

December 2020

CALVARY CROSSROADS



Calvary Episcopal Church

Calvary Episcopal Church
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ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICES
Website: www.calvarysantacruz.org
Sundays, 10:30 am and Thursdays, 11:30 am

December Message

The Rev. Dr. Austin L. Leininger



Happy Advent, Calvary Family!

As strange as this year of 2020 has been, we find ourselves still at the beginning of a new church year as we worship, pray, and prepare ourselves for the coming of the Christ Child.

This year, perhaps more than most, my family needs this time of hope and anticipation. Time and again this year, our children (along with the rest of us) have watched their familiar plans get cancelled—favorite school field trips and overnights, summer camp, sports, swimming pools, movie theatres, birthday parties with friends, restaurants, and of course Thanksgiving with family and friends and the holiday visitation from the grandparents. So Jane and I agreed to set up the tree and decorations early this year. We're watching more holiday movies and listening to festive music. As a whole family we're looking for ways to recapture some of the eager anticipation and magic of this blessed season of waiting. The best part is that what we really look forward to is the time together, the memories we make through sharing the gifts of presence, the laughter and lightheartedness, and this is something we can bring to life for one another in new and equally powerful ways during this strange year of years.

Continues next page

Advent and Christmas Schedule

2020-2021



November 29:
First Sunday of Advent—Hope (Patriarchs and Matriarchs)
9:00 am Zoom Liturgy of the Word and Adult Ed
10:30 am LiveStream Holy Eucharist Rite II
5:00 pm Zoom gathering for Household Advent Wreath Lighting

December 6:
Second Sunday of Advent—Peace (Prophets)
9:00 am Zoom Liturgy of the Word and Adult Ed
10:30 am LiveStream Holy Eucharist Rite II
5:00 pm Zoom gathering for Household Advent Wreath Lighting

December 13:
Third Sunday of Advent—Joy (John the Baptist)
9:00 am Zoom Liturgy of the Word and Adult Ed
10:30 am LiveStream Holy Eucharist Rite II
5:00 pm Zoom gathering for Household Advent Wreath Lighting

December 20:
Fourth Sunday of Advent—Love (the Virgin Mary)
9:00 am Zoom Liturgy of the Word and Adult Ed
10:30 am LiveStream Holy Eucharist Rite II
1:00-1:30pm In Person Communion (Calvary in front of Blue Doors)
3:00-4:00pm Zoom Christmas Pageant Rehearsal: 3:00-4:00 pm
5:00-5:30pm Household Advent Wreath Lighting and Zoom Christmas "Tea"
(Festive foods and drinks with Zoom Fellowship)
5:30-6:15pm Christmas Lessons and Carols (PreRecorded Streaming on Website)

December 24:
Christmas Eve
4:30pm Zoom Christmas Pageant, Evening Prayer, & lighting the Christ Candle
10:30pm Christmas Carols (PreRecorded Streaming on Website)
11:00pm Midnight Mass (PreRecorded Streaming on Website)

December 25:
Christmas Morning
Re-broadcast of Midnight Mass and Carols

December 27:
Christmas 1
9:00 am Zoom Liturgy of the Word
10:30 am PreRecorded Eucharist Streaming on Website

January 3, 2021:
Christmas 2
9:00 am Zoom Liturgy of the Word
10:30 am LiveStream Eucharist

January 6, 2021:
Epiphany
5:00pm Wednesday Family Friendly Zoom Worship

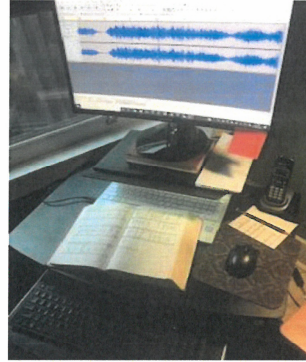
From the Music Director

Crossroads, December 2020

From the Music Director

Around this time in 1989, when the bricks from our chimney, rent asunder by the Loma Prieta Earthquake, lay in a chaotic and dismal pile down the side of the house, we pinned our Christmas stockings to the fence and took our family Christmas photo, calling it "A Seismic Christmas." This year it is "A COVID Christmas." Now, as then, our lives have taken an unexpected turn. Now, as then, we must find a new normal.

