

CALVARY CURRENT

Special Edition for May 16 - 31



Calvary gives thanks and honor to our veterans and pray for them!

CHURCH NEWS

- 1. In-person Worship Update:** As we move toward “Reopening Phase II” of our communities, our church will carefully prepare our in-person worship service and ministries. However, **Calvary UMC will continue “virtual church” at least until the end of June**, following the guidelines of our Bishop and the Cabinet of WNCC.
- 2. Calvary Virtual Church on Sundays 11am (opening from 10:30am)**
By electronics: CalvaryUMCnc.org -> Click Virtual Church Info under Worship
By phones: Call at 301-715-8592 and enter Meeting ID: 854 324 5409#
 - **Important change:** As we will use “Zoom” from May 31st, please notify the phone number and meeting ID number are different. For those who use computer, you will need to download zoom if you have not used it before.
- 3. Special Prayers**
For Ray Smith – retested negative on May 13 and continues to progress.
For Donnie Smith – under hospice care / pray for strength and comfort without pain.
For Ellen Kim – will be moving to Dallas, TX on May 29th to be close to her daughter.
For those who are affected by the pandemic – patients, lost their loved ones, lost jobs, closed businesses, and work in tough conditions.
For medical professionals on the frontlines and leaders for wisdom and discernment.
- 4. Let’s be a cheerful giver!**
 - Mail your offerings to Calvary UMC: 512 West Blvd. Charlotte, NC 28203
 - Use “bill pays” at your online banking or use “Conference Online Giving” at <https://www.wnccumc.org/online-donations-to-churches> (Calvary UMC, Charlotte / Metro District / Pastor Jae Lee / Your email address)
 - Special offerings:
In memory of Barbara Pressley’s 82 birthday on May 6 and in memory of Mary Hoover and Barbara Pressley on Mother’s Day by Pat and Herb Tesh.
With much love, thoughts & prayers for all dear friends at Calvary. I miss you all so much and hope everyone stays well by Jackie Davidson.

5. Church Meetings (Zoom invitation will be emailed to you before the meeting.)

- Outreach Team Meeting on June 10th, Wednesday at 1:30pm
- Church Council Meeting on June 14th, Sunday at 1:30pm

MOTHER OF JESUS (Luke 2:50-51 / John 19:25b-27)

Sermon on Mother's Day, May 10, 2020

Happy Mother's Day! Each year we have given a flower to our mothers at Calvary on Mother's Day, but this year we cannot practice our beautiful tradition due to the pandemic. However, it does not change our hearts of thanksgiving toward our mothers. Whenever I hear the word 'mother,' my heart is filled with gratitude and honor for mothers' sacrificial love and care! I believe that becoming a mother is not only about bearing a child, but also about nurturing a child who needs care and love until his/her maturity.

According to the British Council's 2004 survey, 'mother' is the most beautiful word in the English language, followed by passion, smile, love and eternity.¹ Unfortunately, it is not true that all mothers in the world are sacrificial or devoted to their children. Some mothers have failed to nurture their children, and others have even discarded their own children for many different reasons. However, the word 'mother' still gives us strength and insight for our lives.

Today I would like to share a message on the mother of Jesus. While the Catholic Church reveres Mary as "Queen of Heaven,"² our Protestant Church does not admit it because there are few biblical references to support the Catholic Marian dogmas. I accept the virginity of Mary, but her conception of Jesus was acted by the Holy Spirit. Even though Mary was full of grace, according to Karl Barth, "her grace was not earned by Mary but totally given to her as a gift."³ Of course, I don't doubt on the greatness of mother Mary for Jesus.

Mary's great motherhood is apparently found in the Gospels. Luke 2 describes an event of missing child Jesus. When Jesus was 12 years old, his family and relatives went to Jerusalem for Jewish tradition and worship gathering. On the way back to Nazareth, the family lost Jesus because they were hurried to leave the crowded city of Jerusalem, assuming that Jesus must have been with their traveling group. For three days Joseph and Mary searched for Jesus and finally found him in the Jerusalem temple. Mary asked Jesus, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." We may understand the heart of mom and dad here. Jesus answered, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" People did not understand what Jesus meant, but Luke pointed out the mind of Mary like this: "His mother treasured all these things in her heart." Mary must have renewed Jesus' special birth and relationship with God in her heart.

