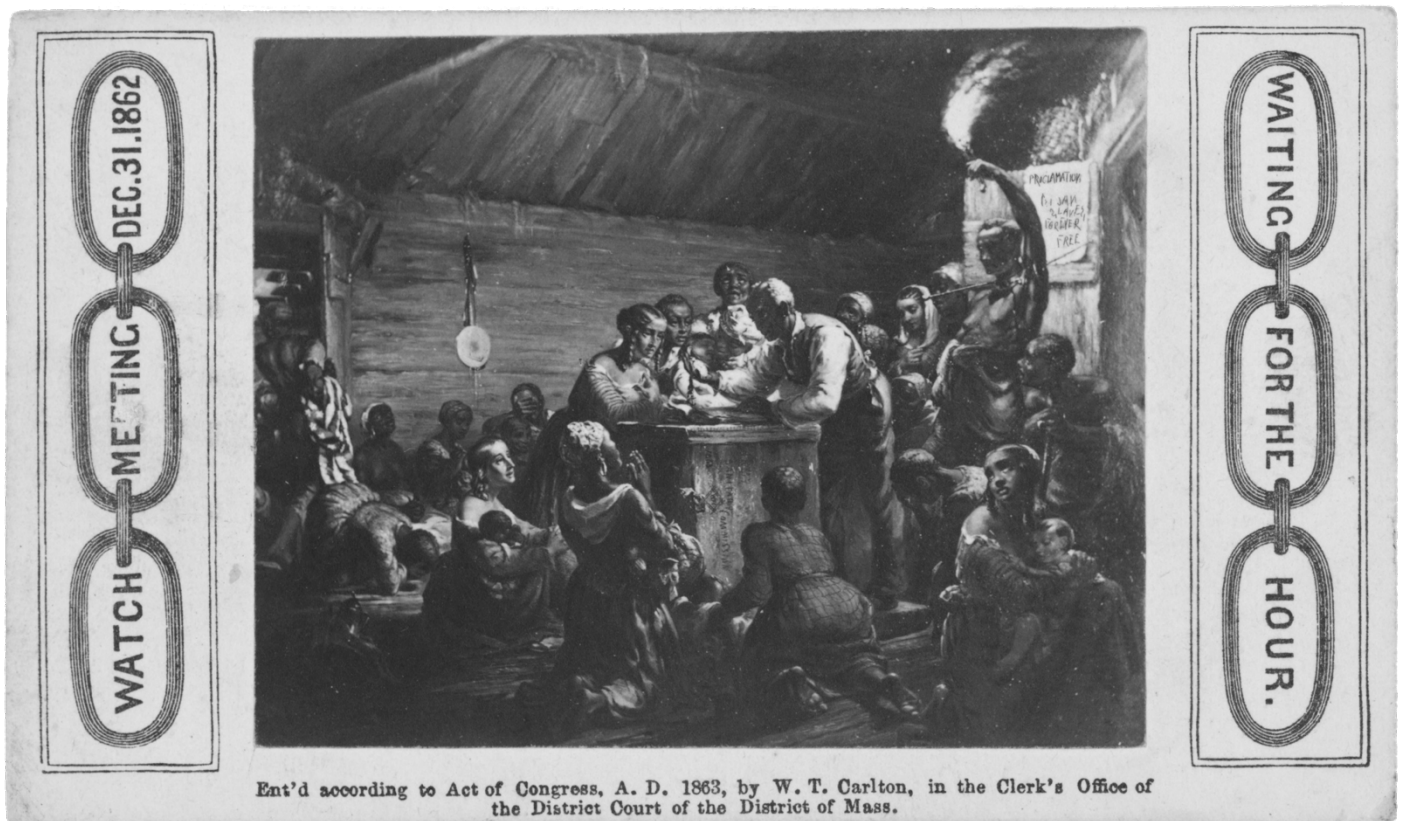


# VIRTUAL SUNDAY

31 de diciembre | december 31, 2023 | 10:30 a.m.

