

"Piglet sidled up to
Pooh from behind.
"Pooh!" he whispered.
"Yes, Piglet?"



"Nothing," said Piglet,
taking Pooh's paw.
"I just wanted to
be sure of you."

Art: from A.A. Milne's *Winnie-the-Pooh*

WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS

August 23, 2026

[JOIN US ON THE CORNER OF FILLMORE & JACKSON](#)

[Click here to watch on our website](#)

[Click here to watch on YouTube](#)



WELCOME

OUR VISION IS TO AMPLIFY A MESSAGE OF LOVE AND JUSTICE THROUGH A GROWING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY FULLY ALIVE TO ITS CALLING – TRANSFORMING SAN FRANCISCO AND THE WORLD.

DEEPER CONNECTION, ROOTED IN COMMUNITY

Thank you for joining us in worship at Calvary. We recognize that our community and the world suffer from disconnection, division, and a loss of meaning. We seek to respond to those challenges by cultivating a spiritual home where people grow in faith, find belonging, and engage in Christ-centered transformation that reaches beyond our walls, out into the world.

We envision a church where people

- Seek to know God and be on the lookout for awe and wonder
- Speak and live the values God has given us
- Serve and enrich the community around us
- Invite others to walk with us as we follow Jesus



It matters that you are here. Our witness to the world is strengthened when we can build community across our differences and with the unique gifts each person offers. Worship, at its root, is participatory. Your voice, in prayer and song, joins with the voices of others, as an offering to God. "Liturgy"—the words we say together in worship—means "the work of the people." Thankful for the privilege of doing the work together, building deeper connections, rooted in community.

For early and non-readers, icons are included in the left margin throughout the bulletin.



***The asterisk indicates rising in body or spirit.**

Assisted listening devices are available at the Front Desk, and **large print hymnals** are located in the Narthex (Sanctuary entry).



Rev. Marcella Auld Glass Rev. Joann H. Lee

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Rev. Victor H. Floyd

Michael Conley

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PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer boxes are located in the Narthex (Sanctuary entry) and at the Front Desk. The Deacons and Pastors honor confidentiality and pray for each request.

Calvary Deacons

Prayer, Essential Errands, Spiritual Support

Terry Milby, Deacon Co-Moderator

Jared Waterman, Deacon Co-Moderator

Rev. Victor Floyd, Minister of Spiritual Care

DAILY LECTIONARY: AUGUST 23–AUGUST 29

Sunday: John 15:10-17

Monday: Psalm 8; Exodus 1:1-7; Romans 2:1-11

Tuesday: Psalm 8; Exodus 2:11-15a; Romans 11:33-36

Wednesday: Psalm 8; Exodus 2:15b-22; Matthew 26:6-13

Thursday: Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b; Exodus 2:23-24; Ephesians 5:1-6

Friday: Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b; Exodus 3:16-22; 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12

Saturday: 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b; Exodus 4:1-9; Matthew 8:14-17

If you could use a new study Bible, we have some for sale. This is the updated version of the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) that we have in the pews.



Notice of Filming: Most of Calvary's worship services are livestreamed on our YouTube channel and Facebook page. While most of the footage will feature worship leaders, video of the congregation may also appear. If you have concerns, please contact the church office.

August 23, 2026

♪ **PRELUDE** "Partita on 'What a Friend We Have in Jesus'"
1. Calmly 2. Scherzando 3. Grave

Charles C. Converse (1832-1918),
arr. Anthony Giamanco

♪ **INTROIT** "Your Love Is a Wider Love"

Sally Ann Morris (b.1952)

*Your love is a wider love.
Your truth is a sharper truth.
Your way is a simpler way.
Spirit, come. Spirit, come.*

*Your well is a deeper well.
Your meal is a richer meal.
Your word is a bolder word.
Spirit, come. Spirit, come.*

*Your power is a humbler power.
Your dream is a braver dream.
Your joy is a fuller joy.
Spirit, come. Spirit, come.
—Hannah C. Brown, 2024*

👂 **WELCOME**

🔊 **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Come, you who have carried too much alone.
I'm here, tired of pretending I don't need anyone.
Here, meet Jesus. He does not stay at a distance.
Jesus walks the road beside us. He makes time for us.
So set down the weight, at least for an hour.
We are gathered here as friends.
And together, we will worship God.

