



Emily, photo by John Mitchell

Weekly Preview

December 12, 2016

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Do you hear what I hear?

One of the most memorable and inspiring parts of the Christmas season is the music we hear. Sure, we have more than enough Christmas background music playing in the stores, elevators and waiting rooms. But the really wonderful music is the kind we get to hear in church, among carolers or in our homes. We hear voices coming together in song, lifting up the songs of Advent waiting ("Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" and "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel") as well as the joyful proclamation of Christmas ("O Come, All Ye Faithful," "Go, Tell It on the Mountain", and "Joy to the World"). This is a time when bells remind us to consider the needs of others. And Christmas carols are some of the few songs that nearly everybody knows by heart (at least the first verse).

Music is a language of the spirit and the heart. It can trigger feelings and remembrances from the past, sometimes pleasant and sometimes not, sometimes welcome and sometimes not. The lighting of a candle or the singing of "Silent Night" on Christmas eve can bring on a flood of recollections, images, feelings, emotions, that connect us with other people and other Christmas celebrations. Some of my favorite memories of Christmas music include hearing a solo cello play a haunting version of "What Child is This?" and the singing of "Angels' Carol" in the dark with a small choir one year hoping for the lights to come back on during a storm on Christmas eve.

I hope you'll join us this Sunday at Calvary Church as holiday music takes the central part in our worship at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Here are the words of the third stanza of "O Holy Night," (another of my favorites)

*Truly He taught us to love one another
His law is love and His gospel is peace
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother
And in His name all oppression shall cease
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise His holy name*

See you in church,
Pastor Steve

Sermon

Not able to attend church last Sunday? No worries. Click here to listen to the sermon: [SERMON December 11](#)

Sermon Series: Great Expectations

Christmas and the weeks leading up to it comes with lots of expectations. There are so many we do, both willingly and not so willingly, to get ready for yet another December 25th. How might we find a way for God to speak a message of hope and be born in us today?

December 18 Fourth Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 7:1-16 and Matthew 1:18-25

Rev. Steve Larsen is preaching

Sermon Title: God With Us?!

Ahaz and Joseph are two figures barely mentioned in the Bible. However, each was presented with an opportunity to encounter "Immanuel" God with us. These two characters provide us with contrasting responses to God who steps into our world. As we finish this Advent season and celebrate another Christmas, we will sing "O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel?"

GROW

Current Bible Studies

Calvary Campus

Pastor's Bible Study- Tuesday at 10:00 in the Library

Joyce Dixon's Bible Study – 1st, 3rd and 5th Tuesdays of the month at 9:30 a.m.

Men's Bible Study: Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm

Centennial Campus

Deacon Julie's Bible Study Saturday's at 2:30 p.m.

LEAD

Weekly:

Puppeteering [CLICK HERE](#)
 Acolyte Coordinator office@calvaryumc.org
 Acolyte (NEW) [CLICK HERE](#)
 Lay Reader [CLICK HERE](#)
 Usher office@calvaryumc.org
 Greeter office@calvaryumc.org
 Office Volunteer amyaguilar@calvaryumc.org
 Nursery Volunteer cindywilson@calvaryumc.org
 2nd Adult at Children's Church [CLICK HERE](#)
 2nd Adult at VOP [CLICK HERE](#)
 Children's Sermon [CLICK HERE](#)

The Week Ahead

Monday, December 12

6:45 p.m. Worship Committee

Tuesday, December 13

10:00 a.m. Pastor's Bible Study

1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting

7:00 p.m. Joyful Noise

7:30 p.m. Gospel Choir

Wednesday, December 14

12:00 p.m. Miriam Circle

5:00 p.m. Community Meal at Centennial

6:30 p.m. Men's Bible Study

Thursday, December 15

6:30 p.m. Guitar Ensemble

7:15 p.m. Cathedral Choir

Saturday, December 17

8:00 a.m. Breakfast with St. Nick

2:00 p.m. Advent program UMW

4:00 p.m. Community Meal at Centennial

5:15 p.m. Contemporary Service at Centennial

Next Sunday, December 18

Fourth Sunday in Advent

8:30 a.m. Worship

9:45 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages

10:00 a.m. Children's Pageant

10:30 a.m. Worship at Centennial

11:00 a.m. Worship at Calvary

12:30 p.m. Bells for Jesus

Genesis Choir

1:00 p.m. Sunshine Choir

3:00 p.m. Youth Caroling

4:30 p.m. Voices of Praise

5:30 p.m. Youth Group

SERVE

Outreach Opportunities

- 2nd Street and Hope (1X per month on Wednesday) [CLICK HERE](#)
- Calvary at the Soup Kitchen (6 x per year) **Rescue Mission Meal** (1st Monday of Month)
- **Wheelbarrow Sunday**: 1st Sunday of the month bring your canned food items
- **The Lord's Laundry** [CLICK HERE to email](#)

Contact the Church Office at office@calvaryumc.org or [301-662-1464](tel:301-662-1464) to learn more about these great opportunities at church and in the community.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tour of Churches Help Needed! We need volunteers to make soup from 8 am to 12pm and then to serve and make cookies from 4 pm to 9 pm on December 26th. Additionally, we need greeters from 4-9 pm. Sign up in 1 hour increments or volunteer for more time if you wish. This is a great opportunity to showcase our church and our amazing congregation! Sign-up sheet is located at the welcome center or speak to Kay Jacobs for more information.

