



CALVARY
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Connection

821 South Fourth Street Louisville, KY 40203 | 502.587.6011 | calvaryepiscopal.org

March 2025

The Hard Part About Inclusion—*Very Rev. Dr. Lee F. Shafer, Rector*

Dear Friends,

On the 6th Sunday of Epiphany, we heard the passage from the Gospel of Luke that is referred to as the Sermon on the Plains. It is significantly shorter than the more well-known Beatitudes in the Gospel of Matthew. Also, the Sermon on the Plains lists not only the blessed as the Beatitudes does but also includes those who are given woe or are shamed. Those who are named as blessed by Jesus in Luke's telling are the poor, the hungry, those who weep and those who are hated on account of the Son of Man. Those upon whom woe is inflicted are the rich, those who are full, those who are laughing and those who are spoken well of—perhaps that could be translated as admired, but that is my translation.

I've been thinking a lot about this passage and not just in writing my sermon for the Sixth Sunday of Epiphany. These words from Jesus speak to me right now as it seems like the division between rich and



Tuesday March 4th
Join us for Pancakes and Fellowship

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

Volunteers for cooking, serving and clean-up needed! Please contact the church office if you can help.



poor, hungry and full, hated and spoken well of seem to be more and more pronounced. While pondering these words of Jesus and the divisions of our world I have also been re-reading Nadia Bolz-Weber's book *Pastrix* with the Wednesday Book Group in preparation for the upcoming Red State Revival.

The Lutheran Church that was founded by Nadia Bolz-Weber, Home for All Saints and Sinners, prides itself, much as Calvary does, in being very inclusive, especially of those whom others have excluded, which includes the poor, the hungry, those who weep and those who are hated. Including those on the margins, those who are blessed by Jesus is exactly what we are called to do, and we cannot do too much to make sure that folks know that they are welcome.

The sticking point, the point (one of several) that 'called me up short,' and I think we do well to remember, is that the inclusion of Jesus is not just an inclusion of those we want to include. We must also include those with whom we totally disagree. We must not only include those who are names blessed by Jesus but also those upon whom Jesus speaks woe, and moreover, those upon whom we would speak woe. We must not only include those we consider beloved but also those whom we would prefer to curse. That is the hard part of being a follower of Jesus; to claim to be inclusive we must include all, the rich and the poor, the hungry and the full, those who laugh and those who mourn, those who are spoken well of and those who are hated—and everyone in-between.

Soon we will enter the season of Lent. Perhaps the full inclusion of Jesus would be a good Lenten Meditation.

God's peace,

Lee+



The Life of Jesus—*Callie Hausman* , Christian Education Director

During Epiphany and Lent in Children's Worship we will be looking at Jesus' life, from Jesus' early life to the development of his early ministry through to Easter. Each week we will add to the timeline for a deeper understanding of Jesus' ministry. Join us as we seek to know and serve God more deeply, applying Jesus' teachings to our lives.

On March 4th, we look forward to offering fun activities at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Join us for mask decorating, decorating and burying the Alleluia Banner, a pancake relay race and Kings Cake (who will be the King and Queen this year?). And plan to join us Easter Sunday, April 20, to flower the Easter Cross and hunt for Easter Eggs.





Christmas Eve 2024



Music Matters—*Jacob Cook, Director of Music*

As we approach the season of Lent, I want to take a moment to celebrate the musicians at Calvary and all those who support the arts through their presence and generous contributions to our various projects, particularly the **Organ Restoration Project**. The music we were able to share during Christmas and the Feast of the Presentation Evensong was truly special, and I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to bring music to the heart of Calvary.

