivation. We are deeply grateful to those whose generous response to this situation has enabled this transformative enhancement of our capabilities.

The music for the service includes a number of pieces founded in the “carol” repertory that developed in England in the fifteenth-century. These “carols” are not what we generally think of when we say “carols”: the familiar body of Christmas-themed song largely arose in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. (These will come into play in our Christmas-themed Lessons & Carols, on December 20: stay tuned!) Instead, these late-medieval texts (set to music, in this case, relatively recently, by several living composers) arose as vehicles for a kind of “cross-over” music, bridging the gap between sacred and secular, between devotion and entertainment. Other music in the service ranges from Gregorian chant to Renaissance polyphony to a couple of pieces from the early twentieth-century flowering of choral liturgical-music in England.

*—continued in the next column*

All of it points to the coming of one both longed for and un-looked-for, one whose coming was foretold for centuries by prophets and yet caught his people completely by surprise. That longing continues to inspire us, as we await and pray for the joyful, expectation-shattering surprise of God-With-Us. ■

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## Plastic Recycling

Thank you to everyone at Calvary for your continued participation in the Trex Recycling Program. We have collected more than 2,000 pounds of plastic film since we began in April of 2019. Thank you also to Wendy Lomicka for initiating and leading the program.

Because of these efforts, we have earned two benches made of recycled content that are in the Swan Garden and two additional benches that are at Sheldon Calvary Camp. Our current campaign will be supporting St. James Church in Penn Hills led by the Rev. Eric McIntosh. Eric is priest-in-charge of St. James and Canon for Beloved Community in the Diocese of Pittsburgh.



As a reminder, if you are dropping off “large” bags of film, the stores prefer that we drop them off in a clear bag so that it is recognizable that it is film and not trash. Smaller bundles in typical blue bags are fine! ■

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## 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



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



## The Bookstore at Calvary

The Bookstore has many items to celebrate Advent including a variety of nativities from around the world, Advent books for both adults and children, and Advent wreaths and candle sets. In addition, there is an assortment of Advent calendars for children of all ages including pictures and Bible text, pictures and the Nativity Story, stickers, and many others.

A variety of calendars and daily planners for 2021 is available including:

**Churchman's Ordo Kalendar:** Offers a full listing of the traditional feasts and devotional days that are frequently celebrated throughout the Anglican Communion. Calendar dates are printed in the liturgical color for that day.

**Episcopal Church Year Guide Kalendar:** Edited to conform to Lesser Feasts and Fasts of 2006, Book of Common Prayer and the Revised Common Lectionary. Lesser Feasts and Fasts 2006 remains the last calendar of saints to be given final approval by the General Convention of the Episcopal Church.

**The Episcopal Liturgical Appointment Calendar:** Features two pages for each week, ample space for noting appointments, proper liturgical colors, Daily Office readings from the Book of Common Prayer and Sunday readings from the Revised Common Lectionary, Holy Days, commemorations and secular observances.

**2021 Pocket Diary:** This weekly planner features include prayers for special occasions, daily devotions, space for addresses and phone numbers, and reminder pages for birthdays.

### Featured Book Titles: *Citizenship*

Drawing on her personal experience as well as her knowledge of religious history, Diana Butler Bass examines the contours of the uniquely American relationship between church and state, Christian identity and patriotism, citizenship and congregational life in *Broken We Kneel: Reflections on Faith and Citizenship*. In writing both impassioned and historically informed, Bass reflects on current events, personal experiences, and political questions that have sharpened the tensions between serious faith and national imperatives.

How do we develop the resilience that empowers us to be ourselves in the face of change? *Building Resilience: When There's No Going Back to the Way Things Were* by Alice Updike Scannell offers a path toward creativity in responding to change in your life, regaining some control over your circumstances, and overcoming feelings of helplessness. Whether you're 17 or 75, if life has thrown you a curve ball, this book can help you get on track toward being yourself in your new normal.

Richard Carter swapped a life of simplicity with an Anglican religious order in the Solomon Islands for parish ministry in one of London's busiest churches, St Martin-in-the-Fields in *The City is My Monastery: A Contemporary Rule of Life*. Part story, part spiritual meditation, Carter offers spiritual wisdom for daily life rooted in the Nazareth Community's seven guiding principles: Silence, Service, Scripture, Sacrament, Sharing, Sabbath Time and Staying.

