



**Gathering**

**Welcome and announcements**

Gathering Prayer for Worship

**\*Singing: Gather Us In LUYH 529 v.1,2,4**

*\*Call to Worship*

O sing to the LORD a new song,  
for he has done marvelous things.  
His right hand and his holy arm  
have gotten him victory.  
The LORD has made known his victory;  
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.  
He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness  
to the house of Israel.  
All the ends of the earth have seen  
the victory of our God.

-Psalm 98:1-3, NRSV

*LUYH = Lift Up Your Hearts (red hymnal)*

*\*God's Greeting:*

To those who are called,  
who are beloved in God the Father  
and kept safe for Jesus Christ:  
May mercy, peace, and love be yours  
in abundance.

-Jude 1-2, NRSV

**\*Singing: Lord Most High LUYH 593**

*Children's Time*

**Singing: Awesome God**

(Children ages 4-7 leave for Church School)

*Confession and Assurance*

*Prayer of Confession:*

O God, our guide,  
who once used a star to lead people to Christ,  
we confess our poor sense of direction.  
We let ourselves become confused, easily distracted, and lose our way.  
We fail to follow the signs you provide.  
Forgive our waywardness, O God.  
Lead us to the Christ so that we may follow his way to you. **Amen.**



**\*Singing: Yet Not I, But Through Christ in Me (City Alight)**

*Assurance of Pardon:*

*Here are words you may trust,*

words that merit full acceptance:

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

To all who confess their sins and resolve to lead a new life,  
he says, "Your sins are forgiven."

He also says, "Follow me."

Now to the one who rules all worlds,  
immortal, invisible, the only God,  
be honor and glory forever and ever.

-based on 1 Timothy 1:15, 17

**\*Singing: In Christ Alone LUYH 770**

*Proclamation of the Word*

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture: Joshua 24: 1-15 & Luke 15: 11-32

Message: CHOICES! CHOICES!

THE MAN WHO TRIED TO KILL CHRISTMAS

*Song of Response*

**\*Singing: God, Whose Giving Knows no Ending LUYH 876**

(Children ages 8-11 leave for Church School)

Congregational Prayer

Offerings: First: Reframe Ministries

Second: Calvary C.R.C.

*Sending*

Christ is the light of our souls:

**We rejoice in this light, great source of truth.**

Christ is the light of our homes:

**We rejoice in this light, great source of peace.**

Christ is the light of the world:

**We rejoice in this light, great source of hope.**

Go out as Christ's true lights, dispersing the darkness of evil,  
for his grace, his power, his peace go with you. **Amen.**

**\*Singing: My Friends, May You Grow in Grace LUYH 938**

*\*God's Parting Blessing*

May Christ, the Son of God,

be manifest in you,

that your lives may be a light to the world;

and the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

(Children ages 12-14 leave for Catechism)



LUYH = Lift Up Your Hearts (red hymnal)  
PH = Psalter Hymnal (grey hymnal)  
MP = Maranatha Praise (red book)  
WS = Worship Sourcebook  
RW = Reformed Worship Magazine

### **Prayer Requests:**

As a congregation, we humbly beseech you Lord to behold, visit, and relieve your grieving and sick servants for whom our prayers are given.

We think of Gill and Grace as well as Fran in their time of need.

We are sorry to hear that a sister in law of Cathy and John, Pam Benckhuysen, passed away in Montreal Thursday. Pam and her husband Henry are former members of Calvary CRC.

### **Friendship Club at Calvin CRC**

What can I say about Friendship Club? It's all about its name – yet so much more. Friendship Club was created for people with disabilities, and some very fortunate non-disabled people, to get together to worship, pray, fellowship, and spend time together in God's word. It's a community. Friendship Club is one of those amazing places where we find out what it really is to be the Body. The whole Body!

As you may know, most people with cognitive and developmental disabilities do not attend church regularly. It can be difficult. It may be overwhelming with the sounds, smells, and visual stimulation. It may be hard to follow the "rules" and "routines" of a Sunday morning service. Who knows? It might even be difficult for other people who don't understand autism or Down Syndrome, and who may question whether they have a place on Sunday morning. It happens.

Friendship Club is different. That's why it's wonderful. Every part of the body – hands feet, eyes, ears, fingernails, and bellybuttons – are together. Sometimes the challenging thing about Friendship Club is how to make it happen in a comfortable, accommodating, and safe way. In order to make Friendship Club at Calvin CRC the amazing place it is, we need to welcome more body parts – especially some hands, feet, ears, and hearts - who are willing to share their gifts.