Advent by Candlelight- December 17th 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall

Consider hoisting a table and inviting your friends, family co-workers or neighbors to see the Gift that lasts for eternity. Sign-up sheets in the fellowship hall. *Advent by Candlelight is an opportunity for women to set aside the hustle and bustle of holiday preparation and focus their minds and hearts on the birth of Christ. Beautiful decorations and fellowship provide a delightful atmosphere for the ladies to enjoy music, a worship service and devotions by candlelight*

Calvary Prints and Ornaments: Once again, Family Life is making Calvary ornaments and prints available for purchase. These make great Christmas gifts. There is a table set up in the Parish Hall with all of these items. Your free will donation will benefit the scholarship fund. For an additional \$35, Jim Mackley, the artist of the pen and ink drawing, will colorize it for you.

Advent Mural Project: Coloring posters for our Advent Mural Project are here and can be found in Parish Hall during coffee time and Sunday school. If your group wishes to take one of the five posters to complete and add to the finished mural on 12/17, please let Christy Mossburg know.

Breakfast with Saint Nick December 17, 8am—11am Calvary Youth are hosting this great event for Calvary families and friends. There is no cost, but free will offerings will be received. After eating breakfast, there will be a Secret Santa Shop where your child will be escorted by one of our youth helpers to pick out special gifts for the special people in their life! The youth will then wrap and tag the gifts for the children so they are ready to place under the tree. The children love to shop for their family members and surprise them with gifts they pick out on their own.

Emergency Family Shelter: Once again our Parish will welcome families over the season of Christmas. The families will be staying in our Education building and will move in on Christmas Eve and stay through Epiphany (January 6th). I am thankful that we are able to provide hospitality which is better than a stable and a manger where a certain other family we talk about at this time of year had to stay!

As always, the Religious Coalition will send out invitations to registered volunteers to sign up to help. If you are not already a volunteer but you are interested in helping these families have a merrier Christmas than they would otherwise be able to have, please speak with Deacon Julie so you can fill out the application and be trained as a volunteer. This is a busy time of year for everyone, so extra hands are always welcome.

And even if you don't have time to volunteer in the evenings, you can still help us welcome the families. Perhaps you and your children or grandchildren can write a Christmas card to the families or you can bring a special snack or craft for the families. In this season of giving, thank you for thinking of these families who currently have no home.

Enrollment at the Calvary Weekday School for current families and church members begins on Monday, December 12th at the school. Applications can be picked up beginning December 9th. Please call 301-662-6783 or director@calvaryweekdayschool.com for more information.

Opportunities to GROW:

Pastor's Bible Study Led by Pastor Steve on Tuesdays from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. in the Library. They are studying 2 Corinthians. All are welcome!

Joyce Dixon's Bible Study This bible study meets the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Tuesdays of the month at 9:30 a.m. They are studying the Overview of the New Testament. All are welcome to attend.

DECEMBER 24, CHRISTMAS EVE



5:00 P.M.

FAMILY CHRISTMAS SERVICE FEATURING CHILDREN'S CHOIRS, CAROLS AND STORY.

7:00 P.M.

A CHRISTMAS SERVICE OF SCRIPTURE AND SONG FEATURING OUR YOUTH.

9:00 P.M. & 11:00 P.M.

CANDLELIGHT AND COMMUNION SERVICES

DECEMBER 25, CHRISTMAS DAY



11:00 A.M.

CALVARY CHURCH WILL CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD WITH A SINGLE SUNDAY SERVICE, 11:00 A.M., CHRISTMAS DAY.

FOLLOWING THE TRADITION OF A CHRISTMAS CRÈCHE SERVICE, REV. COLE WILL DISTRIBUTE THE CRÈCHE FIGURES THROUGHOUT THE CONGREGATION. THEN, AS THE BIBLICAL STORY IS READ AND TRADITIONAL CAROLS ARE SUNG, WORSHIPERS WILL BRING THE

CRÈCHE FIGURES FORWARD, BUILDING THE CRÈCHE DISPLAY AS THE STORY IS TOLD IN WORD AND SONG. ON CHRISTMAS MORNING, THE STORY IS THE SERMON.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN IN THIS FESTIVE CHRISTMAS MORNING CELEBRATION.

JANUARY 1, NEW YEAR'S DAY



11:00 A.M.

CALVARY CHURCH WILL RING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH A SINGLE SUNDAY SERVICE, 11:00 A.M., NEW YEAR'S DAY.