While considered a children's book, adults will too enjoy *Immigrant Architect: Rafael Guastavino and the American Dream* by Berta de Miguel and Kent Diebolt with illustrations by Virginia Lorente.

Rafael Guastavino Sr. was 39 when he left a successful career as an architect in Barcelona. American cities – densely packed and built largely of wood – were experiencing horrific fires, and Guastavino had the solution: the soaring interior spaces created by his tiled vaults and domes made buildings sturdier, fireproof, and beautiful. What he didn't have was fluent English. Unable to win design commissions, he transferred control of the company to his American-educated son, whose subsequent half-century of inspired design work resulted in major contributions to the built environment of America. *Immigrant Architect* is an introduction to architectural concepts and a timely reminder of immigrant contributions to America.



**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. To access the Calvary collection, go to [www.alibris.com](http://www.alibris.com), in the Search Box, type Calvary, in the dropdown box within the search box, click on Sellers, then click on the magnifier icon.

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. Prices start from as low as \$4.

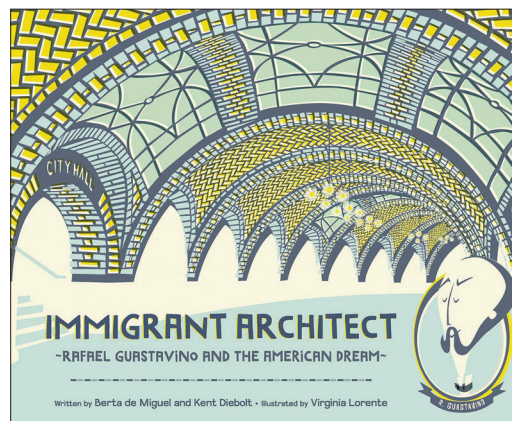
### Sale Items and Fabulous Finds

The Bookstore has a variety of new books on clearance for half price and many as low as \$5. There is an assortment of sale merchandise including gift items to choose from as well. Also, view a large selection of gently used books starting as low as \$3, as well as Fabulous Finds featuring rare, out-of-print, or unusual used books.



**The Bookstore is now open on Sundays** from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. In line with our commitment to provide a safe and clean shopping environment, we are implementing the following: all visitors and Bookstore volunteers must wear a mask inside the Bookstore (hand sanitizer, gloves, and masks are available for patrons) and no more than two visitors at a time. High touch areas will be sanitized by the volunteer before opening and upon closing.

If you have any questions or interest in purchasing any items, please contact the Bookstore at 412.661.0120 ext. 133 (please leave a message) or email [bookstore@calvaryphg.org](mailto:bookstore@calvaryphg.org). We can arrange for contactless pick-up of your items. Cash, check, Discover®, MasterCard®, and Visa® are accepted. ■



## Women of Calvary Bazaar News

We are very pleased that we have raised about \$21,000 in funds for WOC Grants. We have also decided on two other sources of fundraising this year during the holiday season since we cannot have an in-person Bazaar. We are partnering with **Ten Thousand Villages** to have a catalog “offsite sale.” Basically, this would entail purchasing Ten Thousand Villages items from a catalog and using our special number. We would receive 12% of all sales. We also will partner with **Sarris Candies** where orders can be placed online and we receive 25% of the sales. This would require no use of the Church as purchases will be sent to the buyer postage free. See the ads in the opposite column.

Normally we would not be partnering with these organizations if we had an in-person Bazaar, but since circumstances are different now we thought this could be an opportunity to raise more funds for our Bazaar Grant Fund.

Even though there is a pandemic, the organizations that we give grants to will still be in need of our help – perhaps even more help next year.

Blessings!

–Kathleen Farrington, Chairperson ■

## Support the Women of Calvary this Holiday Season



**Help support the Women of Calvary with our Christmas Candy Sale from Sarris Candies!**

Go to [SARRISCANDIESFUNDRAISING.COM](http://SARRISCANDIESFUNDRAISING.COM)  
Click On-line Ordering, Enter our Group ID# 10-3596  
Then shop the Christmas List for all your favorites  
**Click the direct link on the Calvary website at**  
[www.calvarypgh.org](http://www.calvarypgh.org)

FREE SHIPPING to your home!  
No minimum purchase is required  
**Please place orders by December 21, 2020**



Ten Thousand Villages in Pittsburgh is a fair trade retailer of artisan-crafted home decor, personal accessories and gift items from across the globe. Featuring products from more than 130 artisan groups in some 38 countries, we are part of a network of over 390 retail outlets throughout the United States selling Ten Thousand Villages products.