# CALVARY DC

Join us on Zoom  
[bit.ly/ZoomCalvaryDC](https://bit.ly/ZoomCalvaryDC)  
Or watch live at  
[facebook.com/calvarydc](https://facebook.com/calvarydc)



*“ It is a day for poetry and song, a new song. These cloudless skies, this balmy air, this brilliant sunshine . . . are in harmony with the glorious morning of liberty about to dawn up on us. ”*

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Frederick Douglass

December 31, 1862

# NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE IN THE WATCHNIGHT TRADITION

## La Bienvenida | Welcome

Rev. Mahogany Thomas

## Palabras de Alabanza | Call to Worship

Jess Lynd, Deacon

As we look toward the new year,  
may we hold in holy tension the God who begs us,  
toward practices of remembrance,  
and also says, *Behold, I am doing a new thing.*

**In the Spirit of the new,  
today we pause for the good.  
There is beauty here too.**

Today we honor every feeling,  
our joy can contain our sorrow.  
There is beauty here too.

**And even still, God was born.  
So, we can rest in the beauty of God,  
who says, *Behold, I am doing a new thing.***

*\*Adapted from A Litany for the New Year, Black Liturgies by Cole Arthur Riley*

## La Paz de Cristo | Passing the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
La paz del Señor sea contigo. **Y contigo también.**

## Respondemos Juntos | Responding Together

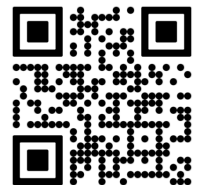
**Make Us One | Haznos Uno**

**Make us one, Lord, make us one; Holy Spirit, make us one.  
Let your love flow so the world will know we are one in you.  
Haznos uno, uno en ti. Haznos uno, Señor, en ti.  
Y que el mundo vea en nuestro amor que somos uno en ti.**

## Ofrendas | Offertory

Pastor Sally

Please visit <http://www.calvarydc.org/give>. Each Sunday, we have the opportunity to engage in a spiritual practice tracing back to the early church. As followers of Jesus began re-imagining their allegiance to God and not Caesar, they also chose to share their money, time, and resources in ways that disrupted systems of power and violence around them. As a community of faith shaped by this intention as we strive to be radically inclusive, progressive, and multicultural, we pray that our commitments might free you to give to this place both joyfully and intentionally.



## Reflecciones | Setting Intention

*Rev. Mahogany Thomas*

## Canción | Song

**I've Been in the Storm So Long**  
*sung by Desmond Thompson*

## Poema | Poem

**Middle Passage**  
by Elijah Heyward Jr.  
from *Stories & Poems of a Gullah Native*  
*read by Rev. Mahogany*

Snatched from your homeland  
Becoming a part of another's plan  
Disoriented, bewildered, emotions soaring  
Reassured by God every morning

Stacked deep in the hole  
Thought to be without a soul  
Leg irons adorn every row  
Sorrow and grief a constant foe

Nature unforgiving tossed about  
Little, if ever, allowed out  
Night and day passed as such  
We owe God so very much

The strain of the voyage took its toll  
The crew repented, so I've been told.  
"Amazing Grace" the redemptive song  
Thank God, Almighty, we're still around!

## Lectura | Scripture

**Psalm 148:1-6**  
*read by Jess Lynd*

Praise the ALMIGHTY!  
Praise the EXALTED from the heavens;  
praise her on the heights!  
Praise her, all her angels;  
praise her, all her starry warriors!  
Praise her, sun and moon;  
praise her, all you stars of light!  
Praise her, you highest heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens!  
Let them praise the Name of the MIGHTY GOD,  
for she commanded and they were created.  
She established them forever and ever;  
she set boundaries that cannot be crossed.