My hopes of providing our parish family with all the wonderful Christmas music we anticipate each year were dashed when I realized that we would have to create about 10 pieces of music a week for four weeks to achieve that. Given that each virtual choir piece involves about 20 computer files that have to be recorded, edited, shared, and managed, it was simply too much. Sort of like deciding what treasured possessions to keep and what to get rid of when it is time to move dwellings, I had to decide which much-loved Christmas carols we'd have to forego this year.



A hymn under construction in Audacity, a music editing program.

Enough complaining. We are moving forward with a pre-recorded Lessons and Carols, a live-by-Zoom Christmas Pageant with pre-recorded carols, a pre-recorded Midnight Mass streamed again on Christmas morning. This year there are two Sundays between Christmas and Epiphany, so we'll have time after Christmas to add a few more carols. A special part of Midnight Mass will be a newly composed setting, by Choral Scholar Zade Dardari, of a lovely poem by John Milton, "On the Morning of Christ's Nativity."

In spite of everything, we are filled with gratitude this Christmas. We are grateful for the work of Calvary Choir who are valiantly keeping the tunes turning despite the fact that we don't get to sing together. We are grateful for Kylan's work, especially his inventive preludes on popular hymn tunes. We are grateful to Alex Johnson who puts the videos together after all the singers' tracks have been recorded, synced, and edited. We are grateful to our Choral Scholars who unfailingly send in their beautifully sung parts. And we are grateful for YouTube, because if we don't hear our favorite carol at Calvary this year, it will surely be found online.

COPA Report

By Sonja and Al Reetz

There is nothing like a pandemic to bring to the forefront the serious shortcomings of a political system. Failure to house citizens within the "social safety net" of our nation is an example. Fortunately, COPA leaders from Calvary and other COPA institutions have been able to assist our county government in directing Cares Act funds towards keeping many of our local workers in their homes. Unfortunately, the funds are running out and action towards additional funds at the federal level is at a stalemate.

At our November 24 COPA meeting with outgoing supervisor John Leopold, we again heard real life stories of families facing eviction. A forward action plan for COPA leaders was formulated at this meeting. This included continuing to meet with Santa Cruz County chief administrative officer, Carlos J. Palacios, setting up a study group to develop best practices for distribution of additional funding when this becomes available and setting up meetings with other county supervisors including newly elected Manu Koenig. This may have been our last meeting with John Leopold as a member of the Board of Supervisors. It was an opportunity to say "thank you" for his years of exceptional cooperation and support. John remarked that he plans to work with COPA in some manner to

So much of the past several weeks of lectionary readings have been about the end of the age, the day of the Lord, the day of clouds and thick darkness, and a glimpse in the final weeks of the church year of what comes *after* the end of the age and the day of the Lord. The *what happens next* of the closing of our church year gave us a glimpse of light, new life, new beginnings, hope, and spoke powerfully of God's presence through all of it along with reminders that how we live our lives in the here and now matters. Leading us into our church new year, Ed Horsley described well the condition of the first week's Advent readings that rang with echoes of God's power over all other powers, over heaven and earth, as a reassurance to a people who were essentially in the midst of their own day of clouds and thick darkness that God was bigger than anything they were experiencing. God's promise of accompaniment, care, and salvation ring out anew in this time of Advent as we look back on God's presence and promises during times of trial, look at the condition of our own hearts and lives as we strive to bring God's love alive in the here and now of our lives, and look forward to the horizon of God's eschatological fullness.