**SHOP IN THE STORE, BY PHONE, OR ONLINE**  
Use the “coupon code” of **FUNDCALVBZ**  
**Sale Dates**  
**November 27 – December 15, 2020**

View the on-line Catalog and a direct link to ordering  
on the Calvary website [www.calvarypgh.org](http://www.calvarypgh.org)

The Women of Calvary will receive a portion of all sales,  
which will be used for grants to organizations  
that help those in need in our community

**EAST END COOPERATIVE MINISTRY**

**Holiday TOY DRIVE**

**Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, EECM is asking donors to purchase and donate \$25 Gift Cards from either**

**TARGET | Walmart | amazon**

**as Christmas Gifts**

**Please consider donating a Gift Card to help spread the warmth and joy to someone in need this holiday season**

The Holiday Toy Drive replaces the usual Berry Program

**Please deliver your Gift Cards to the Calvary office no later than Wednesday, December 2, 2020**



# Politics / Theology

*“There is no structural organization of society which can bring about the kingdom of God on earth since all systems can be perverted by the selfishness of [humankind].”*

The Malvern Manifesto – drawn up by a conference of the Province of York January 10, 1941 signed for the conference by William Temple Archbishop of York.

Among the signs to which Christianity points is the kingdom of God or more accurately the reign of God. It calls forth an act of the imagination. At any given time in history from a variety of perspectives the kingdom of God becomes partially visible. Every generation that has lived has seen the reign of God in their time, often not global in scale but happening in small breakthroughs. The events are often unrelated but as their consequences unfold, they begin to fit together. Almost always we see only the aftermath and then in hindsight. So, faith which seems future oriented is largely about making decisions and commitments in the immediate present moment that express engagement with things as they are. All the time bearing in mind that the gate is wide and road broad that leads to destruction but the gate leading to salvation is narrow (Matt 7:13)

Constructive participation in any society or culture depends on understanding how that society works. We might compare it to a machine in its complexity and to an ecosystem in its purposiveness. Because societies and cultures are the product of human fabrication they are flawed and at the same time designed to cover, hide and mask those flaws. They all have taboo structured avoidance systems that make it unnecessary to involve legal codes to control behavior that is wrong. There is nothing to keep legal codes from condoning or encouraging things that are wrong. The Nuremberg laws based on our own miscegenation laws are a stark example.

The path that may lead an entire society to its own destruction is somehow more hidden than the path that leads to its salvation. A different balance between questions being asked and questions being dismissed, being thought unnecessary needs to be found. Questions are too often perceived as expressions of doubt or a lack of faith. But questions are primarily an admission of knowledge having limits. A society that does not know that it has actual limits determined by the boundaries of knowledge will not long survive.

Currently our world is being defined by the pandemic, global warming, and the frailties of cyberspace. All point to limits within which humankind could manage to survive. This often feels like living smaller and closer. We are all neighbors whether we want to be or know that we are or not. Questions will pave the path to living well in this new smaller world. Being isolated by quarantine practices and substituting digital communications for in person

interaction are like reflections of some contradictory concern for communication that is missing something. We began substituting digital presence for actual presence well before the pandemic almost as if we were rehearsing practices that the pandemic would make necessary. We had already sidelined personal presence. Using smart phones and tablets we could in real time communicate images/texts in verifiable formats. So, this mediated data would gradually tether us to and substitute for real experience. That was enough. For then our actual presence was freed from satisfying or supplying our human needs. We could escape our deficits in the immediate moment in some digital substitute. Sincere and invested attention was no longer the main currency of direct human interaction. The priceless residue of that interaction ceased to be captured and rarefied in our hearts. In its stead we posed in selfies sending them out through the internet on international social media. We also began to record with cell phones illegal acts as they were being committed. Some of these recordings ended with the movement of a baton catching the recordist in the head. The world is growing smaller and perhaps, for now, more observable.

