

June 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

June Message

The Rev. Dr. Austin L. Leininger



Happy Pentecost, Calvary Family!

As we step into QuarantJune still unsure of where this journey will lead us, or how long the road of Internet worship may yet be, we also step into this unknown future with the assurance that the Holy Spirit is with us every step of the way. Watching the world continue to fall apart under the COVID-19 pandemic, and watching our own country fall apart over accelerated re-entry plans that put us all at risk, and now renewed fear, anger, and heartache over the racial divisions that still cast a shroud over us, it has been a bleak week in the news.

Yet, in the midst of it all, Pentecost has come. The gift of the coming of the Holy Spirit was not a complacent or a docile gift that took the form of a sweet heavenly dove, but a gift that came as a violent wind and dancing tongues of fire. It was a gift that plucked the disciples up from their place of safety and hiding, and compelled them out the doors into the unknown. Facing the crowds, they overcame their fear and they began to tell of the good news of God's love.

The world was changed forever.

We too shelter in a time of uncertainty, fear, and anxiety. This is a time of transformation, of change and newness that has been thrust upon all of us as we struggle to find our footing in a new and unknown world. Our world too has already been changed forever.

What will we do with this new world? Will we find in the compelling wind of change and tongues of fire that dance over our heads an opportunity to make God's love known? Will we find in it the opportunity to rediscover God's Spirit alive and burning within us—leading us boldly into an unknown future with hope in our hearts and assurance of God's presence in our souls? Or will we shrink back in apprehension and confusion, looking back to what was known and comfortable and pining for what once was? It's likely that some of each will be a part of our lives and reality in the days ahead. We all have our good days and our bad.

Today has been a day of tears for me as I sit at home, reading the news, listening to the cries of friends in the black community, listening to our diocese's "Stations of the Resurrection" with one of the most amazing and beautiful renditions of the Alleluia chorus I've yet heard, working with my family to finish off the school year, and honestly overwhelmed by the enormity of all that is happening all at once.

Transformation and change don't tend to happen when everything is light and happy and peaceful. Transformation comes through the crucible of difficulty, chaos, darkness, confusion, and uncertainty. This journey that we are on together is one that is leading us into a new age. But we aren't without respite, hope, and consolation. The Holy Spirit is with us—in us, surrounding us, calling to us to follow, and leading us into the age to come. Our Calvary family is a community of hope, love, helping hands, listening ears, passionate hearts, and spirits dancing with the tongues of fire that the Spirit continues to bring alive within us. We take this journey together. It is a comfort to not be alone. It is inspiring to watch the creativity and joy that is coming into being by your individual and collective brilliance.

And so I write again from home, looking forward to the return of the Eucharist this Sunday in our online worship, looking forward to livestreaming from Calvary with our upgraded internet and low enough risk of COVID-19 to do it, looking forward to the next unfolding chapter in our

journey together, and trusting in the Spirit to guide us through the confusing times ahead.

May we rise to the challenge of facing down and helping address the seemingly endless racism that continues to plague our country and world, of living through and overcoming COVID-19, of transcending social distance and learning to worship in new ways, and weathering the storms of confusion, change, and transformation that even in the midst of the journey are already showing signs of new life, growth, and God's love.

Happy Pentecost, Calvary Family—the Spirit is on the move!

Blessings,



Austin

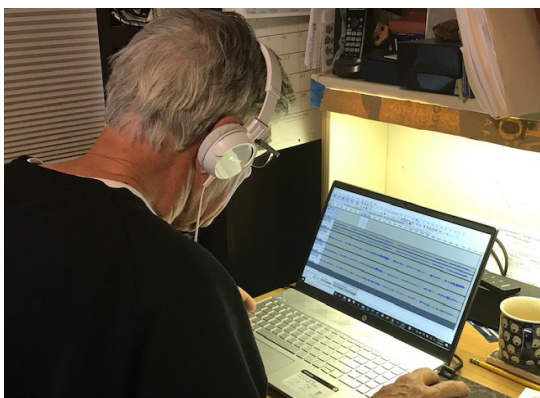
Music Notes

From Murray Walker, Music Director

As Shelter-in Place and Online services continue to be the norm, 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/>

This links to the music page on Calvary's website where you will find audio recordings from Calvary Choir's archive that also have been used in our online services. Most of these recordings were made several years ago in the York School Chapel in Monterey; some of them were recorded live during worship services. As our online services continue, our virtual choir anthems will be put up on this page. ENJOY!



