

December 14, 2025

THIRD SUNDAY OF JIDVENT FINDING JOY IN THE MESS OF LIFE

JOIN US ON THE CORNER OF FILLMORE & JACKSON

Click here to watch on our website

Click here to watch on YouTube





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 14-DECEMBER 3

Sunday: Isaiah 55:1-13; Seek the Lord Monday: Proverbs 8:1; 22-26; Wisdom in Creation Tuesday: Proverbs 8:27-31; Wisdom at Creation Wednesday: Psalm 8:1-9; A Psalm of Creation Thursday: Isaiah 11:1-9; Prophecy of the Messiah Friday: Luke 1:26-38; The Annunciation

Friday: Luke 1:26-38; *The Annunciation* **Saturday:** Luke 1:46-55; *The Magnificat*

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.



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.

Rev. Marcella Auld Glass Rev. Joann H. Lee

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 14, 2025: Third Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE "Advent: First Religious Suite for Organ - Toccata on the Gregorian Hymn 'Creator alme siderum'
(Creator of the Stars of Night)" (1943)
Pietro Yon (1886–1943)

Introit "Rojoice in the Lord Always"

Anonymous, 16th cent. English (attr. John Redford)

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, rejoice.

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Now is the time; now is the moment

to release our weariness.

Listen, the dry desert is singing!

Look, the cool springs are overflowing!

The hour is already here, even as we are waiting.

Soon—yes, very soon—our joy will know no end. We will join the heavens in praising God.

We will carry good news through the world like the wind. We will be glad in one another's presence.

All creation radiates with God's joy.

(The third Advent candle is lit.)

▶ *Нуми 106 "Prepare the Way, O Zion"

BEREDEN VAG FÖR HERRAN

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we are told that this is supposed to be a joyful time, so why do we often feel joyless?

We hear the summons to rejoice, but why do we struggle so to respond?

Absorbed in the needs of the day, we have lost sight of you.

Beaten down by cares and burdens, we neglect the means of grace through which our hearts might be lifted.

We pray partly and worship half-heartedly and serve grudgingly.

Joy eludes and we drift farther away.

Gather us in. Forgive us. Restore us.

Bring forth a new spirit within us, that we might discover the joy for which you created us,

the deep joy made known to us in Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon

*GLORIA: HYMN 384 "Soon and Very Soon" (verses 1 & 3)

SOON AND VERY SOON



The Joy of Christ be with you!

And also with you!

The congregation is invited to share a sign of joy.

Following The Joy, children are invited to come up front for scripture reading and Children's Meditation.

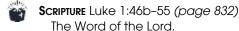
PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

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.



Thanks be to God.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM & RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Alexander Kozmin, child of Natalia Ter Agapova and Sergei Kozmin

Anthem: "Blagoslovi dushe moia, Gospoda" *Liturgy Of St. John Chrysostom*, Op.37 Mikhail Ippolitov-Ivanov (1859–1935)
Bless the Lord, O my soul. Blessed art Thou, O Lord. Bless the Lord, O my soul,

and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits:

Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me,

bless God's holy name. Blessed art Thou, O Lord.

--Psalm 103:1-6

Following the Baptism, children ages infant to 5^{th} 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 "There's Still My Joy" words & music by Melissa Manchester, Matt Rollings & Beth Chapman, arr. Roger Emerson

I brought my tree down to the shore The garland and the silver star To find my peace and grieve no more To heal this place inside my heart

On every branch I laid some bread And hungry birds filled up the sky They rang like bells around my head They sang my spirit back to life One tiny child can change the world One shining light can show the way Through all my tears for what I've lost There's still my joy for Christmas day

The snow comes down on empty sand
There's tinsel moonlight on the waves
My soul was lost but here I am
So this must be amazing grace

One tiny child can change the world One shining light can show the way Beyond these tears for what I've lost There's still my joy for Christmas day

SERMON "Finding Joy in the Mess of Life"

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

*Hymn 107 "Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"

REJOICE, REJOICE

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 "How Great Our Joy"

trad. German carol, arr. William D. Hall

While by the sheep we watched at night, glad tidings brought an angel bright.

Refrain: How great our joy! (Great our joy!)
Joy, joy, joy! (Joy, joy, joy!)
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!

There shall be born, so he did say, in Bethlehem a child today. (Refrain)

There shall he lie in manger mean, Who shall redeem the world from sin. (Refrain)

Lord, evermore to us be nigh; Then shall our hearts be filled with joy! (Refrain)



*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.

