



September 17, 2023

**“But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.”
– Amos 5:24**

Season of Creation

Ten o'clock

September 17, 2023

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP

Prelude: “Chorale Fantasy on Song 4”

J. G. Groothengel

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship: “I Will Arise”

arr. Susan Byler

music: Early American Folk Hymn

I will arise and go to Jesus, he will embrace me in his arms.

In the arms of my dear Savior how there are ten thousand charms.

Come ye sinners, poor and needy, weak and wounded, sick and sore;
Jesus ready stands to save you, full of pity, love, and power.

Come ye thirsty come and welcome God's free bounty glorify,
True belief and true repentance, every gift that brings you nigh.

* Opening Hymns: “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”
“Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty”

#521:1-3

#538:1-3

* God's Greeting

WE CONFESS OUR SIN

Call to Lament

Prayer of Lament:

Leader: God of endless love,
ever caring, ever strong, always present, always just:
You gave your only Son to save us by the blood of his cross.
Gentle Jesus, shepherd of peace,
join to your own suffering
the pain of all who have been hurt
in body, mind, and spirit
by those who betrayed the trust placed in them.

Hear the cries of our sisters and brothers
who have been gravely harmed,
and the cries of those who love them.
Soothe their restless hearts with hope,
steady their shaken spirits with faith.
Grant them justice for their cause,
enlightened by your truth.
Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts, heal your people's wounds
and transform brokenness into wholeness.

**All: Grant us the courage and wisdom,
humility and grace, to act with justice.
Breathe wisdom into our prayers and labors.
Grant that all harmed by abuse may find peace in justice.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Hymn of Lament: "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

#140:1-3

Assurance of Pardon and Statement of Hope

We Respond in Grateful Service:

Commissioning of Pastoral Intern Evie Dykhouse
and Family Assistance Director Kim Wierenga

* Affirmation of Faith: The Apostles' Creed

front cover of hymnal

* Song of Response: "Glory Be to the Father"

#961

(Children may come forward during this hymn.)

GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH HIS WORD

Message for Children

Blessing for Children

Leader: People of God, what is your prayer for these children?

All: The Lord be with you.

Children: And also with you.

All: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Anthem: "Beneath the Cross"

text and music: Keith Getty, Kristin Lennox
arr. Dan Forrest

Beneath the cross of Jesus I find a place to stand
and wonder at such mercy that calls me as I am.
For hands that should discard me hold wounds which tell me, "Come."
Beneath the cross of Jesus my unworthy soul is won.

Beneath the cross of Jesus his family is my own.
Once strangers chasing selfish dreams; now one through grace alone.
How could I now dishonor the ones that you have loved?
Beneath the cross of Jesus see the children called by God.

Beneath the cross of Jesus, the path before the crown,
we follow in his footsteps where promised hope is found.
How great the joy before us, to be his perfect bride.
Beneath the cross of Jesus we will gladly live our lives.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession, concluding with the Lord's Prayer:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever
Amen.**

* Hymn of Preparation: "Dwell in Me, O Blessed Spirit"

#745:1-2

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading: Revelation 22:1-7

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Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon: **THE HEALING OF THE NATIONS**

Prayer of Application

WE RESPOND IN GRATITUDE

* Hymn of Response: "There in God's Garden"

#684:1,2,4,6

* Invitation to Offering: Graham Rayburn

* Offertory Prayer for the Ministry Fund:

Deacon: God, your generosity to us is abundant and gracious
Everything we have comes from you.

**All: Receive our gifts of our time, our selves, and our possessions.
Help us to grow in gratitude and joy as we follow Jesus.**

* Benediction

* Doxology: “Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty”

#538:4

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!

All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea:

Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,

God in three persons, blessed trinity! Amen

* Postlude: “There in God’s Garden” [#684]

Robert Buckley Farlee

Liturgist: Rev. Brad Zwiers

Preacher: Rev. Rebecca Jordan Heys

Organist: Kenneth Bos

Ministry of Music: The Sherman Street Trio

(Jan Postma, Barb Vis, Bill Vis)

Scripture Reader: Irene Konyndyk

Audio/Video: Sarah Frisch, Steve Triezenberg

Calvin CRC Announcements for September 17, 2023

WORSHIP Today, 10 AM and 5 PM

Morning worship: We continue our series in the Season of Creation as Rev. Rebecca Jordan Heys preaches from Revelation 22:1-7, “The Healing of the Nations.” Our prayer of lament reflects Abuse Awareness Sunday. The Sherman Street Quartet lead us in ministry of music, and we commission Kim Wierenga as Director of Family Assistance and Evie Dykhous as pastoral intern.

