God calls us to be a welcoming people! Welcome to people new to faith, to Christians of every flavor, and to long time Lutherans. Welcome to all with no church home, who need strength, want to follow, have doubts, or do not believe. Welcome to new guests and old friends. Welcome to people of every age and size, color and culture, ability and gift, to gay and straight, to old and young, to believers and questioners, and questioning believers. This is a place where we live past the labels, where we are welcome to celebrate and grieve, rejoice and recover. This is a place where our lives are made new. Welcome to worship God on this day!
An Advent Explanation

The Western Church Year is structured around the two great celebrations of the Christian Church—Easter and Christmas. Easter, based on the Jewish Passover, is determined by the phase of the moon. It is a “moveable” date. Christmas, on the other hand, is a fixed date determined in the 4th century to coincide with the pagan observance of the winter solstice, which at that time fell on December 25.

In the early church there was much diversity in regard to rites and calendars. Local churches were not always in sync with one another. Even today there is not uniformity in the observances of the Church Year, especially between the Western Church and the Eastern Church.

In 2006 The Advent Project (theadventproject.org) began as a continuing seminar of the North American Academy of Liturgy. This ecumenical project proposes to expand the observance of Advent from 4 Sundays to 7 Sundays in order to reclaim Advent “as the time of preparation for the coming of Christ at the end of time even as we welcome his appearance in our weekly assembly and in the world to which we are sent.” This expansion of Advent to 7 Sundays is an attempt to enable the Church to focus once again on the full manifestation of the reign of God.

The Advent Project does not change any of the assigned readings in the Revised Common Lectionary. The majority of the readings in November already have an end-time focus. The final three Sundays of the 2015 Church Year (8, 15, 22 November) are simply given an Advent overlay.

This proposal has great attractiveness for us at Calvary by the Sea because our current Advent Worship observances are curtailed by the Honolulu Marathon and by PAC Sunday. Thus, in expanding Advent to 7 Sundays we are able as a community of faith to explore more fully and completely what it means to “long for the Lord’s coming.”

This is the first season that Calvary joins The Advent Project as we all strive to follow Jesus more closely both as a community of faith and as individual disciples.
WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the Baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi’s prophesy could as easily herald the coming Lord Jesus as forerunner of the Lord of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of the Lord and assist all flesh in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God.”

SOUNDING OF THE PŪ

Please gather as the sounding of the conch shell calls us to worship.

GATHERING, Calvary Choir  “Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light”

Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light, and usher in the morning!
Ye shepherds, shrink not with affright, but hear the angel’s warning.
This child, now weak in infancy, our confidence and joy shall be,
The pow’r of Satan breaking, our peace eternal making.

RINGING OF THE BELL

During the Ringing of the Bell please center your thoughts on Makua–God the Creator, Keiki Kane–Jesus Christ our Redeemer, and ‘Uhane Hemolele–the Holy Spirit our Comforter.
GREETING, Kahu Tim

KAHU: How long, O God, must we endure our brokenness?

ALL: Come, Lord Jesus, and make us whole!

KAHU: The grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

ALL: And also with you.

GATHERING SONG standing

“Rain Down”

REFRAIN

Rain down, rain down, rain down your love on your people.

VERSE

1. Faithful and true is the word of our God. All of God’s works are worthy of trust.
2. We who revere and find hope in our God live in the kindness and joy of God’s wing. God’s mercy falls on the water of life that we thirst. Grant that your love and your
3. God of creation, we long for your truth; you are the just and the right; full of God’s love is the earth. darkness and death; God will not leave us to starve. peace touch our hearts; all of our hope lies in you.

CONFESSION OF SIN, Kahu Tim

Kahu: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
    the Lord of Israel who comes to set us free,
    the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy,
    the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace.

All: Amen.

Kahu: Let us come before God in confession.

Silence is kept for reflection.

O God,

All: you know us through and through—better than we know ourselves. You claim us as your own. Yet we act as if we are our own gods.

We advance ourselves at the expense of others.
We elevate personal desires to universal importance.
We put ourselves above your command to love and serve.