♪ ***HYMN 465** "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

CONVERSE

👂 ***CALL TO CONFESSION**

🕯 ***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Holy Friend, we are sorry for how we have grown apart.
We mistake our isolation for independence,
and we call it strength.
We leave people to carry what should never be carried alone:
the diagnosis, the grief, the shame,
the shrinking paycheck, the empty apartment,
the addiction, the rejection.
Their loneliness makes us fear our own.
Our fear of strangers hardens us to our true and loving selves.
We suspect friendship might cost us something we aren't ready to give.
Undo our distance, Holy Friend.
Teach us again what it costs to be healed, held, and loved. Amen.**

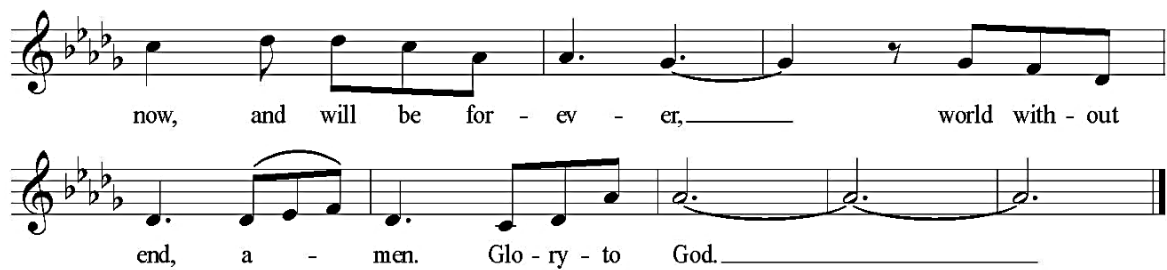
👂 ***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

♪ ***GLORIA** "Glory to God"

CELESTIAL HARMONY, Michael Conley

The musical notation is written on two staves in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Glo - ry to God: the Cre - a - tor, the
Christ, and the Ho - ly Spi - rit; As it was in the be - gin - ning, is



***THE PEACE**

The Peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you!

The congregation is invited to share a sign of peace.

Following The Peace, children aged infant to 5th grade are invited to walk with their parents down to the Lower Level Sunday Studio and Childcare space. Children may also remain in worship with their families.



PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Before we read your Word today,
Take and hold the grief we tell no one,
the worry we carry into every room,
the free-floating anger of these days.
We release it all to you.
Open our ears to hear you.
our eyes to see you,
and our hearts to love you. Amen.**



SCRIPTURE John 15:10-17 (page 878)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



ANTHEM "Set Me As a Seal"

René Clausen (b. 1953)

*Set me as a seal upon your heart,
as a seal upon your arm,
for love is strong as death.
Many waters cannot quench love,
neither can the floods drown it.
—Song of Solomon 8:6-7*



SERMON "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"



***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**We believe Jesus meant what he said
when he called us friends.
We were not made to be alone.
We believe friendship is not a lesser love,
nor a consolation prize for those without marriage
or children or family ties;
We thank God for the power of chosen family.
We acknowledge friendship as one of God's oldest names.
We follow this Jesus,
who wept over his friend's grave,
who begged friends to stay awake with him
and grieved when they didn't,
who knows exactly what it costs to need other people.
Therefore, we reject the doctrine that glorifies going it alone.
We are the church,
ordinary people choosing one another,
again and again, on purpose.**

**We trust in the Friend who calls us by name,
 who numbers the hairs of our heads,
 who is here with us now,
 and who is the reason we stay awake for one another.
 Amen.**

Following the Affirmation of Faith, Youth (grades 6th-12th) may meet in the 2nd floor lounge area, called The S.P.O.T. (Spiritual, Passionate, Open-minded, Transformative).



OFFERING

The ushers will be walking down the aisles with offering plates if you'd like to pass your contribution toward either aisle as they walk by. You may also place your offering in the boxes at the back of the sanctuary.



OFFERTORY ANTHEM "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

Herbert Powell & Carol Cymbala

*What a friend we have in Jesus,
 all our sins and griefs to bear!
 What a privilege to carry
 everything to God in prayer!*

*O what peace we often forfeit,
 O what needless pain we bear,
 all because we do not carry
 everything to God in prayer!*

*Can we find a friend so faithful
 who will all our sorrows share?
 Jesus knows our every weakness;
 take it to the Lord in prayer!
 —Joseph M. Scriven, 1855*



*DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow, praise God, all crea - tures
 here be - low, praise God, a - bove ye heav - enly host;
 Cre - a - tor, Christ, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.



*PRAYER OF DEDICATION



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy 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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.



