



1 W. Wyomissing Ave., Mohnton, PA 19540

March 24th, 2024 – Mar. 30th, 2024

[www.calvaryumcmohnton.org](http://www.calvaryumcmohnton.org)

*Connect with God.  
Connect with each other.  
Connect with the community.*

## **Palm Sunday**

**March 24th @ 10:30AM:** A joyful celebration of Christ's arrival into Jerusalem, with palms waving, joyful hymns and a special choir anthem. The service will be livestreamed & available through Calvary's website homepage & Facebook. All are welcome.



## **Maundy Thursday**

**March 28th @ 7PM:** An experiential service in Calvary's lower-level Social Hall (handicap accessible), including scripture, hymns, sharing Holy Communion, special music, and reflection.



## **Good Friday**

**March 29th @ 7PM:** An evening service in Calvary's sanctuary recalling & reflecting on the passion and death of Christ through readings and hymns. All are welcome.

## **Easter Sunday** (No Sunday school on Easter)

**March 31st @ 10:30AM:** Join us for a joy-filled service rejoicing in Christ's triumph over the grave. The bell choir and senior choir will present special music, and we will share in the fellowship of Holy Communion. The service will also be livestreamed & available through Calvary's website & Facebook.



For centuries many faith traditions observed the Sunday after Easter as a "day of joy and laughter" to celebrate Jesus' resurrection. The custom was rooted in the idea that God played a practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead. **Holy Humor Sunday on April 7th during the 10:30AM service**, with children & youth participating.

### **March 24th, 2024**

9:00AM – Sunday school  
for all ages

10:30AM – Traditional

Purple Theory Series: Worship  
Pastor Nova Preaching

The traditional worship is available via  
livestream through Calvary's  
website homepage.

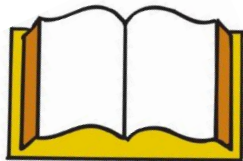
Go to: [calvaryumcmohnton.org](http://calvaryumcmohnton.org) or  
click on the link below.

**CTRL + CLICK HERE  
SUNDAY LIVESTREAM**



The Palm Sunday flowers are given by Ferdinand & Susan Gross and their family in loving memory of Audrey Geiger Smith, mother of Susan Gross, for her 95th birthday and in thankfulness to God for her love of family and music, and her life-long example of faith.  
3/23/1929 ~ 3/09/2023

## Creating a "5th Gospel" Devotional Booklet



With all the wonderful sharing that's been happening during our Lenten 8:30AM and 6PM Prayer Challenges, Pastor Nova is extending an invitation to ALL Calvary members to write your own devotional to share with others, similar to the style of *The Upper Room*.

Pray about what God may be calling you to share about as an encouragement/message to others. We are looking for submissions in the following format:

- 1) Choose a scripture that speaks to your personal story.
- 2) Write a brief personal story (200-250 words, max.)
- 3) Conclude with a short, written prayer.
- 4) Include your name.
- 5) Please submit your devotional via email to the church office (administrator.calvmohn@comcast.net). Include in the email subject line "Shared Devotional".

**Submission deadline: October 31st, 2024. Our Calvary 5th Gospel Book(let) will be published in time for Advent.**

Questions? Please contact Janet in the church office (610-777-8441; administrator.calvmohn@comcast.net)

## 5th Sunday in Lent ~ Sermon: Worship as Spiritual Discipline TEXT: 1 Corinthians 10:31-33

There is a story about a Christian woman who was taking care of a young non-Christian girl while the girl's parents were away on business. The little girl asked one Sunday if she could go to church with the woman and her husband. When the church service was over, the couple wanted to know how the little girl liked the experience. She said that she liked it, but one thing confused her. She told them that she didn't know why they did not include the West Coast in their **worship**. They asked her what she meant. She answered, "You know, when you say... 'in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the whole East Coast.'"

Often, people have "favorite" worship services, such as Christmas Eve, Easter, worship on mission trips, youth services, and so on and so forth.

### WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE CHURCH/WORSHIP SERVICE?

#### What is worship?

We can find the word worship from the first book of the Bible, Genesis, to the last book of the Bible, Revelation. **It was mentioned 172X.** Worship begins with God reaching out to us, and we respond to God, our Creator, for what God has done, is doing, and will do in, to, and through our lives. God is constantly reaching out to have a relationship with us through worship.

In the Old Testament, worship translates to the Hebrew verb "shachah" (shawkhaw), meaning to bow down, crouch, fall down, stoop, prostrate oneself, in homage to royalty or God. In the New Testament, it comes from the Greek word "latreia", which also means bow down, adoration, devotion, and cult, whereas the word cultivates came from, meaning to develop. However, in the year 1970, the word cult had a negative connotation—meaning a religious group with extreme and strange beliefs.

Worship in the Old Testament involves prayer, gathering, reading of the scripture, sacrifices which involve the blood of animals, offerings, and donations of a tenth of their produce. It is mostly physical in nature. In the New Testament, worship also involves prayer, gathering, reading of the scripture, offering, and donations. However, we don't make sacrifices anymore because Jesus, the Son of God, gave himself to be the atoning sacrifice for the forgiveness of our sins, bridging the separation between a Holy God and sinful humanity. Instead, we celebrate the Holy Communion as a remembrance of what Jesus did on the cross. There is no heavy sin that Jesus could not carry.