Evening worship: We celebrate the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper and Rev. Rebecca Jordan Heys preaches from 2 Corinthians 5:16-21.

WORSHIP Next Sunday, September 24

Morning worship: On this music dedication Sunday, we will be led by all our music ensembles and pray for God’s blessing on their ministry among us this year. Rev. Brad Zwiers will conclude our Season of Creation series on the river with a sermon from John 4:1-5 and 7:37-38, and the offering will be for Community Care.

CHURCH FAMILY

Today’s flowers are in celebration of the children of Calvin Church and the adults who will care for, instruct, nurture, and guide them in the upcoming school year.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES

The Education Committee is thrilled to announce that TLC, Worship & Wonder, and Catechism all begin **this Sunday, September 17**. Read below for details. We're looking forward to another year of growing together in Christ!

TLC: Children ages 2-4 are welcome to attend TLC at 10:00 AM. Once all TLC aged kids have arrived at the Nursery drop off counter, TLC kids will move from the Nursery to the TLC room to the right of the Nursery to hear a story, sing songs and do a craft. They will then join the kids in nursery for a snack, and their teachers will go back to worship. You can pick your child up at the nursery counter after the service.

Worship Center: Children in grades K-2 are dismissed after the children's message to follow the Worship Center banner. They will continue their time of worship in room 12. Parents are invited to attend the first class to ease their child's anxiety (if there is any) or to become (re)acquainted with the Worship Center. Please plan to pick up your children from the WC classrooms each Sunday at 11:15 AM, unless the children have permission to come upstairs on their own.

Worship & Wonder: Children in 3rd-8th grade are welcome to join us downstairs in the choir room immediately following the service for snacks, singing, prayer and small groups. Worship and Wonder is a time for students and guides (teachers) to grow in their relationship with God and with one another. The purpose of this program is to provide students with an age-appropriate space to continue the worship they began in the sanctuary. They will have a chance to dig deeper into the sermon and text by asking questions, praying, and sharing connections with their small group. Your child will be dismissed to meet you upstairs at 12:00 PM.

Catechism: Students in 9th-12th grade are welcome to join us in the Catacomb room downstairs for a time of reflection on our creeds and confessions. Students are welcome to pick up snacks/drinks in the fellowship hall before meeting for class from 11:30-12 PM.

High school youth group (CYG), middle school youth group (78ers), and Cadets/GEMS all begin this week. CYG (grades 9-12) meets on Sunday afternoons and evenings, while Cadets/GEMS (grades 2-6) and 78ers (grades 6-8) meet every other Wednesday night.

May God bless another year of youth ministries!

MEETINGS, ACTIVITIES, AND EVENTS

MEMBER DIRECTORIES: Members and Associate Members, check your family's listing in the directory. If you would like to make any changes, inform the office via note or email (office@calvincrc.org) by Sunday, October 8.

We are gathering photos for an online picture directory. You may send a photo (.jpg format) to office@calvincrc.org.

THANK YOU to all of you who attended the church luncheon last Sunday. It was a great way to start our Fall programming as well as to celebrate the vibrant ministries that are active all year. If you were unable to attend and would like more information about any of our ministries for youth or adults, please call the church office.

An extra note of gratitude is due to Julie DeKoster and the fellowship committee for their service at the luncheon, and to all of the group leaders who made presentations and provided materials to highlight their area of ministry.

COURIER: We are still accepting articles for the October Courier. Send your news as soon as possible to editor, Doris Ridders: drikkers@aol.com

FAMILY ASSISTANCE: With cooler weather coming, Family Assistance is starting to get requests for blankets. We would appreciate any contributions of single, double, or queen size blankets. They can be brought to the office and placed on the cart by the door.

GALLERY WALL: The artwork on display is by Allory Netz, a life-long member of Calvin Church who has been active in our children's programs, music ministries, and flute duets with her mother. She is Brian and Amy Netz's daughter and a ninth grader at Unity Christian High School. Allory has always enjoyed making art. Drawing and painting portraits and landscapes are her favorites.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Our first meeting will be this week Wednesday, September 20 at 2:30 PM in Room 1. We will study chapter 1 on Genesis 18:16-33. Contact Pastor Rebecca for a copy of the study guide or with any questions.

FAMILY SUPPER: A light supper will be provided at church on Wednesday, September 20, for adults and their children, especially those involved in Wednesday evening programming. Food will be served from 5:00–6:30 PM.

