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

The presence of the Lord "in your midst" in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the Lord in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with his winnowing fork in his hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the sixth Sunday of Advent.

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 so worthy of trust.
2. We who revere and find hope in our God live in the kindness and joy of God's wing. God will protect us from the water of life that we thirst.
3. God of creation, we long for your truth; you are the just and the right; full of God's love is the earth.

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 the wills of your faithful people, Lord God,
and open our ears to the preaching of John, that,
rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the
fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior
and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy
Spirit, one God, now and forever. Even so, come Lord
Jesus. Amen.

GREETING OF GUESTS and SHARING OF ALOHA standing

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

WE HEAR THE WORD

FIRST READING

Zephaniah 3: 14–20

The prophet Zephaniah's message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading,
however, which comes from the conclusion of the book, prophesies joy for Judah
and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God's salvation is at hand.

ONE: 14 Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!
15 The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.
The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.
16 On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion; 
do not let your hands grow weak.

17 The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing

18 as on a day of festival.
I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

19 I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.
And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.

20 At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the LORD.

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE 6

ALL SINGING:

O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Son of justice, now draw near.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death’s dark shadow put to flight.
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.

SERMON IN WORD and SONG, Kahu Tim and Calvary Choir

“And the Glory of the Lord”

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed.
And all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

“O Thou that Tellest Good Tidings to Zion”

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain!
O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength,
not afraid! Say unto the cities of Judah, “Behold your God!”
O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, arise, shine, for thy light is come,
and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

“For Unto Us a Child is Born”

For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given;
And the government shall be upon his shoulder, and
His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God,
the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

“Glory to God”

“Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good will towards men.”

“Hallelujah”

Hallelujah! for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.
The kingdom of this world is to become the kingdom of our Lord
and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. Hallelujah!
King of Kings, and Lord of Lord, and he shall reign forever and ever.

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.

For the church throughout the world, for bishops, pastors, and seminaries,

All: for the courage to live out the challenges of our baptism, and for the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Have mercy, O God, Aloha ke Akua (God is love; love is God).

KAHU: For the earth, for reefs, for glaciers, for the protection of dormant vegetation and hibernating animals,

All: and for wisdom in the use and care of the creatures and landscapes we live among. Have mercy, O God, Aloha ke Akua.

KAHU: For the nations of the world, for soldiers and police, for all who suffer political oppression,

All: for our enemies, and especially for those places and
situations we lament but cannot fix. Have mercy, O God, *Aloha ke Akua*.

**KAHU:** For all those in need, for those who are sick or cold, injured or outcast, for victims of fraud or extortion,

**All:** and for all who will die today. Have mercy, O God, *Aloha ke Akua*.

**KAHU:** For this congregation, for joy in Christ, and for our community,

**All:** for an increase in practices that truly are loving, just and compassionate in your eyes. Have mercy, O God, *Aloha ke Akua*.

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

**KAHU:** We praise you, O God, for the lives of all the faithful departed, that we complete our baptismal journey in you. Have mercy, O God, *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**

“Veni, Emmanuel”

**DOXOLOGY standing**

“Hoʻonani i ka Makua Mau”


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.”

**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 253 standing “He Came Down”

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 “Cradle Song”
Today, December 13, 2015

MINISTERS: All Members of Calvary by the Sea
KAHU: Tim Mason
WORSHIP AND THE ARTS: Tom Poole
ORGANIST AND PIANIST: Ina Young
MUSIC: Calvary Choir
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**

**Friday, December 18—Blue Christmas, 7 pm**

A SERVICE RECOGNIZING HOLIDAYS AS NOT ALWAYS A TIME OF CELEBRATION

*Presiding*, Kahu Tim  
*Speaker*, Lisa May Montano  
*Music*, Martha Staff and Charlie Holdaway,  
Women’s Ensemble
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