All political/social questions are primarily theological.  
Stay tuned. —The Rev. Geoffrey Royce ■



## Tree of Life

On October 27, 2020, two years since the attack on our neighbors, the Rector spent time with several of our friends at the Tree of Life on Shady Avenue. Numerous people stopped to pay their respects throughout the day. Calvary also gave TOLOS a small gift, through the Rector's Discretionary Fund, in honor of those who died and to mark our friendship. We received this touching thank you note from them soon after. ■

Dear Father Jensen and Calvary:

Calvary's donation to Tree of Life was so thoughtful and caring. We continue to be amazed and oh-so grateful for the many ways in which you show your love and support. We cannot thank you enough. We love and cherish the relationship between our congregations.

Best to you as always, Barb, Executive Director  
Tree of Life\*Or L'Simcha Congregation



# News of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh



## Texas church hosts drive-thru baby shower for 80 expectant mothers

Posted November 5, 2020 – Diocese of Texas

Over 80 expectant mothers in east Harris County were treated to a one-of-a-kind baby shower in a drive-thru event on Oct. 30. Mothers were showered with baby clothes, fresh food, diapers, cleaning supplies and other goods to help meet their needs during the pandemic.

The collaborative effort was hosted by church planter Maria Bautista Vargas at Northshore Episcopal Church, Houston (a church plant in the Diocese of Texas). Seven other nonprofit organizations from the Houston area, including United Healthcare and East Harris County Empowerment Council (EHCEC), joined forces to help make this event a success.

“I was happily surprised by the team and support we received for this initiative,” said Bautista Vargas. “It was a huge blessing how everything came together.”

Northshore Episcopal, United Healthcare and EHCEC packed over 400 different outfits for the soon-to-be-born babies.

Connie Claros from United Healthcare explained that before COVID-19, the health care organization held large baby showers in different parts of Harris County for low-income mothers enrolled in their program every quarter, but the pandemic put a halt to those events.

As Bautista Vargas and Claros started to accumulate large amounts of baby clothes at Northshore Episcopal, Claros decided to reach out to EHCEC to see how they could best host a safe but enjoyable baby shower for mothers in need.

Their efforts resulted in putting together a successful event, and they plan on hosting another baby shower drive-thru around Easter.

“We appreciate the opportunity Northshore Episcopal Church is giving us to host this event for the moms in the area,” said Claros. ■



Members of participating nonprofits are waiting to greet and shower expectant mothers with gifts. Photo courtesy Diocese of Texas

## Bishop’s Visitation Schedule

- November 15** Good Shepherd, Hazelwood
- November 22** St. Paul’s, Mt. Lebanon
- November 29** Holy Cross, Homewood
- December 6** Advent, Jeannette
- December 13** Advent, Brookline ■

## Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

- November 15:** Church of the Good Shepherd, Hazelwood
- November 22:** St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Mt. Lebanon, the Rev. Noah Evans, the Rev. Laura Di Panfilo, the Rev. Ted Babcock, the Rev Charles Fischer, and the Rev. Catherine Munz
- November 29:** Church of the Holy Cross, Homewood, and the Rev. Torrey Johnson (ELCA)
- December 6:** Church of the Advent, Jeannette, and the Rev. Martin Wright
- December 13:** Church of the Advent, Brookline ■



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## 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. ■

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## England: Churches to hold month of prayer as second lockdown begins

*Posted November 5, 2020 – Church of England*

The archbishops of Canterbury and York and a number of senior church leaders are inviting Christians across the U.K. to participate in the month of prayer as a second lockdown in England comes into force.

Throughout the month, Christians will be encouraged to pray daily for a specific area of national concern, wherever they are, culminating in a collective moment of prayer at 6 p.m. each evening, with cathedrals and churches across the country invited to ring a bell at this time.

Christians will be encouraged to follow a simple seven-day prayer cycle, praying for a specific area each day including the NHS and frontline workers, the bereaved, and those struggling with physical and mental ill-health, and for children and young people.

Prayers and other resources will be shared on social media with the hashtag #PrayerForTheNation.

The prayer call has the support of senior church leaders including Churches Together in England (CTE) Presidents Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster and President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales; Pastor Agu Irukwu, the CTE Pentecostal president; His Eminence Archbishop Angaelos, the Coptic Orthodox Archbishop of London, and the CTE Orthodox President; and Pete Greig, Founder of 24-7 Prayer International and Senior Leader of Emmaus Road, Guildford. It is also being supported by the Church of England's House of Bishops.

Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby said: "On the brink of this second lockdown we might understandably feel helpless, anxious and vulnerable. And we do what we can to halt the spread of this virus – but we can still feel powerless. "Is there anything else we can do? Really do?"