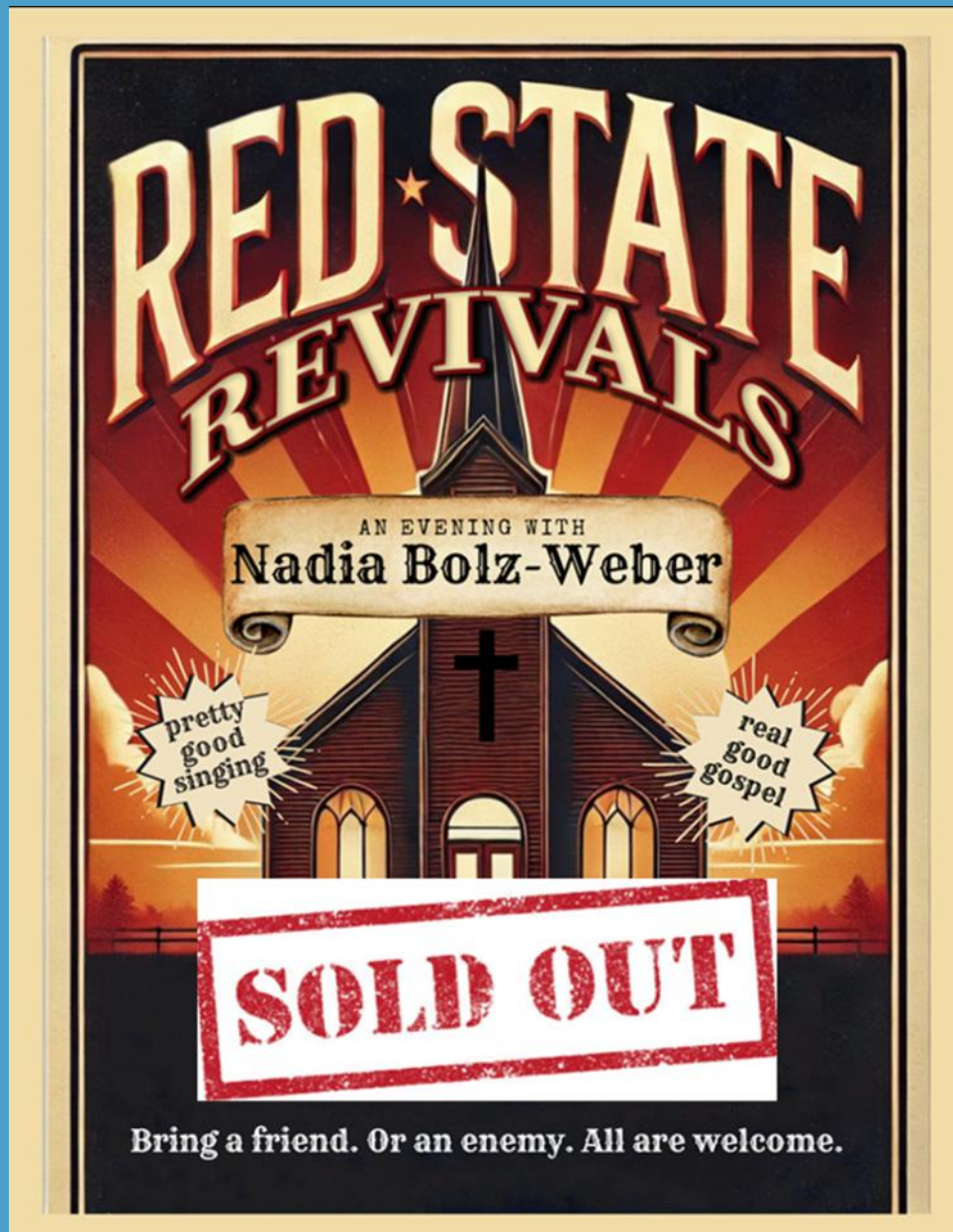


Lent has always been a season I eagerly anticipate, both musically and spiritually. The hymns and anthems of this season serve as rich reminders that the journey of Lenten preparation for Easter is one of profound beauty. There is beauty in reflection, in searching within ourselves for opportunities to grow, and in the quiet moments of introspection. The music we will sing and play in the coming weeks, works by Brahms, Howells, Palestrina, Stanford, Stainer, Casals, and others—will beautifully underscore the themes of this sacred season, helping us prepare our hearts for Easter.