*HYMN 792 "There is a Balm in Gilead"

BALM IN GILEAD



*BENEDICTION



*CHORAL BLESSING "Fill My Cup"

Isaiah Jones Jr. (1969)

*Fill my cup; let it overflow;
 fill my cup; let it overflow;
 fill my cup; let it overflow;
 let it overflow with love.*



POSTLUDE "Partita on 'What a Friend We Have in Jesus'"

4. Jubilantly

arr. Anthony Giamanco

LEADING WORSHIP THIS MORNING

Kristen Marsh	<i>Liturgist</i>
Rev. Victor H. Floyd	<i>Preaching</i>
Rev. Joann H. Lee	<i>Assisting</i>
Rev. Dr. Joanne Whitt	<i>Assisting</i>
Michael Conley	<i>Conductor</i>
Natalie Ter Agapova	<i>Soloist</i>
Gabrielle Goozée-Nichols	<i>Soloist</i>
Joachim Luis	<i>Soloist</i>
Jefferson Packer	<i>Soloist</i>
Michael Villarreal	<i>Soloist</i>
Calvary Summer Choir	

Pastor Marci is away from Calvary on her sabbatical, returning September 1;
John Walko is out, returning in September.

NEXT WEEK IN WORSHIP: AUGUST 30 AT 10AM

Rev. Joann H, Lee: *How Great Thou Art*

Psalm 8 The hymn "How Great Thou Art" is well known and sung in many churches and in many languages. While the story of the hymn itself is interesting enough, how the hymn has helped faith get passed down from one generation to the next is also fascinating! Join us in worship as we sing this age-old song and as our youth share their experiences about this summer's mission trip to Austin, TX on food justice!

In Memoriam

Robin Aladeen
(1948-2026)

A memorial service will be held
Friday, September 11 at 2pm
at Sklylawn Memorial Park
Half Moon Bay



VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE HYMN!

It's the last day to vote for your favorite hymn (found in the *Glory to God* hymnal), and we promise to sing Calvary's top two favorite hymns on Homecoming Sunday! Write your vote for your favorite hymn (include the hymn name and number!) in the friendship pads located at the ends of your pew in the "I am grateful for..." section. Vote early and often (or at least every Sunday that you're here), and online viewers may vote in the "Comments" section of Facebook or YouTube. We will tally the results to find our top two favorites and sing them in worship on Homecoming Sunday, September 13. Make sure your voice is heard and vote!



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
 2 Have we tri - als and temp-ta - tions? Is there trou-ble an - y-where?
 3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, cum-bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer!
 We should nev - er be dis-cour-aged; take it to the Lord in prayer!
 Pre - cious Sav-ior, still our ref - uge; take it to the Lord in prayer!



O what peace we of - ten for - feit; O what need-less pain we bear,
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor-rows share?
 Do thy friends de-spise, for-sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer!



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - ery-thing to God in prayer!
 Je - sus knows our ev - ery weak-ness; take it to the Lord in prayer!
 In his arms he'll take and shield thee; thou wilt find a so-lace there.

This text was written by an Irish-born immigrant to Canada to comfort his mother in Ireland when she was going through a time of special sorrow. The role of prayer as a source of strength and consolation is underscored by its repeated use as a rhyme word in all three stanzas.

Refrain

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;

there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.

Fine

1 Some-times I feel dis-cour-aged, and think my work's in vain, but
 2 Don't ev - er feel dis-cour-aged, for Je - sus is your friend, and
 3 If you can-not preach like Pe - ter, if you can-not pray like Paul, you can

then the Ho-ly Spir - it re-vives my soul a - gain. There is a
 if you lack for knowl-edge, he'll not re-fuse to lend. There is a
 tell the love of Je - sus and say, "He died for all." There is a

to Refrain

This African American spiritual offers a long-delayed answer to the prophet Jeremiah's question, "Is there no balm in Gilead?" (Jeremiah 8:22). No earthly remedy can compare with the healing that comes from a sense of God's presence; nothing else can heal "the sin-sick soul."

CALVARY WORSHIP, MUSIC, AND PROGRAM STAFF



The Rev. Marcella Auld Glass, Pastor & Head of Staff
The Rev. Joann H. Lee, Associate Pastor for Community Formation
The Rev. Victor H. Floyd, Minister of Spiritual Care
Michael Conley, Director of Music Ministries
John Walko, Organist
Alison Faison, Director of Children & Family Ministries
Robin Morjikian, Director of Development & Volunteer Ministries
Jeff Smith, Director of Youth Ministries