"Yes. Yes there is. We can pray. Prayer is my first response when I feel out of my depth, when I need help, when I am worried, when I am concerned for those I love. It is a gift that God gives to all – whether you are a regular pray-er or not – bring your cares and the cares of the nation to God. For God loves and hears and holds. Prayer changes things."

Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell said: "Prayer changes things. It changes things by inviting God into the room.

"At this challenging time when all of us are fearful and anxious, and when so many are suffering, it is the one thing we can all do.

"We can pray and invite God to change us, giving us the solace, strength and comfort we need for the difficult winter that is ahead of us.

"Let's pray together at this difficult time."

A selection of resources to suit Christians from across all denominations and traditions, and those exploring faith at this challenging time, will be made available on the Church of England website to guide prayer during this period.

This includes several newly written prayers for the nation from Archbishop Stephen Cottrell, NT Wright and Pete Greig.

Cathedrals will ring a bell as a call to prayer for the nation throughout the month. The Dean of Lichfield, Adrian Dorber, who is Chair of the Association of English Cathedrals, said:

"We know our cathedrals are places of assurance and inspiration for many people when life is tough and hope is short, and now more than ever, it is important to show our presence and mark each day of this lockdown with prayers, and keep a time each evening to ring our bells as a call to pray for our nation."

The call to prayer comes as both archbishops, in a letter issued last weekend, encouraged churches to redouble their efforts to serve their local communities – caring for the elderly and most vulnerable – ahead of the second lockdown.

To find out more information about the invitation to pray visit: [churchofengland.org/PrayerForTheNation](http://churchofengland.org/PrayerForTheNation). ■

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## Fourth season of The Way of Love with Bishop Michael Curry podcast begins with guest Archbishop Thabo Makgoba

*Posted November 4, 2020 –*

*Episcopal Church Office of Public Affairs*

Season 4 of The Episcopal Church's podcast *The Way of Love with Bishop Michael Curry*, is now available. In this episode, Bishop Curry talks with the Most Rev. Thabo Makgoba, Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town and Primate of Southern Africa. Archbishop Thabo's life is punctuated with stories of hope and oppression, joy and anger, truth and reconciliation.

*The Way of Love with Bishop Michael Curry*, is available on most podcast apps and at [episcopalchurch.org](http://episcopalchurch.org). Visit the Way of Love podcast webpage to subscribe to the podcast through Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts or Spotify and to sign up for notifications of new seasons and episodes as well as additional featured content. ■





We hope you are enjoying the holidays as much as we are at Beginnings!

We held our annual Dress-Up Parade on Thursday, October 29. While wearing costumes and our COVID-19 masks, our teachers and children listened to fun Halloween music and walked through our decorated “trail of treats” in the nave. We had a tremendous turnout of parents who followed our safety guidelines and handed out candy. After the event, our teams continued to celebrate the holiday in their classrooms. It was a day of fun for all!

We are finishing up our fall months learning about cultures and traditions. The Blue Team’s unit is “Children Just Like Me.” They are taking a trip around the world, exploring the life of a child from each country they visit. Their itinerary is taking them through India, Egypt, France, Mexico, Tanzania, Australia, Japan, and Canada. By introducing the unit with a discussion of wants and needs, our students are beginning to understand that when it comes to what we truly need, we have much in common. They are learning that not all countries have the same resources, which is helping them learn empathy for those who don’t have as well as gratitude for what we have. While traveling, they are making crafts from each country. So far, they have made Indian mandalas, Egyptian Wesekh necklaces, and Eiffel Tower paintings. The team will also make Mexican serapes, Tanzania Lion Masks, Australian rainsticks, koi fish (to celebrate Children’s Day as they do in Japan) and Canadian inukshuks.

Our Purple and Green Teams have called their unit “Pack Up and Go!” They are also traveling and exploring, spending a little more time closer to home. They made cars out of cardboard boxes and will use maps to pretend travel around our neighborhood, city, state, and country while listening to “The Map Song” from Sesame Street and “It’s a Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood” by Fred (“Mister”) Rogers. They also made passports so they can travel to France and Ukraine, the original homes of our Purple Team teachers. A tent was set up in each classroom so they could further use their imaginations to go camping in different areas. They will make S’mores to end the unit.