Horizontal Files



Vertical Files

News from the Pews

COPA. As we have been reporting, in an effort to aid our undocumented workers, Calvary COPA leaders joined a statewide Zoom COPA/IAF gathering of approximately 1,000 participants on May 5. To view this event which included statements from state legislators and support from our religious leaders - including Bishop Lucinda - go to (www.onela-iaf.org). Since then COPA/IAF leaders have continued to have conversation with key legislators and the Governor's staff in this effort. There is much more to be done. Covid-19 and the ensuing economic collapse has exposed many areas of neglect such as the safety net, treatment of essential workers, the public health system, safety in nursing homes, prison healthcare, and racial inequity in the economy. At our COPA institutions we are encouraged to continue to hear each other's stories in order to identify the needs of our community, to work together on an immediate response to needs and to imagine a better future for our communities. Please consider joining our COPA leaders Zoom meeting on June 2 at 7:00 pm, and the next state wide COPA/IAF meeting on June 24, 6:00 pm. To receive the Zoom invitation, contact Al & Sonja at alsonjareetz@gmail.com. (Also, please support Calvary COPA membership with a financial gift. If there is not a donate button for COPA you may send your donation, designated for COPA, directly to the church office.)

Al & Sonja Reetz

AFCSC Spring Fundraising Event Canceled But AFCSC Work Continues

The AFCSC (Association of Faith Communities Santa Cruz) has canceled its annual fundraising dinner and silent auction due to the coronavirus /COVID 19 crisis. However, the AFC is busier than ever delivering support to the homeless community in SC county. In an effort to curb the spread of the coronavirus, AFC has reorganized the rotating overnight shelter program and is currently housing c. 30 residents at two locations (Resurrection Roman Catholic Church in Aptos and the United Methodist Church in Santa Cruz.) These sites are open to residents 24 hours a day and have made life much safer for the people housed in these locations. The AFCSC staff continues to work as a transitional housing

program and is always looking to help move folks into permanent housing.

In addition to the reorganized rotating shelter program, AFCSC also oversees a Safe Spaces Program for people who live in their vehicles but need a safe place to park at night and operates a mobile shower unit.

Of course, the additional expense of keeping these sites open 24 hours a day and maintaining Safe Spaces and the Mobile Shower Unit are not without additional expense during the COVID19 outbreak. The annual dinner and silent auction have raised c.\$20,000 each of the last two years so loss of this income comes at a particularly difficult moment.

You can support this important work by sending donations to:

AFCSC / Assn. of Faith Communities SC
532 Center St.
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Family & Youth Report. We had a wonderful family Zoom gathering one morning in May. Truth be said, it was an opportunity for our group to gather in greater numbers than we've had in person. We got to see our little Lizzie's sweet smile as her sister Catherine shared how they had just celebrated Lizzie's second birthday with strawberry short cake. At one point Catherine sang Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star. Claire also delighted us with a song and she taught us some new tricks in using Zoom. Marie shared memories of a summer camp she experienced with her family over the years. Luke told us he is working on writing a poem for a school assignment and would share it with us when we gather next. Jillian surprised us with a visit and that gave us an opportunity to congratulate her - she is a 2020 Santa Cruz High graduate. Adults at the gathering had a chance to greet each other, and, in some cases, to meet for the first time. Some plans were made regarding family involvement in our next "First Sunday" service to be held on-line on June 7 (calvarySantaCruz.org). It was decided to meet weekly and that this can best be done through a break-out session during the Calvary Zoom coffee hour. Sonja Reetz

Thanks so much to **Dana Bagshaw** for sharing the following article about one of her experiences during our Shelter in Place. What a great way to learn and grow together.

If you would like to share an experience, event or message with your Calvary Friends, please send them to Alice Lopez at anna.lopez@yahoo.com by the 27th of the month for the following Crossroads.

A Ramadan Iftar



Maha Elgenaidi

Zoom meetings have been a Godsend for local congregants to stay in touch for worship, study, and fellowship. It has also been an opportunity to reach out and explore other churches and communities.

On the evening of May 7, the Islamic Networks Group (ING) in San Jose held a virtual iftar, with the title *Reviving and Maintaining Spirituality While Social Distancing*. An iftar? A breaking of the fast during Ramadan.