~Sermon *cont'd* on pg. 3

Pastor Nova will be on vacation from Monday, April 1st through Sunday, April 14th. If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Pastor Matthew at 717-917-5342 or christianed.calvmohn@gmail.com.



The Eastern PA Conference South District Committee on Ordained Ministry (DCOM) announced, at their meeting on March 16<sup>th</sup>, their unanimous approval to recommend the biannual recertification of Bob Wagner as a Certified Lay Minister (CLM).

Congratulations, Bob, and thank you for all that you do to serve the Lord, giving to God all the honor, praise, and glory.

~Sermon cont'd from pg. 2

Jesus said in John 4:23-24 (NIV): *"But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."*

### **3 Important Things about Worship**

1. Worship is directed to God;
2. Worship is for the glory of God; and,
3. Worship brings us to the presence of God.

#### **1. Worship is directed to God.**

Verse 31 of today's scripture tells us that no matter what we do--whether we are living or breathing, eating or drinking, whatever we do-- we should do it for God, to give glory and show gratitude. This opens up the possibility and freedom of all sorts of regular daily activities, becoming acts of worship. The point is not to diminish the importance of worshipping in church or other traditional ways but to expand worship into a way of life, including and yet going beyond worship as we often think of it. Acknowledge God's work and hands in everything. We should be talking to, thinking about, and directing all our energy to God.

After attending church one Sunday morning, a little boy knelt at his bedside that night and prayed, "Dear God, we had a good time at church today, but I wish you had been there!". This boy had a great time at church, but his young mind does not yet understand the presence of God in every worship and the focus on God as we worship. Church is fun because God is there.

#### **2. Worship is for the glory of God.**

There are no real standards for "how" to worship--no prescriptions on how many prayers need to be said, how many verses of the hymns need to be sung, or what hymnal they must be sung. Worship starts with the intention that everything that is done in a day is done to give glory to God. It is important that we remember that God does not require a specific bulletin or that there's a particular order of worship that most pleases God, but our worship, both public and private, should be done with the intention of bringing glory to God. It is not about perfection; it is about living our lives as disciples.

In the context of this passage, the apostle Paul encourages the Corinthians to be thoughtful about what

they choose to do or not do in the company of other people, especially non-Christians, so that God is glorified by the way they interact with others and so that they do not hurt or harm others.

#### **3. Worship brings us into the presence of God.**

Oftentimes, we restrict/confine God to a building, a service, or a gathering, or even think of God only every Sunday or when we pray. God is present in our lives; God is Emanuel, so if we are doing things for God, we are entering into a sacred space of worship and God is there. If we are helping somebody carry their things, that is an act of worship; if we laugh with our friends, that is an act of worship. As long as we glorify God in everything we do, we are entering into God's grace, and that is worship.

In Copenhagen, Denmark, there is a beautiful 11 ft. statue called "The Christus." Completed in 1833 by Danish sculptor, Bertel Thorvaldsen, this marble interpretation of Christ is one of the world's masterpieces of sculpting art. The inscription at the base of the sculpture reads "Kommer til mig" ("Come to me") with a reference to the Bible verse Matthew 11:28: *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."* Jesus is depicted with his hands spread, displaying the wounds in the hands of his resurrected body.

It is said that when the statue was first shown, there was dismay among some who viewed it. Somehow, something about it seemed not quite right; it was as though some essential quality was not there. Then Thorvaldsen explained: *You cannot see His face unless you kneel at His feet.* And so it was, and so it is: the statue is so artfully designed that, really, to see it, one must kneel and look up. Its full beauty and impact cannot be seen by merely walking by. So it is with our life: many things call for more than a passing glance. One does not get a disciple's feel for Christ by casually strolling by. We must take our time and dedicate it to God. Thus, we worship. We need it — a time to pause and ponder in everything we do, to direct our eyes and humble ourselves to kneel and look up. Then and only then, we see God's face, while in an intentional attitude of worship.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen





## Happy Birthday!

- 25 – Sam Varano  
17 Woodland Manor Dr.  
Mohnton, PA 19540
- 25 – Joan Etchberger  
305 Crest Circle  
Mohnton, PA 19540
- 26 – Dave Svetz  
305 Crest Cir.  
Mohnton, PA 19540
- 26 – Michael Werner  
205 Slichter Dr.  
Mohnton, PA 19540
- 29 – Jack Price  
3414 Poinciana Ave.  
Reading, PA 19605



**IN CELEBRATION OF EASTER A VARIETY OF GIFTS** may be given in honor of or in memory of loved ones. Please indicate your choice(s) below. Checks may be made payable to: "Calvary UMC" with the gift designation & your Env. # in the memo section.

I / We would like to contribute the following as an Easter gift(s): (Indicate the number in the blank/\$10 ea.)

- \_\_\_\_\_ Easter Lily (\$12 ea.)      \_\_\_\_\_ Pastor's Contingency Fund (\$10 ea.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Safe Berks (\$10 ea.)      \_\_\_\_\_ Mifflin Community Food Ministry (\$10 ea.)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Env. # \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print clearly.)

IN HONOR OF: \_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE PLACE YOUR COMPLETED FORM & DONATION IN JANET DEARSTYNE'S CHURCH MAILBOX (A10), OR MAIL IT TO HER ATTENTION AT: CUMC, 1 W. Wyomissing Ave., Mohnton, PA 19540.  
**DEADLINE: ON OR BEFORE PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 24TH, 2023.**