▶ *Нуми 82 "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

Hyfrydol

*Benediction

*Choral Blessing "Advent Blessing"

Michael Conlev

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 "Postludium Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme", from Zwanzig Prae- und Postludien, op. 78, No. 18

Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877–1933)



- 1 Pre pare the way, O Zi on, your Christ is draw-ing near!
- 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi on; he comes from heaven a bove.
- 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi on; your Sav ior's rule em brace,



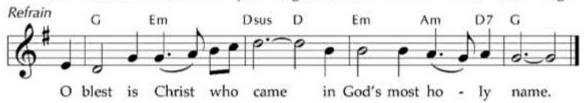
Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear. His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love. and ti - dings of sal - va - tion pro-claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore-told in sa - cred sto - ry.

Lift high your praise re-sound-ing, for grace and joy a - bound-ing.

All lands will bow re - joic - ing, their ad - o - ra - tion voic - ing.



Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This engaging Advent text based on Isaiah 40:3–5 and Psalm 24:7–10 has been in use in the Church of Sweden for almost two hundred years. It is set to a version of an even older Swedish tune, which in turn seems to be derived from a German folktune that spread to Scandinavia.

TEXT: Frans Mikael Franzen, 1812, rev. 1819; trans. Augustus Nelson, 1958; adapt. Charles P. Price, 1980, alt.

MUSIC: Then Swenska Psalmboken, 1697; arr. American Lutheran Hymnal, 1930

Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN 7.6.7.6.7.7 with refrain



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.



After attending a carol concert, the author and composer of this hymn was moved to create a contemporary, accessible carol that drew on the familiar images in a new way. There are echoes here of passages such as Isaiah 9:6, Isaiah 7:14/Matthew 1:23, Isaiah 35:5–6, Isaiah 2:4.

ev - ery day we share and bring us at last in - to glo - ry.



With its opening "Come," this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin *adventus* = "coming"). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.

Leading Worship This Morning

The Burrill Family Liturgists Rev. Marcella Auld Glass Preaching Rev. Joann H. Lee Assisting Rev. Victor H. Floyd Assisting Michael Conley Conductor John Walko Organist/Pianist Natalie Ter Agapova Soloist Gabrielle Goozée-Nichols Soloist Nancy Hall Soloist Soloist Joachim Luis Jefferson Packer Soloist Ben Pattison Soloist Michael Villarreal Soloist Calvary Chancel Choir

> The flowers this morning are given by Jane Hurlburt in loving memory of her brother, Lester Garcia.

In Memoriam Nancy J Padgett (1947–2025)

Next Week in Worship: December 21 at 10am

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Rev. Marcella Auld Glass: Rejoice! Rejoice!

Matthew 1:18-25 In a dream, Joseph received a startling message from God turned his world upside down, and Joseph's faithfulness in responding to God's dream, changed the world. We rejoice for all who hear God's dreams and respond with faith instead of fear.

Congregational Meeting: Today following worship

Following worship this morning, 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.



We welcome new members Natalie Ter Agapova and Sergei Kozmin to the Calvary family!

A (HARLIE BROWN (HRISTMAS

TONIGHT 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.









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.

Checistmeas AT GALVARY

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES

Wednesday, December 24 at 5 & 8pm

Rev. Marcella Auld Glass: The People Who Walked in Darkness

The prophet Isaiah tells the story of people who walked in darkness. He also tells of how God shines light into the dark and shadowy places where people walk. What is our call, as followers of the Christ child, to reflect God's light for people who are walking in darkness today?

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28 AT 10AM

EPIPHANY WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, January 4 at 10am

CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERINGS CHURCH LEADERS—PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we lift up past, present, and future leaders of the church. This Offering provides support for Presbyterian church workers and their families in their time of need and leadership development and education for communities of color at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

Contributing is easy:

- Donate online directly at:
 - pcusa.org/donate/cj999999-christmas-joy-offering
- Donate online at calpres.org/donate and the funds will be sent to PCUSA (select: Christmas Joy in the Fund dropdown menu),
- Place a check in the offering plate, payable to Calvary, note Christmas Joy on the memo line.

ONGREGATIONAL MEETING

DECEMBER 14, 2024 CALVARY OFFICER NOMINEES

FOUNDATION



Travis Pearson first came to Calvary in 1997, when he found the church's listing in the telephone book. He has served on the Finance team, the Pastor Nominating Committee, and, in a prior round of service, the Calvary Foundation. Travis, his wife Lisa, and their three children (Audrey (16), Elle (12), and Grant (12)) live in Presidio Heights. He works downtown for a San Francisco-based investment firm, GI Partners.