Our Orange Team continues to learn about the season of autumn. The students decorated pumpkins, made ears of corn using Apple Jacks, and used their handprints and other media to make a variety of holiday crafts. The Orange Team has had a ton of fun playing in the leaves on the playground,



especially when sliding into the many piles they place at the bottom of the slide.

As we’re approaching Thanksgiving, this is a perfect time to thank Beginnings Board members for their commitment to Beginnings this school year. Thanks to Zoom, we continue to meet monthly. Our Board members are:

Charles R. Altman	Adele Eley
Dora Magovern	Lauren O’Donoughue
Maria Burgwin	Gordon Fisher
Laura Marchl	The Rev. Jonathon Jensen

A big thank you also to our teachers, parents, students, and Calvary staff for their commitment to safety, making it possible for our preschool to meet in person during the pandemic.

We have a wonderful new teacher on our Orange Team, Joniesha Gaines. Welcome Joniesha!

Beginnings will be closed November 24, 25, and 26 so families can enjoy this special time together. Have a very Happy Thanksgiving! –Tammy Lewis, *Director* ■

## CHILDREN’S CHRISTIAN FORMATION

### Christmas Pageant

As we approach Advent, a season of anticipation and preparation, it’s time to start thinking ahead to our annual Christmas Pageant! The pageant is Calvary’s own retelling of the days surrounding Christ’s birth. Our children and youth will present this year’s pageant virtually. We will film outdoors during the month of November, with safety measures in place. Please email [tlewis@calvarypg.org](mailto:tlewis@calvarypg.org) to sign up. A link to view the virtual Christmas Pageant will be in the Friday email blasts and the December *Agape*.

**The nursery** is available from 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. each Sunday in the Orange classroom (Level A). Caregivers are Juliette and Eden.

**Age 3 - K** in the Purple Classroom (Level A) 9:50–10:50 a.m. *Will be offered in-person only.* Children in this age group are also welcome to Zoom with Grades 1–6. Led by Katie Riordan.

**Grades 1-6** in the Gym (Level A) 9:50–10:50 a.m. *Will be offered both in-person and Zoom.* (Meeting ID: 878 8224 3941, Passcode: 116060). Led by Tammy Lewis.

**Youth, Grades 7+** in the Evans Room (Level F) from 10–10:45 a.m. *Will be offered both in-person and Zoom.* (Meeting ID: 812 6517 4553, Passcode: 839660). Led by Laura Marchl.

**Journey Group** – Movie Night and Discussion of Jesus’ Presence in our lives. Parish Hall, November 21, 6:30–9 p.m. Led by Paul Blitz, Tammy Lewis, and Katie Riordan.

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



## Safety! Democracy! Technology!

**Supplemental Sanitization Stations Surface:** A half-dozen new wall and stand mounted dispensers added at all entrances and on each floor of Parish House. Cleanliness – Godliness – you get it.

**Coverage 1:** For all those venturing into the building, Wi-Fi expansion provides stronger signal in Parish Hall and allows easier credit card transactions in Bookstore. (Yes, it's open on Sundays.)

**Addressed By The Anonymous:** To Lisa, David, Sarah, Michael, Gillian, Charlotte, Jim, Laura, Tom, Jean, and Lindsay - all uncredited masking Lectors to date willing to participate in in-person worship during recent-normal service rituals – profound thanks for answering the call.

**Volume Vouches for Vehement Voter Investment:** As Parish Hall polling place opens for three districts, waiting line extends down ramp, across parking lot, down Marchand Street, up Shady Avenue past Church west entrance. Socially distanced, of course, but still... determinedly in person. Hope you voted, one way or another... or another... or another.

**Saturday Simultaneity:** City Recycling event in Calvary parking lot reaps record donations. Two semis finally fully loaded by six o'clock after event closes at two. While packing, jazz quartet – beneath courtyard Celtic cross – plays in celebration of life of beloved parishioner and former Vestryperson, Dr. Charles Oke, following the three o'clock funeral, attended live and viewed via internet in his native Nigeria. Recyclers celebrate too.

**Coverage 2:** Arrival of fifth remote camera allows for better views of required diverse locations within Church during streaming of this year's All Saints Requiem without disturbing those in pews. Ahh! Capella!

**Organ Stops Stopped:** Non-lightning-related sudden memory loss leaves performer with none but one bombastic preset. Electronic digital chip failure is culprit. Human digital dexterity and simpler sounds demanded for short duration of outage.