Remake us into your people. Rebuild what sin has broken, that we and the whole creation may rejoice living in your peace. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON standing

Kahu: Sisters and brothers, come with joy and draw water from the well of salvation. Remember the gift of baptism:
    your sin is washed away in the name of + Jesus;
    you belong to Christ;
    you are anointed to serve.

Stand up and raise your heads! The reign of God is near.

All: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

PRAYER OF THE DAY standing
ALL: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

GREETING OF GUESTS and SHARING OF ALOHA standing

KAHU: The Lord be with you.
ALL: And also with you.

WE HEAR THE WORD

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE 5

ALL SINGING:

O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav’nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

ONE: We gather together to expect the unexpected. We dream about the future and patiently wait for the birth of Messiah. Jesus, we light this candle whose flame brings light to the darkness.

ALL: Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy.

FIRST READING

Malachi 3: 1–4

The Lord announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name
means "my messenger") shall prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by
purifying and refining God's people, as silver and gold are refined.

ONE:  
1See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and
the LORD whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The
messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is
coming, says the LORD of hosts. 2But who can endure the day of his
coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; 3he will sit as a
refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of
Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings
to the LORD in righteousness. 4Then the offering of Judah and
Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as
in former years.

PSALM sung responsively

Luke 1: 68–79

68Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,
you have come to your people and set them free.
69You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,
born of the house of your servant David.
70Through your holy prophets,
you promised of old to save us from our enemies,
71from the hands of all who hate us,
72to show mercy to our forebears,
and to remember your holy covenant.
73This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:
74to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
free to worship you without fear,
75holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.
76And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,
77to give God's people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.
78 In the tender compassion of our God, the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
79 to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

SECOND READING

Philippians 1: 3–11

The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.

ONE: 3 I thank my God every time I remember you, 4 constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, 5 because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. 6 I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. 7 It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. 8 For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. 9 And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION standing

“Ka Mana’o ʻIʻo

Ka ma-na-ʻo-ʻi-ʻo, o ko kā-kou A-kū-a, Faith-ful, faith-ful is our God.

Ka ma-na-ʻo-ʻi-ʻo, o ko kā-kou A-kū-a, Faith-ful, faith-ful is our God.
GOSPEL standing

John the Baptist is a herald of the saving Lord, whose way is prepared by "repentance for the forgiveness of sins." As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.

KAHU: 1 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Iturœa and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, 2 during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the world of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. 3 He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, 4 as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
Make his paths straight.’
5 Every valley shall be filled,
And every mountain and hill shall be made low,
And the crooked shall be made straight,
And the rough ways made smooth;
6 and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”


ALL: Praise to you, O Christ.

KEIKI SERMON

“He Came to Bring Us Love”
“Miracle”
SERMON, Kahu Tim

“Emmanuel has come, is here, and is coming soon.”

SERMON HYMN 241 standing

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH standing

ALL: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH standing

KAHU: Emmanuel has come, is here, and is coming soon. Let us join in prayer for the church, the earth, and those who are in need, that all receive what God promises to give.

A brief silence.

O God, our hope of unity, come to your church around the world.

ALL: Purify your people and give to all the wisdom and courage to proclaim your word of forgiveness and renewal. Aloha ke Akua. (God is love; love is God)

KAHU: O God our Savior, come to the earth that you made.
ALL: Nurture the health of lands and seas. Give to plants and animals favorable weather. Aloha ke Akua.

KAHU: O God of peace, come to all the nations.

ALL: Inspire heads of state and regional leaders with a passion for justice and the protection of your creation. Bring peace throughout the world. We pray especially for .... Aloha ke Akua.

KAHU: O God of love, come to everyone in need.

ALL: Heal the sick. Answer the cries of those who are poor, those without housing, and those who have fled from violence or famine. Aloha ke Akua.

KAHU: O God of compassion, come to our congregation and our community.

ALL: This Advent, help us to prepare for your coming. Make us gifts to one another, that no one remains destitute or despairing. Aloha ke Akua.

W.H.A.L.E., a time of thanks for answered prayer and prayer requests.

KAHU: O Lord of hosts, we praise you for the lives of all the faithful.

ALL: Bring us with them to your feast of eternal compassion. Aloha ke Akua.

