

SOON  
AND VERY  
SOON  
ADVENT 2025

December 7, 2025

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

'TIS THE SEASON FOR REPENTANCE...FA-LA-LA-LA-LA-LA-LA-LA-LA!

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

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

[Click here to watch on YouTube](#)

# WELCOME

Our mission is to nurture and inspire  
our faith community to transform lives for Christ.

## COMMUNITY GROWS HERE

Thank you for joining us in worship. Your presence matters here. Author Rachel Held Evans wrote, "Christianity isn't meant to simply be believed; it's meant to be lived, shared, eaten, spoken, and enacted in the presence of other people... Try as I may, I can't be a Christian on my own. I need a community. I need the church. Imagine if every church became a place where everyone is safe, but no one is comfortable. Imagine if every church became a place where we told one another the truth. We might just create sanctuary."

We need you. As we work to create transformational community on the corner of Fillmore and Jackson, your community needs your presence and your voice. It's been five years since our world was upended by Covid. And while much has changed since then, our need for each other and our need for community has not. 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.



**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).



## DAILY LECTIONARY: DECEMBER 7–DECEMBER 13

**Sunday:** Ezekiel 37:1-14; *Valley of the Dry Bones*  
**Monday:** Ezekiel 39:25-29; *Prophecy of Israel's Restoration*  
**Tuesday:** Ezra 1:1-11; *The End of the Exile*  
**Wednesday:** Ezra 3:1-7; *Worship Begins in Jerusalem*  
**Thursday:** Ezra 3:8-13; *Rebuilding the Temple*  
**Friday:** Isaiah 52:3-10; *God's Restoration of Israel*  
**Saturday:** Isaiah 54:1-10; *God's Covenant of Peace*

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. Available for \$25 after worship.



Rev. Marcella Auld Glass    Rev. Joann H. Lee

*Rev. Marcella Auld Glass*

*Rev. Joann H. Lee*

Rev. Victor H. Floyd

Michael Conley

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*Michael Conley*

## 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**

Helen Huckleberry, Deacon Co-Moderator


Terry Milby, Deacon Co-Moderator

Rev. Victor Floyd, Minister of Spiritual Care



**Notice of Filming:** Most of Calvary's worship services are livestreamed on our Facebook page and YouTube channel. 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.

## December 7, 2025: Second Sunday of Advent


 **PRELUDE** "Two Chorale Preludes on *Vom Himmel hoch, da komm' ich her* P.52 (Pastorale) and P.478 (Fugue)"  
(From Heaven Above to Earth I Come) Johannes Pachelbel (1653–1706)

 **INTROIT** "The Truth from Above" trad. English carol, arr. R. Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)

<i>This is the truth sent from above, The truth of God, the God of love; Therefore don't turn me from your door, But hearken all, both rich and poor.</i>	<i>Thus we were heirs to endless woes, Till God the Lord did interpose; And so a promise soon did run That He would redeem us by his Son.</i>
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*Thus He in love to us behaved,  
To show us how we must be saved;  
And if you want to know the way  
Be pleased to hear what He did say.*

 **WELCOME**

 **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES**  
Now is the time; now is the moment  
**to expect God's justice.**  
Today we bless the root that is already blooming for the harvest.  
**We welcome the child that is already prophesying to the nations.**  
The hour is already here, even as we are waiting.  
**Soon—yes, very soon—peace will not be a process painted with bloodshed.**  
**The poor will be fed, the persecuted will be relieved, the vulnerable will be sheltered,**  
**and all people will flourish together.**  
God's peace outshines every fear.  
(The second Advent candle is lit.)