This year, as in years past, we are excited to collaborate with Christ Church Cathedral, St. George, and Our Merciful Savior during Holy Week. On Maundy Thursday, we will welcome the Urban Partnership to Calvary, where the Cathedral Choir will join us. The Calvary Choir will also participate in the Good Friday service at Our Merciful Savior and the Easter Vigil at the Cathedral. These shared services are a testament to the unity and strength of our faith community.

One note regarding our musical calendar: the performance of Michael John Trotta’s “The Seven Last Words of Christ,” originally scheduled for March 23, has been canceled due to personnel changes in the Cathedral’s music department. While this is disappointing, we remain grateful for the many opportunities to gather in worship and music during this holy season. We will look for an opportunity to present this work in the future.

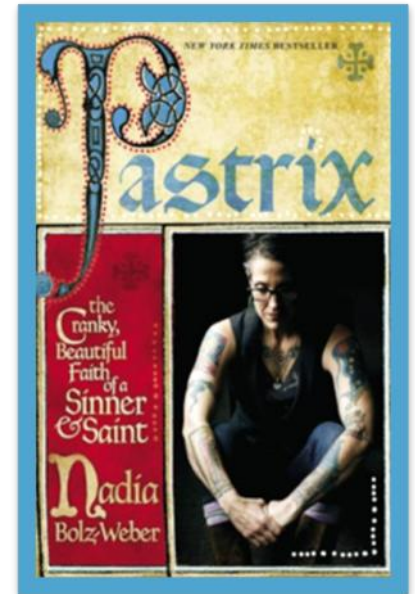
I hope that this Lenten season brings you moments of deep reflection and inspiration through both the music and the spoken word. May these weeks of preparation guide you on your journey toward Easter, filling your heart with hope and renewal.



On Thursday, March 6th Calvary will be hosting Nadia Bolz-Weber for her Red State Revival Tour.

While the event has sold out, there are still tickets available to those would be able and willing to volunteer during the event. Please contact the church office if you can help!

Book Review: Pastrix: The Cranky, Beautiful Faith of a Saint and a Sinner



“My hope ... is that folks will join me in the all-too-rare celebration of grace and mercy and compassion – not because these things come naturally to me, but because I am in desperate need of them. There is quite enough opportunity out there for the self-righteous, shitty parts of myself to be nurtured and expressed. But what I need and what I have always needed are spaces that challenge my assumptions, open my heart and increase my compassion. What I need and what I have always needed are spaces where nuance is allowed; where no one is ever only seen as just the worst thing they have done, where the capacity for human beings to be both horrible and beautiful is never underestimated... Where needing grace and a power greater than myself is not seen as a failing, but perhaps as wisdom.”

Nadia Bolz-Weber writes of her journey from a childhood in a fundamentalist Christian home, to her early adulthood battles with alcoholism and addiction, to her short career as a stand-up comic, to her realization that she was called to be a pastor to those who don't feel welcomed in most churches.

Her writing is self-deprecating, honest, at times funny, other times sad, and above all unflinchingly honest about her own shortcomings as a person and a pastor.



Bolz-Weber is an ordained minister in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. She is the founding pastor of House for All Sinners and Saints in Denver, CO.

See the accompanying article about her visit to Calvary on March 6th.

Jim Barnes, Verger Emeritus

On Sunday February 23, Calvary hosted a reception in honor of Verger Emeritus Jim Barnes. The following remembrance was written by Margaret Dickinson:

Is there anything at Calvary that Jim Barnes has not done? He's been a vestry member umpteen times, including multiple stints as senior warden and treasurer; he's served as lay reader, chalice bearer, lay Eucharistic minister, and choir member as a coveted tenor dating back to 1979; he has volunteered in the food pantry in every possible capacity, ranging from grocery shopping for chickens all the way to lugging in peanut butter from donor cars; he was the ultimate tea and coffee maker for all of the 30 plus years of the Lenten Lunch Series; he has represented Calvary on the CLCM board and was assistant treasurer of the Diocese of Kentucky. Above all, he has been a caring and compassionate friend to us all, starting with little Jude (age 4) and stretching all the way to the octogenarians! We honor him today for his service as Verger. And this may be just the tip of the iceberg. Back to the original question—is there anything at Calvary that Jim Barnes hasn't done? Yes! He can't play the organ! But even then, he's got the answer, because he's Calvary's best page turner! We love you and thank you, Jim!