As we remember again the days leading up to Christ's birth, the promises and prophecies that gave hope to struggling people thousands of years ago are still promises that live on in our communities and families of faith today. God's promises of accompaniment and love still echo in our hearts and lives as we live out our faith, sow seeds of hope, love, compassion, mutual care, justice, and seek to make a level path where all can find equal dignity and an equal share in our collective inheritance as God's children.

This year of 2020 has been a year of clouds and thick darkness as we have watched the suffering of our entire human family. Perhaps more than ever, we can understand the ethos behind the readings we've been hearing that seek to name the darkness while calling out to God in lamentation. Let us also bask in the promises of hope, of light coming into the world, of God's presence and new beginnings. May this Advent season be a time of remembering not only what we have to do to keep ourselves and our loved ones safe, but of the joy, the hope, the love, and the promise of what is to come. The Christ Child is coming. The light is coming into our world, and the darkness did not and will not overcome it!

Please let the joy and anticipation of this season of hope and promise fill you—may we each find ways to let this magical season enter into our hearts, lives, and homes.

Austin

continue to improve conditions for citizens within the Santa Cruz County community.

Family & Youth Report

By Teacher Sonja Reetz

Prior to the All Saints Day family service, we did some research regarding the closing hymn “I Sing a Song of the Saints of God”. It was written in the 1920’s by Lesbia Scott who, in addition to writing religious one-act dramas or “pageant plays of the church of England”, wrote inspirational hymns for her three children. The children would often make requests of her such as, “Mum, make a hymn for a picnic” or “Mum, make a hymn for a foggy day.” She wrote “I Sing a Song of the Saints of God” specifically for All Saints Day stressing that saints not only lived in the distant past but also may live and work today as they carry out the everyday activities of their lives. It tied right in with our later discussion of The Beatitudes which Bishop Tutu describes as the “way to true happiness”. We hope to return to these themes in January. For now our focus will be to prepare for the annual Christmas pageant and to take part in the Calvary Sunday evening Advent candle lighting gatherings.



Announcements

Community Lighting of Advent Wreaths – Advent is fast approaching and it’s hard to be apart from our Calvary community in the season of anticipation before Christmas. So let’s join together during the Advent season, even if virtually, to “prepare the way.”

Throughout the four Sundays of Advent ending December 20, let’s gather by Zoom at 5 pm to light the candles in our Advent wreaths. We’ll begin with a brief liturgy for the lighting of the candles and then celebrate with our favorite refreshments for a brief “happy hour.” We can take time to admire each other’s wreaths and also other holiday decorations that emerge in our homes through the season. If you don’t already

have an Advent wreath, materials and instructions are available from various sources online including Amazon and from local craft stores such as Beverly’s. For a good tutorial on both the traditional candle-holder ring and on a “pie plate” version, check out <https://youtu.be/KVZf7G-pDJA>.



The annual No Room at the Inn event features elaborate displays of nativity sets from around the world and raises funds for those for whom there is no room. For our fifth anniversary of the event we have created a virtual No Room at the Inn, available from **Saturday, December 5th through Tuesday, January 5th**. Viewing is free. We hope the virtual experience brings you joy and that you will also be inspired to donate to our fund for those without shelter. If you would have attended our Gala opening and purchased drawing tickets or bid in the Silent Auction, perhaps you would consider donating the amount you would have spent. Our fund benefits Faith Community Shelter, Wings Homeless Advocacy and Al Otro Lado.

Outreach Sunday, December 27 - Each month we focus on a Calvary outreach ministry and collect a special offering for 4 consecutive Sundays. **Starting December 27 and through January 17, we support the Monday Night Coffee House.** When the church is fully operational, every Monday evening, the Coffee House provides a warm meal to about 75 people. More than that, however, the Coffee House also offers a sustaining, helpful opportunity for those gathered to engage in music, prayer, and Bible study. Funds raised for the Monday Night Coffee House ensure that we can provide the food, coffee, and supplies necessary to keep the operation going every week. We are always looking for more volunteers, too. **We look forward to resuming operations in 2021 when it is safe to do so.** For more information, contact Scott Galloway, 831-425-6559. Make checks payable to Calvary with memo for Coffee House and mail to the church at 532 Center Street, Santa Cruz, 95060. You can **DONATE Online** at <https://calvarysantacruz.org/index.php/donate/>. Thanks for your support of this important ministry!