\*Translation from *A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church* by Wilda C. Gafney

## Canción | Song

**It is Well With My Soul**  
*sung by Desmond Thompson*

## Poema | Poem

**Land Ho**

Kwame Dawes

from *Requiem* (Peepal Tree Press Ltd., 1996)

*read by Rev. Mahogany*

I cannot speak the languages  
spoken in that vessel,  
cannot read the beads  
promising salvation.

I know this only,  
that when the green of land  
appeared like light  
after the horror of this crossing,

we straightened our backs  
and faced the simplicity  
of new days with flame.  
I know I have the blood of survivors

coursing through my veins;  
I know the lament of our loss  
must warm us again and again  
down in the belly of the whale,

here in the belly of the whale  
where we are still searching for homes.  
We sing laments so old, so true,  
then straighten our backs again.

## Lectura | Scripture

**Psalm 148:7-14**

*read by Pastor Sally*

Praise the CREATOR OF ALL from the earth,  
sea monsters and all the watery deeps,  
Fire and hail, snow and frost,  
swirling wind fulfilling her word!  
Mountains and all the hills, fruit trees and all cedars!  
Animals wild and tame, creeping things and winged birds!  
Queens and kings of the earth and all peoples,  
royal seed and all rulers of the earth!  
Young women and men alike,  
aged and young together!  
Let them praise the Name of the ETERNAL,  
for her name alone is to be exalted,  
her glory is above the earth and the heavens.  
She has raised up a horn for her people,  
praise for all her faithful,  
for the daughters and sons of Israel who are close to her,  
Praise the ALMIGHTY!

## Canción | Song

**Wade in the Water**  
*sung by Desmond Thompson*

## Poema | Poem

**Wade in the Water**  
by Tray K. Smith  
*for the Geechee Gullah Ring Shouters*  
*read by Rev. Mahogany*

One of the women greeted me.  
I love you, she said. She didn't  
Know me, but I believed her,  
And a terrible new ache  
Rolled over in my chest,  
Like in a room where the drapes  
Have been swept back. I love you,  
I love you, as she continued  
Down the hall past other strangers,  
Each feeling pierced suddenly  
By pillars of heavy light.  
I love you, throughout  
The performance, in every  
Handclap, every stomp.  
I love you in the rusted iron  
Chains someone was made  
To drag until love let them be  
Unclasped and left empty  
In the center of the ring.  
I love you in the water  
Where they pretended to wade,  
Singing that old blood-deep song  
That dragged us to those banks  
And cast us in. I love you,  
The angles of it scraping at  
Each throat, shouldering past  
The swirling dust motes  
In those beams of light  
That whatever we now knew  
We could let ourselves feel, knew  
To climb. O Woods—O Dogs—  
O Tree—O Gun—O Girl, run—  
O Miraculous Many Gone—  
O Lord—O Lord—O Lord—  
Is this love the trouble you promised?

## Lectura | Scripture

**Luke 2:25-32**  
*read by Pastor Maria*

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, waiting to welcome the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit, she rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Messiah of the Most High God.

Led by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple. When the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under that which was taught, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

*“You release now your slave in peace, Master,  
According to your word;  
for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel.”*

\*Translation from *A Women’s Lectionary for the Whole Church* by Wilda C. Gafney

## **Canción | Song**

**Oh Freedom**  
*sung by Desmond Thompson*

## **Bendición | Benediction**

*Rev. Mahogany*

Sign up for our weekly newsletter, **Latest Happenings**.  
Visit [calvarydc.org](http://calvarydc.org) and select “Sign up for Updates.”

Contact the **Deacon of the Week**, Jess Lynd, [jesslynd@gmail.com](mailto:jesslynd@gmail.com)  
with your cares and concerns.



**Livestream available on all In-Person Sundays—** [facebook.com/CalvaryDC](https://facebook.com/CalvaryDC).

**Join us from home on Zoom for Holiday Virtual Sundays—**  
[bit.ly/ZoomCalvaryDC](https://bit.ly/ZoomCalvaryDC) or watch the livestream at link above.