New Member Spotlight—*J. C. Phelps*

This issue: Karen Devore

We are so happy to have Karen at Calvary! She is the featured interviewee in this installment of *New Member Spotlight*. We look forward to introducing more of our newest members to the Calvary family in future issues!



Q: How did you discover Calvary? What made you decide to make your church home with us?

I began attending the Episcopal church in 2009 with my ex-husband, who grew up Episcopalian, and I fell in love with the faith. After my divorce in 2013, my children and I moved to the 800 Building, where we attended Calvary. Then, in 2025, the same children who attended Calvary in 2013, now teenagers, began attending church again. I am inspired by their commitment to spreading the love and acceptance of Jesus and decided to officially join Calvary.

Q: Are you all new to Louisville? If so, where did you live previously?

I grew up in Salt Lake City, Utah, but I have been in Louisville for over 20 years. I love Louisville and Kentucky for all its history, culture, and beauty. From the first time I came here, I felt Kentucky was my home.

Q: What Calvary ministries are most meaningful to you?

The first ministry I was asked to help with was the Welcoming Committee, and I am excited to be a part of it. For most of my life, I have felt like an outsider, so it is comforting to reach out to people and help them feel welcome. My desire to reach others is also expressed in my connection to the Spanish-speaking immigrant community. I look forward to being called to help Spanish speakers when needed at Calvary.

Q: What's an interesting fact about you?

I have a large, blended family of five children and two step-children, ages 26 to 2 years old.

Q: What lesson most significantly guides your religious/spiritual journey?

God keeps showing me grace and mercy and calls me to love my neighbor. I wonder, if I knew that Jesus was coming tomorrow, could I love my neighbor as Christ loves me?



Calvary Establishes New Director of Arts Position

Calvary Episcopal Church is pleased to announce the establishment of a new **Director of Arts** position, with **Owen Sammons**, our current organist, stepping into this important role. This new position reflects Calvary’s ongoing commitment to the arts, recognizing their vital role in community engagement and spiritual enrichment.

As Director of Arts, Owen will oversee and coordinate all **arts-related events** within the church, ensuring that music, visual arts, and other creative endeavors continue to thrive outside our normal Sunday services. He will serve as the point person for all arts-related events at Calvary, as well as for outside arts organizations seeking to use our space. This expanded leadership will help integrate the arts more fully into our worship and community life, strengthening Calvary’s identity as a home for creativity.

Owen brings a wealth of experience to this role. His deep knowledge of the **Calvary Music Program**, combined with his passion for the arts and skill in working with people, makes him the ideal person to lead this initiative. His leadership will help nurture and expand Calvary’s artistic legacy, ensuring that the arts remain a central part of our mission.

Please join us in celebrating this exciting new chapter for Calvary! We are grateful for Owen’s dedication and look forward to seeing the ways in which he will continue to enrich our worship and community through the arts.



Food Closet News—Margaret Dickinson

The Annual SOUPer Bowl Project yielded 752 cans of soup and over \$200 in cash.

While that together doesn't quite reach our goal of 1201, it will feed our clients about five days. Due to illness and black ice, the ranks of our volunteers have been temporarily lower. However, we again welcome Glenda Blair and add Susan Shockey's brother. We have managed to stay open many days when others have not, and our clients are grateful, as are we.

A recent feature of our work on WLKY has drawn much attention and appreciation for what we do, although I could have done without the emphasis on longevity!



Hospitality News—Patty Davidson and James Moody

On Sunday February 2nd we welcomed three newly baptized with a cake in their honor.

On Sunday February 16th the Urban Partnership coffee hour had to be postponed due to bad weather. It will be re-scheduled at a later date.

Currently we are preparing for the Bishop's visit on Sunday March 2nd. We will be hosting a potluck lunch!