**Arcane Algorithm Axes Audio:** Sunday morning live-streamed Calvary quartet's efforts assumed to be plagiarized recording of Queen's College, Cambridge, choir. Twenty-one seconds of sound denied in Andorra, the U.A.E, Afghanistan, Antiqua, Anguilla, and "155 more." Yes, Calvary choir personnel are sooooo good, but oh, the technology!

## Status Report from the Treasurer

At its October 26 meeting, the Vestry approved the Treasurer's Report for the nine months ended September 30, 2020. Even though we are showing a deficit at the end of September, there is some very good news to report on the financial front, considering the fact that we are still in the middle of a pandemic. Pledge Income received is an excellent 93% of the budgeted amount for the first nine months of the year. Also, monies received from Gifts and Grants are almost \$5,000 higher than the nine month budgeted amount. There is also good news in the fact that our actual Operations Fund expenses are \$31,000 less than the budgeted amount for the first nine months of the year. It should be noted that on September 28, Calvary received confirmation that our Payroll Protection Plan (PPP) Loan Forgiveness application was successfully submitted. When we receive Loan Forgiveness, the \$164,000 loan becomes a grant on the income statement. The Vestry's goal is to lower our budgeted deficit for 2020. In order to assist us in meeting this goal, please continue your excellent record so far of fulfilling your 2020 pledge commitment to Calvary Church.

Sincerely, *Bob Eley, Treasurer* ■

### Calvary Episcopal Church

#### Operations Fund (Operating, Outreach & Capital Budgets)

#### Year-to-Date Financial Results through September 30, 2020

	9-Month Actual 2020	9-Month Budget 2020
<b>Income:</b>		
Pledge and Non-Pledge Contributions	\$682,900	\$731,200
Gifts & Grants for Operations	40,100	35,300
Loose Plate and Special Offerings	8,400	36,000
Transfer from Endowment Fund	202,200	202,000
Beginnings (reimbursement)	10,900	10,900
Trust Income	16,700	16,700
All Other Income	43,600	23,100
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,004,800</b>	<b>1,055,200</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Salaries & Benefits	775,100	768,800
Diocesan Assessment	117,700	117,700
Maintenance & Operations of Bldgs.	124,700	131,400
Office & Administration/Finance	81,500	76,200
Taxes & Insurance	81,700	81,700
Hospitality & Parish Life	3,200	8,200
Christian Formation and Music	8,500	15,900
Pastoral Care & Outreach	12,800	22,900
Capital	15,500	28,800
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,220,700</b>	<b>1,251,600</b>
<b>Net Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>(215,900)</b>	<b>(196,400)</b>

If you would like to have Communion (bread) brought to your home, the clergy are happy to do so. It will be prepared and placed in a sealed plastic bag and brought to your door. Please contact the clergy or the church office to make arrangements. ■

# Join Us THANKSGIVING SERVICE

**Thursday, November 26, 2020 at 11 a.m.**

**Holy Communion, Rite II**

**Bonnie-Marie Yager-Wiggan, McNulty Intern,  
will be the preacher**

***Livestream and In-Person Worship*** ■

**Have you completed  
and returned your  
2021 Annual Appeal  
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) ■

## Pack to School Program



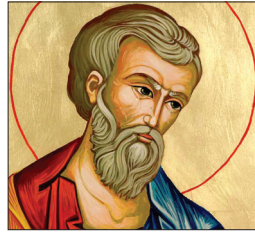
The Women of Calvary would like to thank parishioners for their tremendous support for this year's Pack to School program, which benefits the students and teachers of nearby Lincoln Elementary School. The WoC recently gave Lincoln's principal a check for \$3,418 to be used for supplies and teaching resources the school needs this academic year.

In the past, the WoC has conducted a drive collecting backpacks and school supplies for the school. But because of restrictions due to COVID 19, Lincoln has been holding all classes virtually and the WoC decided to seek monetary contributions for the school. It hopes this donation will help Lincoln with the cost of necessary materials and instruction for this most unusual school year.

Once again, the WoC gives a big shout-out to all who contributed to this worthy cause! ■

## 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. ■



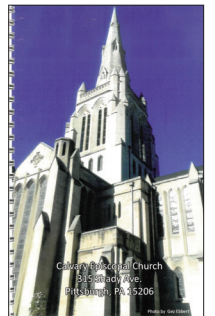
## GOspel OF MATTHEW CLASS

The Rector leads a weekly class on the Gospel of Matthew in McClintic Hall on **Sundays at 10 a.m.** The Calvary bookstore has resources available.