Dorothy Pett has been part of the Calvary family since moving to San Francisco from Los Angeles in early 1968, becoming a member in the early 1970s. She has served as both Deacon and Elder, and in leadership in the Education Ministry. For almost 40 years, Dorothy served on Calvary's staff as bookkeeper, retiring in June 2020. One of the greatest joys for her continues to be cooking soup for The Calvary Senior Adult Program.



Scott Tierney is the founding partner of Valo and has been an investor, technology executive and founder over his eclectic career. He co-founded CapitalG (Google's growth-stage fund) and was President of Archimedes Technologies, a nuclear energy technology company (sold to General Atomics). While at Alphabet, Scott also led corporate development and strategy at Google Nest and Google Fiber respectively, and prior to joining Google, he was a Partner at Moore Capital's technology venture fund and a co-founder of fin tech company Epoch Partners (sold to Goldman Sachs). Scott

started his career at Morgan Stanley in the M&A Department. Scott received an AB in Social Studies from Harvard College (magna cum laude) and an MBA from the Haas School of Business, U.C. Berkeley (Haas Fellow).



Robin Workman has been a member of Calvary for 25+ years. She is an attorney, who enjoys running, as well as traveling with her son, Peter. Robin will read or listen to almost any book. She is, most interestingly, a member of a bowling team...which is she had to miss Church Night, as the team bowls on Mondays.

ELDERS



Brian Bone has been a member of Calvary since 2000 and has served as both a Deacon and an Elder. Brian and his wife, Amy, have two children, Quentin (21) and Lucy (17).



Jeanine Bran and her family have been members at Calvary since 2018. She is wife to Tulio and mom to Leela (9) and Toby (12). Jeanine is serving her second term as Elder on Session. She also enjoys leading the kitchen for the Thanksgiving meal and sings in the Fillmore Choir. Jeanine is originally from Newport Beach, studied at Berkeley where she met Tulio, and now resides near Ocean Beach with her family. She is an HR Executive, open water swimmer and dog lover.



Erin Dress grew up attending Calvary and previously served on the Pastoral Nominating Committee and Mission, Vision & Values Committee, as well as being a Deacon and a Youth Deacon. After years growing brands at Unilever and Impossible Foods, she recently launched two startups, Heartfelt Strategy (AI & marketing consulting) and Wild Buds (global sauces crafted for kids). Erin loves taking her dog Josie for romps on the beach and hiking in the mountains for vacation.



Priscilla Dwyer has been a member of Calvary Presbyterian for almost 40 years and has been honored to serve on Session, Board of Deacons, pastor nominating committees, and numerous mission teams during this time. Calvary is her church home and offers her opportunities to serve the community, as well as her church family. Priscilla enjoys time with friends and family, travel, reading, baking, learning and growing in faith.



Bill Goodson is a mostly retired breast cancer surgeon, researcher on carcinogenic effects of environmental chemicals, and former professor of surgery. Raised Baptist, he has previously been Lutheran and Episcopalian. After attending for a long time, Bill and his wife, Jan, joined Calvary in 2008. He enjoys road trips, reading (typically non-fiction), and creating hand drawn animation.



Ross Wilson is an Associate Director in the Technology consulting practice at Accenture. He has been a member at Calvary for the last 30+ years. While here, Ross has served as an Elder and a Deacon, a member of the Foundation board, and more recently has been very active as a choir member and with various volunteer ministries such as Raphael House and Martin de Porres. He and his wife, Sara, were married at Calvary. They have two children, Ian and Claire, who are both graduates of the children and youth programs at Calvary.

DEACONS



Helen Huckleberry has been a member at Calvary Presbyterian Church for over 20 years. With her husband Geoff, they raised their sons, Ryan and Sean, at Calvary from attending playgroups to Sunday School, Mt. Hermon annual retreats, mission trips, and confirmation. Helen has been a Deacon and Elder numerous times. She loves the community, music and values that make Calvary special. Helen is a marketing executive who has worked across many industries including healthcare, tech, CPG, and research. In her spare time, she enjoys adventure travel, food, family (including dog, Tilly), and hiking.



JB King has lived in the Corona Heights neighborhood of San Francisco for 20 years. Raised outside of Philadelphia—"Go Birds"—he attended Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio. JB is the Director of Finance for a tech company in SOMA and has attended Calvary for 13 years, joining in 2024.