 **\*HYMN 100** "My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout" STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN


 **\*CALL TO CONFESSION**


 **\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**  
O God, we know that **repentance is part of the work of Advent preparation. But we are afraid that our honest confessions will break the peace. Help us to remember that true peace cannot be found without true repentance. And so, we ask: for all we have done and for all we have left undone, forgive us and restore us back to you and back to community. Through Christ our Lord we pray, Amen.**


 **\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

 **\*GLORIA: HYMN 384** "Soon and Very Soon" (verses 1 & 2) SOON AND VERY SOON

 **\*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 are invited to come up front for scripture and Blessing of the SafeHouse Stockings.*

 **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**  
**Speak to us, Lord. Speak to us in the waiting, the watching, the hoping, the longing, the sorrow, the sighing, the rejoicing. Speak to us by your Word in these Advent days, and walk with us until the day of your coming. Amen.**

 **SCRIPTURE** Matthew 3:1–12 (page 784)  
The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

 **BLESSING OF THE SAFEHOUSE STOCKINGS**  
*Following the Blessing, children ages infant to 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to walk with their parents down to the Lower Level Sunday Studio and Childcare space. Children may also sit with their families during worship.*

 **ANTHEM** "Jesus Christ the Apple Tree" Howard Helvey

<i>The tree of life my soul hath seen, Laden with fruit and always green: The trees of nature fruitless be Compared with Christ the apple tree.</i>	<i>For happiness I long have sought, And pleasure dearly I have bought: I missed of all; but now I see 'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.</i>
<i>His beauty doth all things excel: By faith I know, but ne'er can tell The glory which I now can see In Jesus Christ the apple tree.</i>	<i>I'm weary with my former toil, Here I will sit and rest awhile: Under the shadow I will be, Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.</i>

*This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,  
It keeps my dying faith alive;  
Which makes my soul in haste to be  
With Jesus Christ the apple tree.  
—Richard Hutchins, 1761*

 **SERMON** "Tis the Season for Repentance...fa-la-la-la-la-la-la-la!"

 **\*HYMN 88** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (verses 5–7)

VENI EMMANUEL



**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** "Promise of Peace"

Mark Hayes

*Watchman, tell us of the night,  
what its signs of promise are.  
Traveler, what a wondrous sight:  
see that glory-beaming star.  
Watchman, does its beauteous ray  
news of joy or hope foretell?  
Traveler, yes; it brings the day,  
promised day of Israel.*

*Watchman, tell us of the night;  
higher yet that star ascends.  
Traveler, blessedness and light,  
peace and truth its course portends.  
Watchman, will its beams alone  
gild the spot that gave them birth?  
Traveler, ages are its own;  
see, it bursts o'er all the earth.*

*Watchman, tell us of the night,  
for the morning seems to dawn.  
Traveler, shadows take their flight;  
doubt and terror are withdrawn.  
Watchman, you may go your way;  
hasten to your quiet home.  
Traveler, we rejoice today,  
for Emmanuel has come!  
—John Bowring, 1825*



**SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

**THE WORDS OF INVITATION**

**GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

...who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**SANCTUS 144** "In the Bleak Midwinter" (verse 2)

CRANHAM

**Our God, heaven cannot hold him,  
nor earth sustain;  
heaven and earth shall flee away  
when he comes to reign:  
in the bleak midwinter  
a stable place sufficed  
the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.**

**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.

**THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE**

*At Calvary, all are welcome at the Communion Table. Ushers will invite you to come forward for Communion. Please exit your pew from the right, proceed to the Communion station at the front of the sanctuary, receive Communion, and return to your pews. Those who are unable to come forward will be served in their pews by a pastor. Please indicate your desire to be served as the usher approaches. The Communion elements are all gluten-free and nut-free.*

**MEDITATION** "In the Bleak Midwinter"

CRANHAM by Gustav Holst (1874–1934), arr. Mark Hayes

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

♪ \*HYMN 87 "Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

♪ \*BENEDICTION

♪ \*CHORAL BLESSING "Advent Blessing"

Michael Conley

*Bless us, O God, with hope and peace and joy and love.  
Bless us, O God. And may we bless the world in return. Amen.*

♪ POSTLUDE "Postlude on Vom Himmel hoch, da komm' ich her"  
(From Heaven Above to Earth I Come)

Alfred V. Fedak (b. 1953)

**Acknowledgement:** The Prayer for Illumination was written by Rev. Andy James, First Presbyterian Church, Whitestone, New York.