Calvary Book Club – Usually in December, we have a wonderful Christmas party hosted by Al and Sonja Reetz in their lovely home. Sadly, that won't happen this year. But that doesn't mean we can't still have a holiday get-together. We're going to have a virtual **Christmas Holiday Happy Hour on Friday, December 11 at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom**. Join in with your favorite holiday goodies and we'll discuss the best books we read this year. Think of two or three books that made an impression on you and that you'd recommend to others. By the end of our party, we'll have our own "best of" list. Everyone is invited, not just regular Book Club members. For more information and/or to get on the club email list for Zoom invitations, contact Martha Dexter at mmdexter@gmail.com

Thursday Interactive Worship. Thursdays at 11:30, Father Austin and others gather on Zoom for Morning Prayer with conversation around the assigned readings and the saint of the day. Join us for some mid-week worship, conversation, and fellowship! Please email Father Austin directly (rector@calvarysantacruz.org) to ask to be included in the Zoom email list and to provide an email address for the invitation!

Bible Study Tuesdays at 11 am. Please email Father Austin directly (rector@calvarysantacruz.org) to ask to be included in the Zoom email list and to provide an email address for the invitation!

SUPPORT: During this time of virtual-church, we have no way to pass the plate other than offering the option to donate online or mail in a check to Calvary. Please feel invited to make an offering by clicking the "Donate" button on our website, or by mailing a check to the Calvary office: 532 Center Street, S.C., CA 95060.

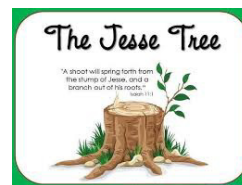
Spread the Word! As Calvary has moved online for the time being, we need help in spreading the word to all those who may be interested in attending—regardless of how far away they may be! We've had viewers from Spain, New York, Colorado, Utah, Montana, and Arizona—and those are just the viewers we know about. If you know of someone who isn't on our calvary email address who might appreciate knowing about our Sunday service and other online (Zoom) gathering .

Interested in serving in person at Calvary? Starting this Sunday we'll be inviting those of our lectors comfortable serving in person to do so! (Presence is not required—we'd still love for you to read whether present or not). If you have signed up to be a lector, or would like to sign up to do so, please let Nicole, Austin, and Blaine know so we can put a list together and get a schedule set! Duties will include being present by 9:45am to vest, reading the three lessons, Nicene Creed, and Prayers of the People at their appointed times in the service, and standing 6' away from Austin behind the altar during the Eucharist (on camera). If there are others who would like to serve in person but

don't want to read, please let me know. We can try to pair folks with those who would like to read but can't serve in person. Sundays when we have video/audio lessons and no volunteers to serve in person, I'll continue to invite Marie and Anthony to fill in :). There are no associated LEM duties as we aren't allowed to be close enough.

A Gift of Music. As Shelter-in Place and Online services continue, Calvary Choir is hoping that we can, in some small way, help to ease the stress of this difficult time. Our video performance of Handel's "Let the bright seraphim" and "Let their celestial concerts," heard on May 24, The Sunday after Ascension Day, was a great hit. Here is a link to the video so you can enjoy it again and again.