Joshue Marple has been attending Calvary for a few years, but only formally joined as a member in January. He works as a software engineer, and enjoys running, pinball, and wildlife photography. Joshua grew up on a cattle farm in Kansas, and moved to California about 10 years ago with his wife, Yasi. He is looking forward to getting to know the Calvary community better and serving as a Deacon!



Susan Rakness has lived in San Francisco since her college years, when she moved north from her hometown of Santa Clarita, California. She and her husband, Eric, have a teenage daughter, Isabel, who's approaching her own decision about where to spend her college years. During Covid, their dog, Dolce, joined the family, encouraging long hikes across the city. Susan serves as a school-based Speech and Language Pathologist in Marin, where she is dedicated to supporting children in developing strong communication skills. She is fluent in Spanish, which she practices every chance she gets. She also loves

to travel, spend time with family and friends, and enjoy the many cultural activities the city offers. Susan became a member of Calvary Presbyterian Church of San Francisco in 2024, transferring her membership from the First Presbyterian Church of Newhall. Her connection with Calvary began even earlier, when she joined Calvary's Living Sanctuary Team on a mission trip to Tijuana in 2023—an experience that deepened her commitment to service within the immigrant community. Since then, Susan and her daughter have wholeheartedly embraced Calvary's many faith-based service opportunities, including volunteering at Martin de Porres and supporting food pantry distribution at Old First. She has cherished the relationships she has built with Calvary's members and looks forward to continuing to support and serve alongside the church community.



Robert Romano first came to Calvary in 2012 after moving from Washington, DC. After six years as a video producer and nonprofit storyteller, he transitioned to education and now works as a Special Day Teacher in an autism-focused elementary program in SFUSD. He lives in the Outer Sunset with his wife Beth, their ten-year-old daughter Lia, and their rescue tuxedo cat, Kora. Robert loves to read and is learning to find moments of peace within the beautiful chaos of classroom life. Above all else, he believes in the importance of kindness—to students, families, colleagues, and oneself.



Grant Smith is originally from Knoxville, TN and moved to the Bay Area in 2014 to pursue medical training in internal medicine at UCSF. He is currently a hospice and palliative medicine doctor at Stanford Medicine. Grant lives with his partner, Alan, and their 11-pound Chihuahua mix rescue, Baxter. At Calvary, he enjoys the warm and welcoming community, volunteering at Martin de Porres house, and the focus on social justice. Grant enjoys travelling around the Bay Area, eating at San Francisco restaurants, and going to Giants and Valkyries games.

CHURCHWIDE NOMINATING COMMITTEE



Jamia Konrad grew up on the north shore of Vancouver, British Columbia. She has been a member of Calvary for 30 years. Currently, and has served on the Worship and Fellowship Teams, as well as an Elder and Deacon. Jamia also serves on the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco Auxiliary, planning and fundraising for major events. She and her husband have been married for 38 years and are proud grandparents of two grandchildren. Their son and his family live in the south bay.



Tosca M. Lee is a native San Franciscan with deep roots in the community. As a Calvary member for the past eight years, she has found joy and purpose in serving alongside others, supporting the church's ministries and programs, especially SF SafeHouse and Racial Equity Initiative programs and events. A licensed cosmetologist and entrepreneur, Tosca brings warmth, creativity, and professional experience into everything she does. She is grateful for the opportunity to give back to the congregation that has become a spiritual home and a source of deep connections.



Scott Nagelson has been a member of Calvary for more than 25 years. He has served the church in number of ways, including Elder and Pastor Nominating Committee. A retired investment banker, Scott lives in the Richmond District with his wife, Andrea, and their Vizsla Buster.



Randy Schroeder joined Calvary in October of 2004. He loves Calvary for its diverse outreach to community and multiple ways they serve San Francisco. Randy also loves Calvary's incredible music and enjoyable worship services. He has served as a Deacon, Elder, and sang in the Choir. Randy lives in Noe Valley with his partner, Michael, and their dog Lenny. He is retired and loves traveling and spending time with our wonderful neighbors and community.



Pam Tudor has been a member of Calvary for nearly 50 years. She has served as an Elder, Deacon, chair of annual church retreats, Sunday School teacher, founder of Calvary's children's library, and is currently coordinator of the ever-growing Bridge Fellowship group. Pam has also served on the board of the Calvary Nursery School and various charities, including Heritage on the Marina, a senior residential community focusing on middle class and low-income seniors. She is retired after a long career in advertising and marketing with an international transportation company.

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