I think that not only Mary but most mothers would treasure all memories with their own children. From time to time, my wife and I talk about our children. When they were seriously ill with high fever, when a child had a joint out of place, when a child's ankle was swollen with unknown cause, when a child who has allergy was stung by an ant, and when a child made her first goal in a soccer

¹ <https://www.rediff.com/news/2004/nov/25word.htm?print=true>

² <https://www.dw.com/en/the-main-differences-between-catholics-and-protestants/a-37888597>

³ Karl Barth

game, when a child got a prize at his spelling bee, and so on... Raising three children has not been easy. Whenever I talk with my wife about our children, surprisingly enough she remembers all the details. I just wonder how she – mother of three children – remembers all the experiences of children! As Mary treasured all things on Jesus from the very young, our mothers do the same, don't you, mothers?

Let me move to the Gospel of John 19, which is the crucifixion scene of Jesus. In verse 25, Jesus' mother Mary was standing near the cross of Jesus at Golgotha. It must be the most painful moment for Mary to observe, but she was there near her son in his last moment. I believe that our mothers would stand near their children all the time, in particular, in times of suffering and crises of their children. Whether it is a seat of honor or a place of shame or disgrace, mothers always keep their seat for their children. Through the conversation between Jesus and Mary, we can see how much Jesus has cared for his mother Mary. Even on the cross when Jesus discovered his mother, he called his loved disciple and said to him, "Here is your mother." Jesus asked his disciple to take care of his mother. Mary and Jesus show the intimate relationship between mom and child.

Let me show a picture. You may recognize this famous sculpture, called *Pieta* created by Michelangelo. *Pieta* in Italian means "pity" or "compassion." As you see in the picture, Jesus' mother Mary holds his crucified son Jesus in her lap. Michelangelo used his artistic imagination to show the love Mary had for her son. She feels pity and compassion toward him after he had been betrayed.



While this sculpture shows great details, we may find something very strange. Jesus, a grown-up man, is held on his mother's lap like a child. Compared to the body of Jesus, Mary is much bigger and stronger. The sculpture may embody the greatness of mother. While Mary looks very sad, her face looks very young and beautiful. For Michelangelo, Mary might be the ideal mother who is much stronger than her son, has mighty power to embrace her son, and is always beautiful even at the very moment of sadness without aging.

All of us have a different kind of upbringing experience with our own mothers. All of our mothers are not the same as Mary the mother of Jesus, but they also treasure and cherish each moment with their own children and stand near them with their presence and prayerful support. In particular, when our children get weary and struggle with life's challenges, our mothers would stand near them and pray for them with their crying heart as Mary did for Jesus.

All we are children of our mothers. As Jesus did to his mother Mary, we can take care of mother's well-being and care for them with our obedient heart. If your mother is in heaven, you may support and care for a motherlike figure who has shared love with you.

On this Mother's Day, let our love overflow in our homes, communities, and nation by giving thanks and honor to our mothers and mother like figures who have shown their loving care for

us. When we are filled with loving relationships with one another, we may build and restore a Christian home where we are meant to love one another in the name of Jesus Christ.

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

BLESSING CABINET

By Brenda Alexander, Chair of Outreach Team



Several years ago, my Sunday School lesson writer included the information about a Blessing Box that contained food for people in her community. I felt God touching my heart to take on this project to help our Wilmore neighbors. I talked to Wade and Karen Cobb about this project before sheltering in place, and Wade agreed to build the box.

Calvary applied for the Reynolds Ministry Fund and thankfully received a \$1,000 grant. Outreach Team will work with our Trustees to set a place to put Blessing Cabinet. Keeping the cabinet filled with food will be Calvary's responsibility. Unlike the Loaves & Fishes pantry, there are no forms to complete, no verifications, and no judgments to make.

Will some people take advantage? Probably, but a lot more people will receive needed food assistance. Blessing Cabinet may become our caring hands and blessings for God's people!

COMMUNITY YARD SALE FOR CALVARY

Patty Pressley & Julie Gray – Coordinators for Community Yard Sale

Calvary is going to be collecting items for a future community yard sale. The sale proceeds will supplement lost income of our church due to the coronavirus outbreak. We will have a date for the sale later once everything calms down. However, during this time we are going to be collecting as much as we can to support our church budget. We will collect items in the Fellowship Hall on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 2pm to 4pm. Please feel free to reach out to Patty at 704-499-0201 if you have any questions. Thank you so much for your help and supporting our wonderful church!

CHURCH HUMOR 😊

Visiting his grandparents, a small boy opened the big family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out. He picked it up and found that it was an old leaf that had been pressed flat between the pages. "Mama, look what I found," he called out. "What have you got there, dear?" his mother asked. With astonishment in his voice, the boy answered, "I think it's Adam's underwear!"

(from <https://www.swapmeetdave.com/Humor/Religious.htm>)