### Leading Worship This Morning

The Rimmke Family	Liturgist
Rev. Joann H. Lee	Preaching
Rev. Marcella Auld Glass	Assisting
Rev. Victor H. Floyd	Assisting
Alison Faison & Glenda Hope	Blessing of the Stockings
Michael Conley	Conductor
John Walko	Organist/Pianist
Natalie Ter Agapova	Soloist
Gabrielle Goozée-Nichols	Soloist
Nancy Hall	Soloist
Joachim Luis	Soloist
Jefferson Packer	Soloist
Ben Pattison	Soloist
Michael Villarreal	Soloist
Calvary Chancel Choir	Soloist

### Next Week in Worship: December 14 at 10am

**Third Sunday of Advent**  
**Rev. Marcella Auld Glass**  
***Finding Joy in the Mess of Life***

*Luke 1:46b-55* God chose an unwed teenage girl to bear the son of God. It reminds us that God is willing to be vulnerable. Because Mary was vulnerable. There was a more than decent chance that this pregnancy could have resulted in Mary being stoned to death. God does not just have a preference for the poor and the weak. God became poor and weak. God came to earth and joined a family, entering into the struggles, the fears, the anxieties, the joys, the celebrations, and the gifts that go along with being family.

### CHRISTMAS AT CALVARY ✨

**Longest Night Worship Service**  
***Waxing Moon***  
**Sunday, December 21 at 5pm**

**Christmas Eve Worship Services**  
Wednesday, December 24 at 5 & 8pm  
**Sunday, December 28 at 10am**

**Epiphany Worship Service**  
Sunday, January 4 at 10am

### Congregational Meeting: Sunday, December 14

Following worship on December 14, Calvary members are requested to remain in the Sanctuary for a brief congregational meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to elect Elders, Deacons, Foundation Trustees, and Nominating Committee members for 2026; approve changes to the bylaws; and to approve terms of call for pastors Marci Glass and Joann Lee. Thank you.



SOON  
AND VERY  
SOON  
ADVENT 2025

THIS ADVENT, WE ACKNOWLEDGE  
OUR NEED FOR RADICAL HOPE. THE  
SCRIPTURES FROM THIS SEASON  
ENCOURAGE US TO PREPARE FOR  
GOD'S BEST, YET IT SOMETIMES  
FEELS LIKE WE ARE LIVING IN THE  
"WORST OF TIMES." CAN WE HOLD  
FAST TO THE PROMISE THAT  
"SOON AND VERY SOON" WE ARE  
GOING TO SEE THE HOPE, PEACE,  
JOY, AND LOVE OF GOD MANIFEST  
IN OUR LIVES AND INTO THE  
WORLD? SOON AND VERY SOON,  
FRIENDS, SOON AND VERY SOON.

1 My soul cries out with a joy-ful shout that the  
 2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you  
 3 From the halls of power to the for-tress tower, not a  
 4 Though the na-tions rage from age to age, we re-

God of my heart is great, and my spir-it sings of the  
 work great things in me, and your mer-cy will last from the  
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be-ware for your  
 mem-ber who holds us fast: God's mer-cy must de-

won-drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be,  
 jus-tice tears ev-ery ty-rant from his throne.  
 liv-er us from the con-quer-or's crush-ing grasp.

You fixed your sight on your ser-vant's plight, and my  
 Your ver-y name puts the proud to shame, and to  
 The hun-gry poor shall weep no more, for the  
 This sav-ing word that our fore-bears heard is the

weak-ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my  
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the  
 food they can nev-er earn; there are ta-bles spread; ev-ery  
 prom-ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

name be blest. Could the world be a-bout to turn?  
 strong to flight, for the world is a-bout to turn.  
 mouth be fed, for the world is a-bout to turn.  
 crushed by God, who is turn-ing the world a-round.

