

ORDER OF SERVICE

December 21, 2025 • 10:00 AM • Fourth Sunday of Advent



PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Gracious God, in this busy Advent season, help us to make room in our hearts and in our lives for the gift of your Son. Let this be a time when the Christ Child is born again in our lives. In the name of Christ, born in Bethlehem, we pray. Amen.

INTROIT "This Holy Night" Calvin Choir; Jan Christopherson, *cello*; Faith Ockwell, *solo*

WELCOME Neil Trainer

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE "Christ, Be Our Light" Kat Langenheim and Marilyn Wirtz

SONG OF PRAISE "O Little Town of Bethlehem" #44, vv.1-4

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Curtis White

Our God and Father: You have given us the hope of salvation through your Son, the Divine Christ Child, and you have sealed your promise by giving us the Holy Spirit.

Yet we are full of doubts, and we fail to trust in your faithfulness.

We are captured by our hearts' desires for more possessions, while you desire to capture and possess more of our hearts.

Forgive us for choosing to walk in darkness rather than in the light of your presence.

Restore us and make us new this day, we pray, in the name of Jesus.

(silence for personal prayer and confession)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

DOXOLOGY

PAPER BAG CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Janet Peterson and Neil Trainer, *narrators*

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 "The Light of Faith"

Neil Trainer

OFFERING "What Child Is This?"

Linda Clugston, *organ*, and Shelley Ockwell, *piano*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Thanksgiving: We give thanks to you, O Lord.

Petition: **We lift this prayer to you, O Lord.**

SONG OF SENDING "Peace, Peace"

Calvin Choir

(Congregation joins on "Silent Night" as directed)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Joy to the World!"

Shelley Ockwell, *organ*

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service on Wednesday

Christmas is almost here! Join us for our annual candlelight Christmas Eve service at 7 pm in the Sanctuary.

Church Office Closed for Holidays

Staff will be on holiday, vacation, or working remotely from Thursday, December 25 through Thursday, January 1. The church office will be closed during this time. In-person meetings may be made by appointment. (Those needing to make special arrangements for year-end donations, please contact [Kirsty](#).)

New Year's Eve Gathering

// Drop in between 8 and 11 pm in the Fireside Room

Come enjoy a relaxing New Year's Eve at Calvin, hosted by David and Barbara Rood. The Fireside Room will be open from 8 to 11 pm; drop in any time and stay as long as you'd like. Bring a favorite table game or puzzle and a treat to share!

November Finance Summary

// General Fund is a bit under target, but still healthy

As we come to the end of 2025 and anticipate Christmas, we give thanks for the financial blessings God has showered upon Calvin through your generosity. Although General Fund contributions did not meet our budget goal for November, we are still in a sound position for the current fiscal year. Facilities revenue remains very

strong, and overall revenue, including giving to restricted funds, puts us above budget targets. Expenses are about what we expected, and our "bottom line" in assets has strengthened as compared to last month.

Even so, giving during this month of December is critical to fully funding our ministries. As we mentioned last week in the Friday email, "it is a truth universally acknowledged" that all charities rely on December contributions to remain strong. Please consider a special year-end gift to Calvin. For whatever you have done and are able to do, thank you.

// Here are the numbers for July – November 2025

- General Fund Contributions: \$254,564 – 97% of target income;
- Facilities Revenue: \$47,687 – still going strong;
- Other Revenue: \$17,201;
- Total Operations Revenue: \$319,452;
- Total Expenses: \$328,338 – giving to missions: \$31,205;
- GF Net Revenue: \$(8,886); and
- Total Assets: \$991,413.

Thank you again for your continued support of the mission and ministries of Calvin church. As always, if you have financial questions or concerns, please contact [Kirsty](#) or [Dan Coppin](#).

Vision House Partnership

// Diversion Center entry team

Vision House has a thoughtful process when an individual or family contacts them for support. It starts with an initial

phone call with the entry team that includes a determination about whether the person/family should be on the Active Participation List or the Active Diversion List.

- Active Participation: A family waiting for transitional housing is connected to resources to prepare for potential entry into the Family Program. Participants in the Family Program eventually graduate into the Alumni Program.
- Active Diversion: A single person or two adults with no children will be helped with a job and housing search.

Connections begin with listening, learning, and loving like Jesus did. That is exactly what the Diversion Center entry team does when they determine how best to help the people who seek them out for care.

If you'd like to learn more, please contact [Sunny Coppin](#).



Happy Birthday!

Al Lutz	Dec 22
Yoko Weaver.....	Dec 25
Josh Logan.....	Dec 27
Ruth Park	Dec 27
Alo Isahak	Jan 01



Upcoming Events

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 7 pm.....	Dec 24
New Year's Eve Gathering, 8 pm in the Fireside Rm	Dec 31
Communion & First Fruits Sunday (collecting Top Ramen and Spaghetti-O's)	Jan 04
Faith Ockwell Concert, after the service.....	Jan 11
Messy Church, 5:30 pm.....	Jan 14