

ORDER OF SERVICE

December 22, 2024 • 10:00 AM • Fourth Sunday of Advent



PRAYER OF PREPARATION

God of timeless grace, you fill us with joyful expectation. Make us ready for the message that prepares the way, that with uprightness of heart and holy joy we may eagerly await the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

INTROIT "Worship the King"

Calvin Choir

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Neil Trainer

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Benj. & Nisha Parrilla

SUNG PRAYER OF CONFESSION "O Little Town of Bethlehem" #44, v.4

**O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!**

SUNG ASSURANCE OF GRACE "Love Has Come"

PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

DOXOLOGY

COLOR BELLS "Angels We Have Heard on High"
"Away in a Manger"

PAPER BAG CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Mary and Joseph: "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child" #27, vv. 1, 3

The Animals: "Baby Jesus, We Love You"

The Angels: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" #31, vv. 1-3

The Shepherds: "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" #37, vv. 1-2

The Wise People & the Star: "We Three Kings of Orient Are" #66, vv. 1, 2, 5

Conclusion: "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" #29, vv. 1-3

MEDITATION

Neil Trainer

OFFERING "Gesù Bambino"

John & Shelley Ockwell

PASTORAL PRAYER

Emily Mitchell

SONG OF SENDING "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" #28, vv. 1-3

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Joy to the World"

Shelley Ockwell, organ

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service on Tuesday

// Join us at 7 pm for worship in person or online

Merry Christmas to You!

// The office will be closed December 25 - January 1

Congregational News

// Remembering Bob Bisnett

Bob Bisnett, elder in the church and member of Calvin since 1957, died on Tuesday, December 10, 2024, at the age of 100 years old. His wife, Elinore, 97, remains on hospice care at Crista. Please remember Elinore, their children, Roger, Anne, and Susan, and other family members in your prayers. No memorial service is planned at this time.

November Finance Summary and Year-End Gifts

// December donations make all the difference

Advent is a time of joyful anticipation, a time to bless those around us, and a time to be blessed. It is also traditionally the time at Calvin when we prayerfully consider God’s call to share those blessings through our stewardship of time and resources. When we generously give back to God, we can expect blessings in return: a growing faith, a more joyful nature, a diminishing dependence on worldly things, a deeper dependence on God, and much, much more.

December giving to Calvin is always critical to fully funding

our ministries. So please spend time in prayer in the coming days to discern God’s stewardship call to you. Consider a special year-end gift to Calvin. If you’re 70½ or older, you can make a year-end gift from your IRA account and satisfy your required minimum distribution. Don’t be afraid to “test” God and then in the coming months watch closely for His blessings.

Here are the numbers for July – November 2024:

- General Fund Contributions: \$234,016 (97% of our targeted income of \$242,000);
- Facilities Revenue: \$48,056 (still way ahead of our budgeted \$33,750);
- Other Revenue: \$22,687;
- Total Operations Revenue: \$304,759;
- Total Expenses: \$336,862 (giving to missions: \$29,783);
- NET REVENUE: \$(32,103); and
- Total Assets: \$923,940.

There are fewer people supporting Calvin this year as opposed to last year and the year before. However, God does continue to provide for us. We are so thankful for His faithfulness and for your generosity. Many families have committed to increased giving in 2025. Many responded generously when the financial concerns of the Deacons and Backpack Kids were made known. Thank you for your prayers. Thank you for your open hands and hearts!

We appreciate all those who have sent in pledges for General Fund giving in 2025. It’s not too late to send in a commitment card if you have not yet done so!

Although the General Fund doesn’t sound very exciting, this is what pays all our bills, keeping the facility open and the lights on, funding our mission partners and all our ministries, and paying our staff salaries.

There are also a number of items and projects on the wish list for our Facilities Team, but we simply do not have the funding for them out of this year’s General Fund budget. However, we do have a fund that is *only* for Building and Grounds. It would be terrific to take advantage of holiday promotions for some of these wish list items – but we need a Santa to help! Contact [Christi Nixon](#) for details.

Thank you again for your continued support of the mission and ministries of Calvin church. As always, if you have any financial questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to [Kirsty Haining](#) or to [Dan Coppin](#), head of the Finance Team.



Happy Birthday!

- Al LutzDec 22
- Yoko WeaverDec 25
- Josh Logan.....Dec 27
- Ruth ParkDec 27
- Johnny LangenheimDec 28
- Ethan WeschlerDec 29
- Alo Isahak.....Jan 01



Upcoming Events

- Christmas Eve svc, 7 pm....Dec 24
- Epiphany, Communion & First Fruits Sunday (*collecting peach cups & mandarin cups*) Jan 06
- Messy Church, 5:30 pm Jan 08
- Choir Rehearsal, 7:15 pm.... Jan 08
- The Sanctuary Course, 11:30 am Jan 12