***Do you like to lend a helping hand?*** Cook or serve snacks? Are you artsy and like to do crafts? Do you have a heart to chat with people and learn about their lives? Friendship Club would LOVE to meet you.

**Hands On** will restart January 17. Anyone who likes to craft, is welcome to join us for some laughter, coffee and maybe learn something new. If you would like further information, please don't hesitate to ask. Jessica J.

### **Charitable giving and estate planning**

Is there a charity close to your heart that you would love to see thrive for years to come? Christian Stewardship Services is hosting open Q&A sessions every other week this winter to answer all of your questions on charitable giving and estate planning, Explore the topics and register [here!](#)

Each session will have a 10 minute introduction, and then an interactive Q&A. The first three topics are: adding a Charity Child, estate documents, and donating life insurance. For more information, contact: [info@csservices.ca](mailto:info@csservices.ca).

**Kids Corner: God's Love Brings People Together** - Check out this week's kids' devotion at [www.kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net). This week, we remember the work of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a preacher who followed the example of Christ and brought all kinds of people together. This week's devotion and parent blog gives instructions for a science experiment with an emulsifier, some oil, and water. How can this experiment be compared to the power of God's love? Check out all the great content at [kidscorner.net](http://www.kidscorner.net), like KC's The Bible in One Year Plan.

**Young Adults Winter Retreat (YAWR)** - Last chance! Join young adults from across southern Ontario for the annual Young Adults Winter Retreat! Happening Friday, January 19 through Sunday, January 21, 2024, at Maranatha CRC in Woodstock, Ontario, this weekend retreat is open to young adults ages 18-30ish. The event is planned by young adults for young adults, to help you grow in your relationship with Jesus as well as with other young adults in the Southern Ontario region. Interested? Sign up at <https://forms.gle/W3wfU1zYke3FkDV98> by January 14. Cost is \$75 and covers food and lodging (at the church). Facebook Event: <https://www.facebook.com/YARetreat>

**Thrive Faith Formation Tip** - N.T. Wright wrote, "Reading and studying Scripture [is] central to how we grow in the love of God." This coming week, start each day by reading 1 Corinthians 13 and praying that God's love will flow through you to others. Learn more at [crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject](http://crcna.org/FaithPracticesProject)

CALVARY'S CALENDAR		
SUNDAY JANUARY 14	WORSHIP SERVICE	10:00 AM
SUNDAY JANUARY 21	WORSHIP SERVICE	10:00 AM
SUNDAY JANUARY 28	WORSHIP SERVICE	10:00 AM
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 4	WORSHIP SERVICE	10:00 AM

	JANUARY 14	JANUARY 21	JANUARY 28	FEBRUARY 4
10:00 AM	SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP	SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP	SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP	SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP
WORSHIP LEADER	PASTOR HAROLD KOUWENBERG	PASTOR HAROLD KOUWENBERG	PASTOR HAROLD KOUWENBERG	PASTOR HAROLD KOUWENBERG
OFFIC./ELDER	JAKE	BERT	ELCO	PETER
DEACON	GLENDEEN	CHRIS F	CORA	KYLE
OFFERING	REFRAME MINISTRIES	MINISTRY SHARE	CADET SUNDAY	OTTAWA MISSION
2ND OFFERING	CALVARY CHURCH	CALVARY CHURCH	CALVARY CHURCH	CALVARY CHURCH
JUNIOR SUNDAY SCHOOL	NANCY / CHLOE	MELISSA / LEAH F	MEGAN / EVELYN	DENISE / CHASE
NURSERY	BOB P. / LEAH H.	KATHRYN V / DENISE F	ALICE P / ABBY D	MICHELLE F ? / ALEX M
COFFEE CLEANUP	LARRY & EVELINA & JESSICA	PETER & BRENDA HEUVING	KEES & CHRISTINE RYSTENBIL	GEERT & DANI RIJKE
GREETERS	H BRUNEKREEFT	J JOLDERSMA	M DEWEERD	B & A PROPER

Announcements are due Wednesdays by 6PM. Send to: [bulletin@calvarycrc.ca](mailto:bulletin@calvarycrc.ca)

**CALVARY CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH**  
 3782 Russell Road, Ottawa, ON K1G 3N2  
 SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE: 10:00 AM

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 Pastor Harold: 613-737-4063  
 Email: [pastor@calvarycrc.ca](mailto:pastor@calvarycrc.ca)

Calvary C.R.C. Website: <https://www.calvarycrc.ca>  
**ONLINE SERVICES: YOUTUBE:** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkfm4FiDPowmd-6C03a1k9w>

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