Organ Refurbishment Update—Owen Sammons

Great progress is being made on our organ renovation project, even if much of the work remains unseen. Behind the scenes, skilled craftsmen have been meticulously cleaning and polishing the majority of the metal pipes. New pipes have been carefully constructed to replace those that were beyond repair, while older pipes have been expertly restored to ensure they will continue to produce beautiful music for years to come.

As the work continues, we remain hopeful that the organ will be back in place by **late summer**. However, as with any major restoration project, our timeline depends on a variety of factors that can shift unexpectedly. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we navigate this process.

In addition to the progress on the organ itself, we have also been reviewing our financial standing. After running the numbers, we've determined that **we are approximately \$50,000 away from reaching our fundraising goal**. Your generosity has brought us this far, and we are deeply grateful for every contribution. If you are able, we invite you to help us close this final gap and bring the project to completion.

Thank you for your continued support—we look forward to hearing the organ's glorious sound once again!



Cleaned and polished metal flute pipes



New Oboe pipes

Diocesan News: Sacred Ground Circle—Meg Scharre

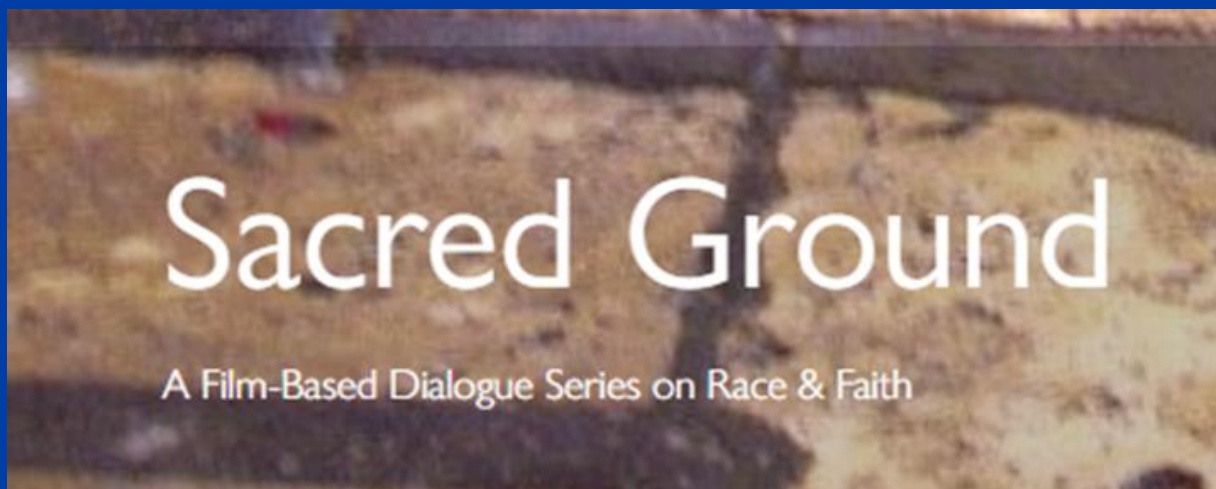
The Racial Healing Commission (RHC) is sponsoring a diocesan-wide Sacred Ground Circle. In order to include members throughout the diocese, the RHC will hold 2-hour sessions every other week on Zoom, starting on Monday, March 10th at 6:30 pm EDT/5:30 pm CDT.

The [website](#) describes the program this way: Sacred Ground is a film- and readings-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith. Small groups are invited to walk through chapters of America’s history of race and racism, while weaving in threads of family story, economic class, and political and regional identity.

The 11-part series is built around a powerful online curriculum of documentary films and readings that focus on Indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian/Pacific American histories as they intersect with European American histories. Sacred Ground is part of Becoming Beloved Community, The Episcopal Church’s long-term commitment to racial healing, reconciliation, and justice in our personal lives, our ministries, and our society.

This series is open to all, and especially designed to help white people talk with other white people. Participants are invited to peel away the layers that have contributed to the challenges and divides of the present day—all while grounded in our call to faith, hope and love.