LOVING AND LEARNING TOGETHER BOOK STUDY: You are welcome to a discussion of *Two Views on Homosexuality, the Bible, and the Church*. Be aware that the book contains frank discussions of sex. The first discussion will be held on September 24 at 5:00 PM, and we will address the first section of the book. The following three sections will be discussed on October 8, October 22, and November 12. Please sign up at the table in the narthex if you plan to attend. Contact Pastors Brad, Rebecca, or Lisa with questions.

MEMBERS OF DISTRICTS 1 & 5 are invited to save Sunday, October 22 for a district get together after church and coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall.

COMMUNITY PANCAKE BREAKFAST: Calvin Church will be getting together again with our neighbors to share a meal. Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 28 (9:30-11:00 AM) and join us for free food and fun, celebrating the fall season. Please check out the sign-up sheets in the atrium; there are ways for everyone to be involved!

REQUESTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

CRC Hospitality and Disability Seminar: Nurturing Belonging: Exploring Hospitality, Disability, and Theology

We believe that all people are created in the image of God and that each person is essential. Yet, when it comes to hospitality and belonging for people with disabilities, our congregations often don't reflect what we believe. Join us Wednesday, October 11, 2023, 1:30-6 pm (EDT) for a leadership training event exploring broader hospitality. This event is virtual and free of charge. To register go to: crcna.org/disability/events.

CALENDAR

	<i>Today, Sunday, September 17</i>
9:40a	Nursery Lead: Maria Knapper
	Nursery Volunteers: KaraMarie Lizewski, Kate Rayburn
11:15a	Library Volunteer: Doris Ridders
	Coffee Servers: Rick and Lori Feenstra
11:20a	Worship and Wonder in Room 9
11:30a	Catechism in the Catacomb
12:00p	St. Luke A.M.E. Zion Church meets in the Sanctuary
	Calvin host for St. Luke: Roger Konyndyk
3:30p	CYG activity
5:00p	Communion Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall
	<i>Tuesday, September 19</i>
9:00a	Family Assistance
6:15p	Deacons meet in the Atrium
7:30p	Council meets in the Atrium
	<i>Wednesday, September 20</i>
2:30p	Women's Bible Study in Room 1
5:30p	Junior Bells rehearsal in the Bell Room
6:00p	Allegro Ringers rehearsal in the Bell Room
6:15p	Cherub Choir and Covenant Choir rehearsal in Room 9
7:00p	Sanctuary Choir rehearsal in the Balcony
	78ers, Cadets, GEMS
	<i>Thursday, September 21</i>
9:00a	Family Assistance
	<i>Saturday, September 23</i>
7:00a	Bus Tour pick-up
9:00a	West Michigan Decorative Artists meet in Room 1
	<i>Next Sunday, September 24</i>
9:40a	Nursery Lead: Melisa Hubka
	Nursery Volunteers: Sue Keegstra, Kate Triezenberg
11:15a	Library Volunteer: Evonne Kok
	Coffee Servers: Don and Karen Trap
11:20a	Worship and Wonder in Room 9
12:00p	St. Luke A.M.E. Zion Church meets in the Sanctuary
	Calvin host for St. Luke: Bruce Van Oss
5:00p	Book Discussion <i>Two Views on Homosexuality</i>
6:30p	CYG Bible Study in the Catacomb



Growing in DiscipleshipTransformed for Ministry

Welcome to Calvin Church

In Worship:

- Our worship proceeds unannounced and follows the printed liturgy.
- Reprint and streaming licenses are One License A-730126, CCLI#2532147, and CSPL#175060.
- The prayer of lament is adapted from a prayer written by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.
- The Chancel banner expresses the Christian belief that in one God there are three divine persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The color green represents spiritual growth during the season of the Lord's life and ministry.
- Large-print resources are available at the Information Desk.
- Our facility is equipped with the Loop hearing system.



For Children:

- Ages 0-2: Infant and toddler nurseries are available.
- Preschool: The Little Children (TLC) gathers in the nursery prior to the morning worship.
- K-2nd: After the Children's Message the Children's Worship ministry meets downstairs in Rooms 11 & 13 until the conclusion of worship. Parents meet their children there following the service.
- Busy Bags for young children are on the picket fence in the Atrium.
- Bulletins for older children are in the rack in the Narthex.

Fellowship and Information:

- Everyone is invited to the Fellowship Hall for refreshments following the morning service.
- "Like" us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/CalvinChristianReformedChurch
- Subscribe to our YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/@CalvinCRC/streams

Church office hours: 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM, Monday—Thursday

Bulletin deadline: Wednesday Noon

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