The Gospel of Matthew contains some of the best known parts of Scripture including the Beatitudes, the Lord's Prayer, and the visit of the Magi to the infant Jesus. It is organized in five sermons or teachings (including numerous parables) of Jesus alternating with five blocks of narrative. ■

## Parish Photo Directories

The new photo directories will be available for pickup in the Parish Hall on Sunday, November 15 after the 11 o'clock service. If you miss us on Sunday, ask at the reception desk during the week or talk to Kim Pieratt, Parish Administrator at 412.661.0120, extension 111. If you or your family were photographed, you will receive a free copy of the directory. A very limited quantity of extras are available at \$5 each. ■



## 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, November 18 at 7 p.m.**

CYAM Bible Study over Zoom

**Thursday, November 19 at 5:45 p.m.**

Holy Happy Hour (TBD)

**Wednesday, November 25** – Bible Study will not meet

**Wednesday, December 2 at 7 p.m.**

CYAM Bible Study over Zoom ■



Find us on:  
**facebook®**

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



## 2020 Holidays and Observances

Thursday, November 26: **Thanksgiving Day**

Friday, December 11: **First Day of Hanukkah**

Friday, December 18: **Last Day of Hanukkah**

Monday, December 21: **First Day of Winter**

(December Solstice) ■

## Spiritual Reflection – Frederick Buechner

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 3–4 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 the Fall/Winter term we are using the writings of Frederick Buechner. Now 94 years old, Buechner is an author of fiction, sermons, daily reflections and memoirs, and recipient of several literature awards and honorary degrees. He is an ordained Presbyterian Minister who established a theology department at Exeter before devoting himself to writing and raising a family. Buechner's writings on Christianity and spirituality are particularly rich and, according to biographer Dale Brown, encompass these themes: faith despite doubt, hope through grace, searching for meaning, our shared story, meaning of "Christian," and sinners as saints. We have purchased for the group his book, *Listening to Your Life*, which is comprised excerpts of his writings presented as daily meditations.

Meetings are held using Zoom from 7–8 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday evening of each month. **Upcoming meetings will take place on November 17, December 1 and 15, and January 5 and 19.**

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. ■



## Agape Deadline

The deadline for submission of news and notices for the next issue is **Friday, December 4, 2020**. 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. ■

Please remember Calvary Church  
in your will.



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*  
Bonnie-Marie Yager-Wiggan, *McNulty Intern*  
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*

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

THE WOMEN OF CALVARY'S  
*Christmas Candy Sale*

Please place orders by December 21, 2020



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Christmas Candy Sale from Sarris Candies!**

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Click On-line Ordering and Enter our Group ID# 10-3596**

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**FREE SHIPPING to your home!  
No minimum purchase is required**

The Women of Calvary will receive a portion of all sales,  
which will be used for grants to organizations that help those in need in our community





## THE WOMEN OF CALVARY BAZAAR FUNDRAISER



Ten Thousand Villages in Pittsburgh is a fair trade retailer of artisan-crafted home decor, personal accessories and gift items from across the globe. Featuring products from more than 130 artisan groups in some 38 countries, we are part of a network of over 390 retail outlets throughout the United States selling Ten Thousand Villages products.

**SHOP IN THE STORE,  
BY PHONE, OR ONLINE**

Use the “coupon code” of **FUNDCALVBZ**

**Sale Dates**  
**Nov. 27 – Dec. 15, 2020**

View the on-line Catalog and a direct link to ordering  
on the Calvary website

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

The Women of Calvary will receive a portion of all sales,  
which will be used for grants to organizations  
that help those in need in our community





A Service of  
**Lessons  
&  
Carols**

**Sunday,  
November 29, 2020  
at 5 P.M.**

**Livestreamed on  
Facebook and YouTube**

Late-medieval texts set to music arose as vehicles for a kind of “cross-over” music, bridging the gap between sacred and secular, between devotion and entertainment

Other music in the service ranges from Gregorian chant to Renaissance polyphony to a couple of pieces from the early twentieth-century flowering of choral liturgical-music in England

  
**CALVARY**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
PITTSBURGH + PENNSYLVANIA  
[www.calvarypgh.org](http://www.calvarypgh.org)