<https://calvarysantacruz.org/index.php/music/calvary-choir-recordings/>



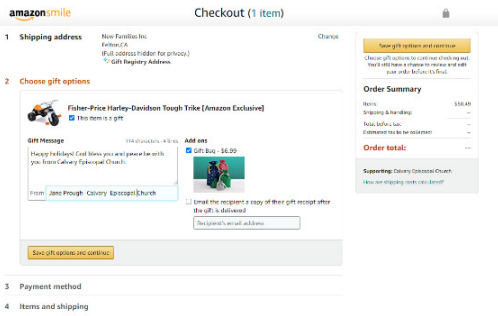
Dear Calvary family and friends,

The tradition of the Jesse Tree has been part of the holiday celebration at Calvary for many years. As you might recall, the Sunday school children make simple ornaments that have a Christmas wish, from a local child in foster care, written on them. Participants select an ornament from our Jesse Tree (branch) in the narthex, purchase and wrap the "wish" and return it to church with the ornament attached as the gift tag.

New Families has set up an Amazon Smile account specifically with the wishes of the Calvary list. Here is the link --

https://smile.amazon.com/hz/charitylist/ls/2K16SHX6HN/M9/ref=smi_cl_wl_rd_cl?ref=smi_se_cl_rd_cl

- The link takes you directly to the New Families "page" on Amazon
- Select a gift(s) and add it to your cart
- Proceed to checkout when your selecting is complete
- Log in with your own Amazon login information or set up an Amazon account if you do not have one
- NEW FAMILIES, INC will be a Shipping/Delivery choice. Their street address is blanked out for privacy reasons.
- When you get to the screen asking if it is a gift? Select YES and you will get a box to send a message with your gift. Please leave a message that you are either from Calvary Church or are a friend of Calvary Church. Here is a picture of my screen with the message box.



From my heart, thank you for shopping. This project has become the most important and rewarding part of my Christmas season. God bless each and every one of us and God bless these perfect children who have landed in a tough situation.

Jane Prough
janeprough@gmail.com

First day back at school after lockdown 🤔😞👦😂



Treasurer's Report

Once again, our October 2020 financial reports show us to be in a “steady as she goes” position. In terms of plate and pledge, this is a good thing. We are down (\$974) year to date in budgeted plate income and up \$8385 in budgeted pledges so far this year. This is wonderful considering we have not been able to gather in person since March. On the other hand, as has been true since March, our 12-step income is down (\$11136), and our facilities rental is down (\$7764) for a total deficit in these accounts of just shy of \$19,000. This number would be considerably worse if it weren't for our commercial kitchen rentals, primarily Food Not Bombs, which has brought in \$9200 year to date. Kudos to those who worked so hard to make the commercial kitchen a reality.

Luckily, our expenses have also gone down with the decreased use of our campus. Copying, grounds maintenance, and office supplies are all coming in at substantially less than what we budgeted for 2020. Gas and electric are way down (\$4200 YTD) thanks to our new solar panels. Total administrative expenses year to date are (\$7800) less than year to date budgeted expenses.

Our net operating income for October is \$1960 which is \$1806 more than we budgeted for October and our year to date net operating income is negative (\$4023). This is ahead of where we expected to be in October 2020, but we've historically made up ground in November and December due to the extra holiday services and end of year make-up pledges. Will this hold true during quarantine? We will certainly be keeping an eye on the numbers. The October Balance Sheet is also holding steady. We have used up our PPP funds as we were meant to, and we will be applying for forgiveness of the loan sometime soon. The Trust Fund has dropped (\$400) since last month; I imagine it has grown more than that with the recent stock market gains in response to the news of a promising COVID-19 vaccine. The budget subcommittee has been working on a draft 2021 budget. Our initial assumption has been that we won't be able to worship in person and that our facilities won't be available for rental at all during the upcoming year. This worst-case scenario produces a budget with a big deficit. Our hope is that we can dial back some of our most dire assumptions as the economy and our facilities open up again. There have been some promising signs in that direction. But in the meantime, we will be relying, as always, on steady pledging to keep us afloat. If you haven't pledged yet for 2021, remember, it's never too late!

Submitted by Cathy Watson

Crossroads Articles. If you have an article to submit to the Crossroads please email to enna.lopez@yahoo.com by the 27th day of the month.

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