*Refrain*  
 My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the  
 fires of your jus-tice burn. Wipe a-way all tears, for the  
 dawn draws near, and the world is a-bout to turn.

By employing an energetic Irish folk song for its melody, this ballad-like paraphrase of the *Magnificat*, Mary's song at her meeting with her relative Elizabeth (Luke 1:46-55), recaptures both the wonder and the faith of the young woman who first recognized what God was doing.

1 Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.  
 2 No more cry - ing there: we are going to see the King.  
 3 No more dy - ing there: we are going to see the King.  
 4 Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.

Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.  
 No more cry - ing there: we are going to see the King.  
 No more dy - ing there: we are going to see the King.  
 Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.

Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.  
 No more cry - ing there: we are going to see the King.  
 No more dy - ing there: we are going to see the King.  
 Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're going to see the King!

This spirited African American gospel hymn draws on John's vision of the new heaven and the new earth in Revelation 21:3-4, with its wonderful promise that God will wipe away the tears from all eyes, that death will be no longer, and that there will be no more mourning or pain.



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som  
 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest  
 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy  
 4 O come, thou Root of Jes - se, free thine own from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile  
 all things might - i - ly: to us the path of knowl - edge  
 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the  
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple



here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 show; and teach us in her ways to go. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
 law in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.  
 save and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.



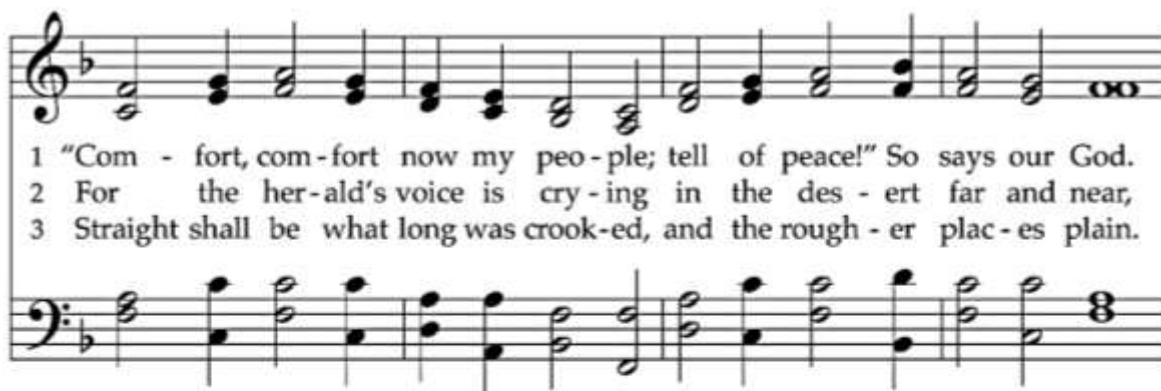
Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>5 O come, thou Key of David, come,<br/>             and open wide our heavenly home;<br/>             make safe the way that leads on high,<br/>             and close the path to misery.<br/>             Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel<br/>             shall come to thee, O Israel.</p>             | <p>6 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer<br/>             our spirits by thine advent here;<br/>             disperse the gloomy clouds of night,<br/>             and death's dark shadows put to flight.<br/>             Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel<br/>             shall come to thee, O Israel.</p> |
| <p>7 O come, Desire of nations, bind<br/>             all peoples in one heart and mind;<br/>             bid envy, strife, and discord cease;<br/>             fill the whole world with heaven's peace.<br/>             Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel<br/>             shall come to thee, O Israel.</p> |  |