Space is limited so if you or others you know are interested, please contact Peggy Woolley at candpwoolley@gmail.com by March 3rd.



Sacred Ground: A Reflection—J. C. Phelps

Editor's Note: Two Sacred Ground groups have been meeting at Calvary since November and will soon complete the series of small group discussions.

Participating in the *Sacred Ground* series has been an experience of deep reflection, discomfort, and growth. This dialogue series, rooted in faith, provided a structured yet intimate space to examine the complexities of race and racism in America. Further, it calls participants to engage personally, weaving in their family history, economic background, and identities.

One of the most challenging aspects of *Sacred Ground* was confronting the hard truths of our nation's past and present. The curriculum, built around documentary films and readings, did not allow for passive engagement. It demanded self-examination. It asked difficult questions: How have I benefited from systems of oppression? Where have I been complicit in silence? What does it truly mean to be an ally?

The small-group discussions often ventured into difficult territory. There were moments of unease as we unpacked histories of Indigenous displacement, Black enslavement, the marginalization of Latino communities, and the persistent challenges faced by Asian and Pacific American populations. These were not abstract academic discussions; they were personal and painful. In facing these histories, I had to wrestle with my own preconceived notions and narratives I had never questioned.

Perhaps the most eye-opening realization was how deeply embedded racial structures are, not just in policy or history books, but also in daily life. It became clear that racial healing requires more than intellectual understanding. It requires faith, humility, and a willingness to sit in discomfort without retreating.

Yet, amid the weight of these truths, *Sacred Ground* also offered hope. The Episcopal Church's vision of *Becoming Beloved Community* is not about guilt or shame, but about transformation. Through faith, we are called to be part of reconciliation, not as distant observers, but as active participants in justice and healing. This series reminded me that difficult conversations, though uncomfortable, are necessary for real change. It also underscored that listening is just as vital as speaking, and that true reconciliation requires ongoing commitment, not a one-time effort.

The work of racial healing is not easy, but it is essential. My prayer is that I will continue to lean into discomfort, engage in courageous conversations, and live out my faith in ways that challenge injustice and build a more beloved community.

Some Poetry for Lent

Blessing the Dust: a Blessing for Ash Wednesday

Jan Richardson

All those days
you felt like dust,
like dirt,
as if all you had to do
was turn your face
toward the wind
and be scattered
to the four corners
or swept away
by the smallest breath
as insubstantial—
Did you not know
what the Holy One
can do with dust?

This is the day
we freely say
we are scorched.

This is the hour
we are marked
by what has made it
through the burning.

This is the moment
we ask for the blessing
that lives within
the ancient ashes,
that makes its home
inside the soil of
this sacred earth.

So let us be marked
not for sorrow.
And let us be marked
not for shame.

Let us be marked
not for false humility
or for thinking
we are less
than we are

but for claiming
what God can do
within the dust,
within the dirt,
within the stuff
of which the world
is made,
and the stars that blaze
in our bones,
and the galaxies that spiral
inside the smudge
we bear.