KAHU: Receive our prayers, merciful God, and make us ready to receive you when you come through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

ALL: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Anyone desiring individual prayer and intercessions please contact Kahu Tim or members of the Stephen Ministry team at the conclusion of the worship service.

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS, piano

“Noel”
DOXOLOGY standing

“Hoʻonani i ka Makua Mau”

Hoʻonani i ka Makua mau. Ke keiki me ka ‘Uhane nō.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heav'ny host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

OFFERING PRAYER standing

KAHU: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.
Let these gifts to us be blessed.
Blessed be God who is our bread.
May all the world be clothed and fed.

ALL: Amen.

WE ARE FED

GREAT THANKSGIVING standing

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

SANCTUS standing

The Sanctus and Words of Institution are sung following, “...we praise your name and join their unending hymn.”

Let all mortal flesh keep silence And with fear and trembling stand;
In the night his friends betrayed him Jesus took the bread of life.
King of kings yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood.
Then he took the cup of blessing, thanked the Lord for this sweet wine.
At his feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim with sleepless eye,

Ponder nothing earthly minded, For with blessing in his hand
Blessed and broke it for all people given to end human strife.
Lord of lords in human vesture, in the body and the blood.
Gave it to bewildered followers; Sacrament of peace divine.
Veil their faces to the presence As with ceaseless voice they cry:

Christ our God to earth descending Comes our homage to demand.
Take and eat this is my body. Do this to remember me.
He will give to all the faithful his own self for heav’nly food.
Take and drink this cup, my love out-poured. Do this to remember me.
“Al-leluia! Al-leluia! Al-leluia, Lord Most High!”

THE LORD'S PRAYER in unison

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of
trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION seated

KAHU: Holy One, we give you thanks that in this bread and cup we have feasted again on your endless love. Let that love overflow more and more in our lives, that we may be messengers to prepare your way, harvesters of justice and righteousness, and bearers of your eternal Word, our Savior Jesus Christ.

ALL: Amen.

WE ARE SENT

SENDING HYMN 250 standing “Blessed Be the God of Israel”

All Keiki are invited to dance.

BENEDICTION AND SENDING, Kahu Tim

KAHU: May God direct your ways in peace,
     make you abound in love for one another and for all,
     and strengthen your hearts
     until the coming of our Lord Jesus.
     Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
     bless you now and forever.

ALL: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

KAHU: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

GOING FORTH piano “The Snow Lay on the Ground”
Today, December 6, 2015

MINISTERS: All Members of Calvary by the Sea
KAHU: Tim Mason
WORSHIP AND THE ARTS: Tom Poole
ORGANIST AND PIANIST: Ina Young
MUSIC: Nā Leo Kamaliʻi, Director, Ina Young
INSTRUMENTALISTS: Marc Adelberger, Charlie Holdaway, Bruce Kau, Amie Lawyer, Jon Osorio, Tim Sprowls
READER, USHERS, COMMUNION ASSISTANTS AND ALTAR CARE: All Tribes
WORSHIP PRODUCTION SUPPORT: Fletcher Young, Erin Day

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 13—6th Sunday of Advent
MARATHON SUNDAY, 7 PM SERVICE
A HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE WITH THE CALVARY CHOIR SINGING CHORUSES FROM The Messiah
Friday, December 18—Blue Christmas, 7 pm

A SERVICE RECOGNIZING HOLIDAYS AS NOT ALWAYS A TIME OF CELEBRATION

Presiding, Kahu Tim
Music, Calvary Choir

Sunday, December 20—7th Sunday of Advent

Performing Arts @ Calvary Sunday

Presiding, Kahu Tim
Music, PAC

Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24

5:30 pm—Family Christmas Eve Pageant and Candlelight Holy Communion

Presiding, Kahu Tim
Music, Calvary Handbell Choir

10:30 pm—“Midnight” Service and Candlelight Holy Communion

Preaching, Kahu Tim
Music, Calvary Choir and Calvary Handbell Choir

Christmas Day, Friday, December 25, 10 am

Preaching, Kahu Tim
Music, Don Conover and Ernest Harada