The meeting opened with an "Abrahamic" panel of three speakers, each addressing what spirituality meant to them:

- Maha Elgenaidi, Executive Director at Islamic Networks Group, had been a Calvary guest speaker during our community forum in 2017 on Muslims in America. She returned for Christmas eve youth pageant which opened with the story from the Koran of Jesus' birth. On this occasion she said that spirituality to her means intimacy with God. She practices a daily meditation of about twenty minutes, followed by reading of sacred text in Arabic. She welcomes our current physical and social distancing as a way to focus on her spiritual practices.
- Rabbi Amy Eilberg, Director of the Pardes Rodef Shalom (Pursuer of Peace) Communities Program. She said spirituality for Jews is a communal experience. For her, it means the seeking of God, through meditation and the reading of sacred texts in Hebrew, along with charity and hospitality.
- Diane Frankle is an active member at All Saints Episcopal Church in Palo Alto, California, and the San Francisco Advisory Board of Facing History and Ourselves. She is a lay minister, and talked about the various tools that Christians use to experience spirituality, including scripture readings, prayers, hymns, and the Eucharist.

After the panel presentations, we broke into small zoom meeting rooms where we could all share. My group was led by a Muslim, with two Christians, a Jew, someone who was converting to Judaism, and lastly a Buddhist priest, who explained that spirituality for a Buddhist does not focus on a god or divine entity, but through meditation seeks transcendence, followed by imminence in daily living.

After regrouping, a Shia Muslim explained how, because of their definition of sunset, fasting lasts fourteen minutes longer the Sunni practice. We had a call to prayer by an imam, closing prayers by each of the Abrahamic speakers, and breaking of the Ramadan fast by eating the dates and drinking water that we had been encouraged to bring.

For me it was a greatly appreciated and unique experience, inspiring me to re-commit to my own spiritual development.

Dana Bagshaw
Calvary Episcopal Church
Santa Cruz, California

Announcements

NEW! Important Service Format Change: As you may have noted, we have reinstated the communion portion of our service with a few caveats. While I cannot invite you to participate, neither can I hinder you from doing so if you feel so called. The prayer of Spiritual Communion coupled with an alternative post-communion prayer offers additional solace and support during this time of separation. We hope that it feels more at home again, even with a few changes.

This Sunday's Coffee Hour (6/7/20) Father Austin will provide a safe opportunity for conversation focusing on current events, justice, and protests. Be sure you are on his list to receive a Zoom invitation. Coffee Hour takes place right after Service on Sunday.

Follow this link to hear a powerful sermon by **Bishop Curry** given on Pentecost Sunday calling for justice long overdue in America – timestamp 40:00.

And opening words by **Bishop Mariann Budde** who came into notoriety the next day for admonishing the president's appearance at St. John Church - timestamp 11:00

<https://youtu.be/mp396jzWHrs>

OFFICE CLOSURE: The staff has been asked to work from home, and committees are asked to meet via Zoom. If you need pastoral care, or to contact any of the staff, please reach out via email or telephone. Father Austin: text or call 831-350-1344 or email aleininger@calvarysantacruz.org. Please text Nicole: 831-325-9390 or email: nmacargel@gmail.com.

Bible Study with Father Austin 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!

Thursday Service with Father Austin Thursdays at 11:30 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!

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.

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A Gift of prayer. Stations of the Resurrection. We, as Easter people, are infused by a vital source of energy through the power of God and discipleship for mission. We draw strength as a community of the living, resurrected Christ. May this meditation of stations renew our identity and direction from the words and presence of the resurrected Christ, that we might follow the path and discern Christ's pattern for living the resurrected life as Easter people in the world. <https://vimeo.com/424651875>

A Gift of Health! Check out these free online fitness classes offered by the Los Gatos JCC! Yoga, Pilates, Cardio, Qi Gong! Copy and paste this link in your browser: <https://apicc.org/virtual-holder-page/virtual-group-fitness/>

Outreach Sunday, June 28 - Each month we focus on a Calvary outreach ministry and collect a special offering for 4 consecutive Sundays. **Starting June 28 through July 19, 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. If you are interested in preparing food (2:00-4:30 p.m.) or serving (5:30-7:00 p.m.) come any Monday when Coffee House resumes operations. For more information, contact Scott Galloway, 831-425-6559. Make checks **checks 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!

The Calvary Book Club will meet via Zoom on **Friday, June 19 at 3:00 p.m.** to discuss **The Giver of Stars** by Jojo Moyes. Set in Depression-era America and based on a true story, the book focuses on the women who signed up to deliver books in the mountains of Kentucky as part of Eleanor Roosevelt's traveling library program. For more information and to get on the club email list, contact Martha Dexter, mmdexter@gmail.com.

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 .