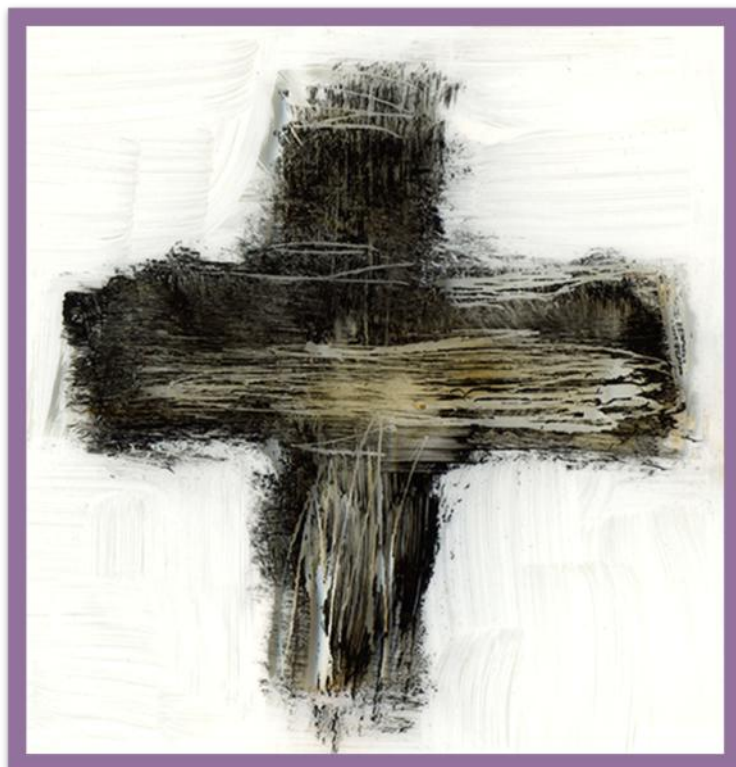


Image by Jan Richardson

Some Poetry for Lent

For Lent 1966

Madeleine L'Engle

It is my Lent to break my Lent,
To eat when I would fast,
To know when slender strength is spent,
Take shelter from the blast
When I would run with wind and rain,
To sleep when I would watch.
It is my Lent to smile at pain
But not ignore its touch.
It is my Lent to listen well
When I would be alone,
To talk when I would rather dwell
In silence, turn from none
Who call on me, to try to see
That what is truly meant
Is not my choice. If Christ's I'd be
It's thus I'll keep my Lent.

A Hymn to God the Father

John Donne

Wilt thou forgive that sin where I begun,
Which was my sin, though it were done before?
Wilt thou forgive that sin, through which I run,
And do run still, though still I do deplore?
When thou hast done, thou hast not done,
For I have more.

Wilt thou forgive that sin which I have won
Others to sin, and made my sin their door?
Wilt thou forgive that sin which I did shun
A year or two, but wallow'd in, a score?
When thou hast done, thou hast not done,
For I have more.

I have a sin of fear, that when I have spun
My last thread, I shall perish on the shore;
But swear by thyself, that at my death thy Son
Shall shine as he shines now, and heretofore;
And, having done that, thou hast done;
I fear no more.

The Ballad of Mary's Son

Langston Hughes

It was in the Spring
The Passover had come.
There was feasting in the streets and joy.
But an awful thing Happened in the Spring –
Men who knew not what they did
Killed Mary's Boy.
He was Mary's Son,
And the Son of God was He—
Sent to bring the whole world joy.
There were some who could not hear,
And some were filled with fear—
So they built a cross For Mary's Boy.

Vestry Voice—*Mary Redden, Secretary*

Since the last *Connection* issue, the Vestry has taken the following actions:

Welcomed new Vestry members to a 3-year term:

Matthew Moye
J. C. Phelps
Mary Redden
Kathleen Wooldridge

Welcomed **Amanda Walton** to serve out the unexpired 1-year term of Derek Inghram.

Elected the following officers for 2025:

Senior Warden – Andrew Weinberger
Junior Warden – Donna Duvall
Secretary – Mary Redden
Treasurer – Stephanie Smith (non-Vestry officer)

Approved the following allocations from the Calvary Grants Fund:

Habitat for Humanity	\$10,000
Director of Arts position	\$ 7,000
Kentucky Refugee Ministries	\$ 3,070

Approved a request from Spalding College to use our building for 2 graduation ceremonies on Friday, June 6.

Designated that Calvary's portion (10%) of funds raised by Red State Revival to go to Kentucky Refugee Ministries.

Office Hours and Service Times

Sundays

9:30 AM Sunday Forum, Parker Hall
10:30 Live service and Facebook feed

Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9 am – noon
(at other times, call Rector’s cell phone, below)

Food Closest

Monday , Tuesday, Thursday 9:30–11:30 am



[View map for location](#)

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Would you like to get emails from Calvary? We send them out regularly to list the schedule for the week or happenings within the parish such as marriages, births and the passing of our members.

Go to www.calvaryepiscopal.org, Under About Us, select Contact Us and fill out the form to request digital communications.