## **UPCOMING VIRTUAL SUNDAYS—**

Sunday, January 14 (MLK weekend)  
Sunday, February 18 (President’s Day weekend)

## OUR LABOR TOGETHER | A Mission Statement

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We are a multi-racial, multi-ethnic community of Christ followers committed to the sacred work of anti-racism, social justice, and radical inclusion.

## OUR BELOVEDNESS | A Values Statement

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We affirm that God celebrates the creative diversity of God's kin-dom, loving people of every color, faith, nationality, immigration status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, physical and cognitive ability, and economic status. It matters that people who have been historically marginalized by the Christian church in America see themselves listed here as God's beloved. In other words, ***you*** are our values statement.

- We believe Black Lives Matter. Further still, Black Lives are precious and beloved by God. We are a church shaped by this profound theological statement. Until this is fully understood and expressed in the policies and practices of this nation's political and social life, it is essential for people of faith to keep saying, and living, this truth.
- We believe no human being is "illegal," and as a Sanctuary Church, we fully welcome and support people of all immigration statuses.
- We believe LGBTQ+ lives are sacred, beautiful, and ought to be fully included and affirmed in all aspects of congregational life and leadership.
- We celebrate that our worshipping life is multi-lingual and multi-dimensional, especially shaped by Latin American, particularly Salvadoran, traditions, and the Historic Black Church tradition.
- We value interfaith inclusion and welcome people of any and all faith traditions to find a home here.
- We value people for who they are and not for their role in an economy where wealth accumulates and people struggle to live.
- We acknowledge that we gather on the traditional land of the Piscataway, Anacostan, and Nacotchtank Peoples past and present, and honor with gratitude the land itself and the people who have stewarded it throughout the generations. We believe that the earth is sacred and that we must continue to learn how to be better caretakers of the land we inhabit.
- We value diverse theological voices which have long stood on the margins within the Christian tradition in America.

## OUR HOLY IMAGINATION | A Vision Statement

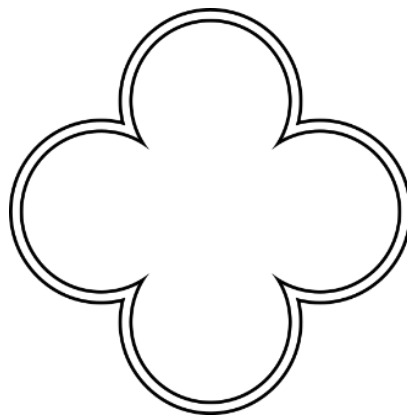
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We believe that Jesus identifies particularly with oppressed and marginalized people and invites us into radically inclusive community. As a historically white church with the sacred gift of now being a multiracial Christian community, we hear the clarion call to engage in the active and disruptive work of anti-racism and decolonization, both within ourselves and in the world. Ultimately, we commit to this labor as a *joyful* act of discipleship that leads us ever deeper into the Gospel of liberation and life.



# REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Alice Bartlett; Eleonora Settels; Carrie Dale, mother of Amy Dale; Bradley Sims, friend of Carter Vaughn; Paul Lansing; Joe Taylor, Jessica Taylor's father; Marlene Shambaugh, Courtney Miller's aunt; Luis Campos, Daniel Alcazar-Roman's uncle; Rena Jirack; Ruby Shepherd; Harold Walker, Jackie Wright's stepfather; For peace to prevail in Ukraine, Palestine, Afghanistan, and Yemen; Peace in El Salvador, refugees, asylum seekers, and immigration reform; Victims of gun violence, racial reconciliation and justice everywhere; People targeted with hate crimes; Peace in our world, especially those impacted by war, violence, and government turmoil; Our collective response to resisting white supremacy; Victims of terror everywhere.



## CHURCH STAFF

**Sally Sarratt** (she/her)

**Maria Swearingen** (she/her)

**Mahogany Thomas** (she/her)

**Shiwei Cheng** (she/her)

**Jojo Angdisen** (he/him)

**Al Jeter** (he/him)

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