Calling All Lectors! If you are already a lector, or if you would like to be a lector while we're online, please reach out and let us know if we can put you on a digital rotation for Sunday and Holy Week readings! Lectors will need to be able to record themselves reading their assigned reading (voice only is fine), and email the recording to Father Austin for inclusion in the livestream worship. Most smart-phones have a voice recording ap, which should allow many if not most of you to contribute if you so desire. Please email Father Austin: rector@calvarysantacruz.org,

Pantry Snapshot

The Food Pantry is Closed

The Diocesan Re-entry Planning Policy states that volunteer outreach programs (with volunteers over 60 years of age) will resume in Phase 4 when a vaccine is available for all. See the report at

<https://www.realepiscopal.org/covid-19-response-and-online-worship/>

The Food Pantry at Calvary operated for 50 years 1970 to 2020

Happy Fiftieth Anniversary, thank you volunteers, thank you supporters, thank you Second Harvest, thank you United Way of Santa Cruz County, thank you clients and thank you Calvary for providing the space!

So for now -

“Happy trails to you,
Until we meet again.
Happy trails to you,
Keep smiling until then.”

Calvary Food Pantry May statistics:

Clients served – 0; Family members – 0

2020 Year to Date:

Clients served – 167; Family members – 297

This time last year:

Clients served – 362; Family members – 568

April Statement:

Expenses:	\$	0.00
Actual expenses:	\$	0.00
Income:	\$	0.00

2020 Year to Date Statement:

Expenses:	\$	320.36
Actual expenses:	\$	320.36
Income:	\$	1,445.00

Contact Dave Meyers at meyersdw@comcast.net or 831-475-5521, if you have any questions about the Food Pantry.

Treasurer's Report

Once again, the April Financial Reports present us with both heartening and disheartening news. It is a great pleasure to note that our pledge income remains strong, coming in at \$3888 over budget for the month and \$10,360 over budget year-to-date. Calvary parishioners are remaining loyal and seem to be financially able to fulfill their pledges; let's hope that remains true as the toll of the pandemic continues.

On the disheartening side, our Facilities Rental account is (\$2083) under budget for the month and (\$5864) year-to-date. This of course isn't news; we rent the facilities to groups, and groups can't gather. Again, it will be some time before they can, which means that the \$25,000 income we budgeted for Facilities Rental will most likely not be realized. Similarly, our 12-step income has taken a hit at (\$1441) under budget for the month and (\$1391) year-to-date. Our annual budget for 12-Step income is \$26,000. I am cautiously optimistic that at least a portion of this will be realized. 12-step groups may start gathering again soon if they are small enough in number and practice proper social distancing. I also want to note that at least two of the groups are continuing to pay rent although they aren't meeting - and doing it expressly in support of Calvary. Another reason for gratitude.

Our overall Net Operating Income was \$2948, (\$707) under budget. Year-to-date our Net Operating Income is \$2361, which is \$4059 ahead of where we budgeted ourselves to be at this point. However, remember that we are using a deficit budget with a project income of (\$4531), so we are actually right at breaking even. Let's hope we can keep it up!

On the Balance Sheet, the only thing of note is that our Trust Fund has recovered somewhat from the hit it took with the big decline in the stock market in March. As of

April 30th, the fund was up \$6500 from the month before.

Submitted by Cathy Watson

Did you know? Calvary's 2020 Budget allocates \$100 for Sunday School Materials and \$500 for Childcare on Sundays. Thanks to the volunteer recruiting efforts of Sonia Reetz we are often able to save this money. The Sunday School teachers and childcare volunteers provide wonderful service to our children. Thank you for your time and care! Thank you for your support!
We are stewards of God's love, grace, and mercy.

Vestry Notes

The Vestry is excited to report that Calvary's Green Initiative is almost complete. The solar panel installation on the new roof of the parish hall is finished and soon we will be making electricity! We have donations to upgrade fixtures and will be replacing light bulbs with efficient LED bulbs and installing dimmer switches and thermostat controls.

Calvary has applied for and been granted an SBA loan through the Payroll Protection Plan of the federal COVID stimulus package. The funds will allow us to continue paying clergy and staff and maintain a balanced budget.

Bishop Lucinda has directed all parishes in the diocese to cease offering any kind of virtual communion, effective immediately. The House of Bishops needs to decide how to proceed at the national level, and we do not know when or if virtual communion will be allowed. Sunday services will be either Morning Prayer or the Liturgy of the Word.

The church office now has upgraded phone and internet service. People calling the office should not notice any difference, but the upgraded internet service will hopefully allow Father Austin to do virtual church from the actual church. As an extra bonus, the monthly cost for the upgraded services will be less than what we had been paying before.

Respectfully submitted,
Allison Gong, Clerk of the Vestry

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.

Calvary Vestry Members

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