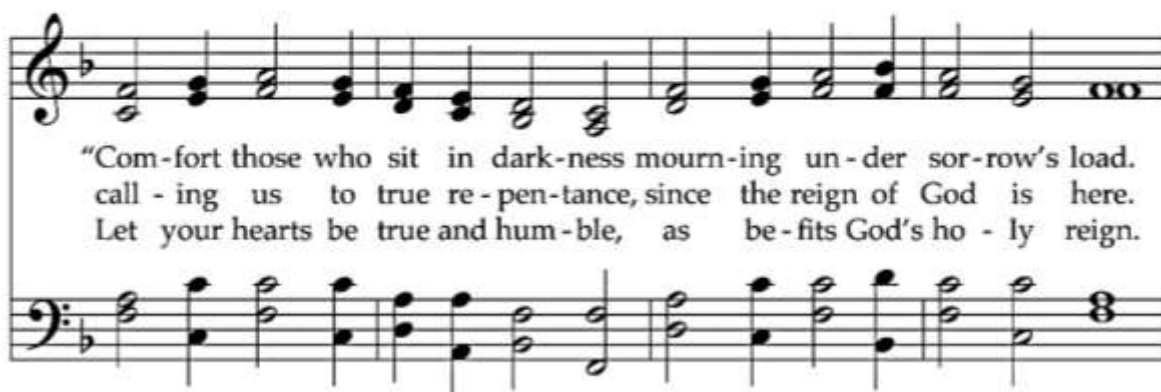
*One stanza of this paraphrase of the great O Antiphons may be sung on each of the last days of Advent as follows:*

Dec. 17: O Wisdom (2)	Dec. 20: O Key of David (5)	Dec. 23: O Emmanuel (1)
Dec. 18: O Lord of might (3)	Dec. 21: O Dayspring (6)	
Dec. 19: O Root of Jesse (4)	Dec. 22: O Desire of Nations (7)	

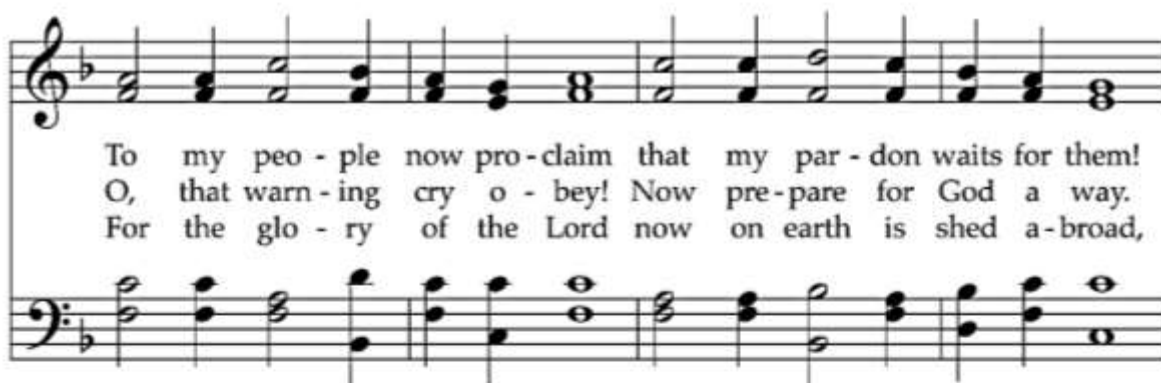
These titles of the coming Christ appeared in daily Vesper antiphons sung during the week before Christmas; their roots date at least to the reign of Charlemagne. Both text and tune are the fruit of 19th-century efforts to reclaim Christian treasures from pre-Reformation sources.



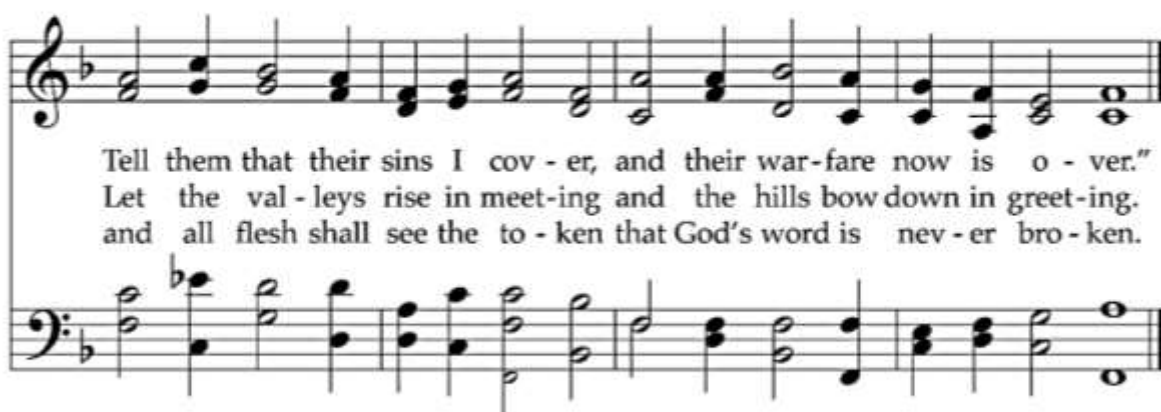
1 "Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.  
 2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,  
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



"Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn - ing un - der sor - row's load.  
 call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.  
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.



To my peo - ple now pro - claim that my par - don waits for them!  
 O, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.  
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their sins I cov - er, and their war - fare now is o - ver."  
 Let the val - leys rise in meet - ing and the hills bow down in greet - ing,  
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

This 17th-century German paraphrase of Isaiah 40:1-5 was one of the texts translated as part of the 19th-century British interest in German religious poetry. It is set here to one of the most popular Genevan Psalter tunes, probably derived from an earlier French folksong.

# GIVE LIGHT TO THE WORLD

## 2026 ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

### JOIN CALVARY IN MINISTRY • MAKE A PLEDGE FOR 2026

Stewardship is more than meeting a budget—it's about shining Christ's love and light in the world.

Pledging is easy:

- ✦ Use the QR code to pledge online
- ✦ Visit [calpres.org/give/annual-giving-2026](https://calpres.org/give/annual-giving-2026)
- ✦ Complete the pledge card mailed to you or Use one located in the pew rack



**Questions about pledging?  
Contact a pastor or Robin Morjikian**

The congregation has pledged over \$1,001,500 for **Giving Light to the World**, our 2026 pledge campaign. We are over 70% towards our goal! Thank you!

Your pledge supports Calvary worship services, music ministries, outreach to those in need, and so much more.

To help our church meet its \$1.45 million goal, please make your pledge today!



## A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS SERVICE

**Sunday, December 14 at 5pm**

Celebrate the Christmas spirit with this beloved story about Charlie Brown, Snoopy, and the Peanuts crew! This multi-sensory worship experience will be fun for all ages and include the music, story, images, and dancing from *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. Matthew Otto will conduct the Young Women's Choral Projects' Allegro Group, singing classic songs! The jazz trio will be back again this year! *Reception following in Calvin Hall.*



CALVARY MUSIC & ART PRESENTS

Truman Capote's

# "A CHRISTMAS MEMORY"

Tickets: \$25  
suggested donation

THE FILLMORE CHOIR & SOLOISTS  
MICHAEL CONLEY, CONDUCTOR  
JOHN WALKO, PIANO

a theatrical reading of Capote's heartwarming story with seasonal music by the Fillmore Choir, soloists, & instrumental ensemble with Linda Libby as "Sook" and Victor H. Floyd, Narrator. More than a Christmas concert, a Christmas event! And stay for a punch and fruitcake reception in Calvin Hall after the performance.

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 7 PM • CALPRES.ORG/EVENTS**

CALVARY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 2515 FILLMORE STREET (@ JACKSON) SAN FRANCISCO



# Waxing Moon The Longest Night

**Sunday, December 21 at 5pm**

Led by Rev. Victor H. Floyd

On this turning of the year, we gather at the edge of darkness—the earth tilts, the light pauses, and the long night holds its breath. Together we will pray and keep stillness, kindle every candle against the shadows, and listen as hope stirs in the quiet. Guest artist **Emil Miland**, cellist of the San Francisco Opera Orchestra, will offer Dvořák's "Song to the Moon"—a hymn for the soul seeking light. Bring your hopes, your fears, your tender heart—but come just as you are, and behold the waxing moon.

## 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