



# CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

532 Center Street  
Santa Cruz, California 95060  
[calvarysantacruz.org](http://calvarysantacruz.org)

We at Calvary honor our baptismal covenant to “respect the dignity of every human being.” We celebrate the wonderful diversity of the human family and strive to include a place for everyone in God’s house. Whether you are young or old, rich or poor; married, partnered, or single; housed or unhoused; gay, straight, trans, or questioning; native, documented, or undocumented- whoever you are – and just as you are, there is a place for you here. Come, the table is prepared.

# PARISH PROFILE

## INTRODUCTION

Calvary Episcopal Church is a parish deeply rooted in its hometown of Santa Cruz. Walk one direction and you are riding the wooden rollercoaster at the Boardwalk, buying fresh fish on the Wharf or boogie-boarding in the waves. Walk another direction and enjoy downtown shops, cafes and entertainment, an urban corridor brimming with diversity and vitality. The beautiful University of California Santa Cruz (UCSC) campus is thriving in the redwood groves a short three miles away. In our bustling seaside community, you will find surfing, hiking, biking, swimming, fishing and sailing combined with arts, music, theater, lectures, international cuisine, and book stores. Settle into a sidewalk bench with a cup of locally roasted coffee and chat with retirees, working professionals, students, street musicians, and outdoor citizens. The extraordinary environment surrounding Calvary is magical.



The opportunity for ministry, for growing more and more alive and engaged in the vision of Jesus, is limitless. Tourists mapping out historical landmarks are keen to stop by as Calvary is the oldest church in Santa Cruz County. UCSC students are drawn to the comfort and calm of our sanctuary. Our contemplative liturgy appeals to some, our choral Eucharist resonates with others. On any given Sunday you are just as likely to greet visiting scholars as unhoused residents. We live and breathe hospitality and inclusion. We don't stop at welcome. We cultivate relationships, embrace involvement and invite participation. We widen our circle for any and all. Really we do!

In 2024 we will celebrate 160 years of ongoing Episcopal worship. Festivities, fireworks, fellowship,



fun! But we don't intend to act our age. We intend to keep acting up and out with Gospel courage. We invite you to read this profile carefully, thoughtfully and prayerfully to discover more about Calvary, about Santa Cruz, about this wonderful and wonder-full place we call home. Can you see yourself here? Are you drawn to our challenges and excited by our gifts? Are you curious to learn more? Yes? Yes! We are eager to talk with you!

# WORSHIP

Calvary currently offers three Sunday morning worship services, not because of our size, but because we value the diverse liturgical needs of our parishioners. We have learned through our discernment process that the journeys that brought each of us to Calvary are amazingly—sometimes startlingly—various: this means we must and do accommodate a wide variety of backgrounds and views. Faith and worship take many forms.

The 8:00 am service is a spoken service, with no music, and is conducted according to Rite I in the Book of Common Prayer (BCP). Those who attend at 8:00 say that they particularly appreciate its meditative quality.

During the pandemic, Calvary introduced a new 9:00 am service that was developed as a Zoom service for those who wanted more community than a streamed service could offer. It is now a hybrid service (Zoom and in-person). It is closely aligned with the adult education program, as its liturgy seeks to address some relevant issues, such as non-gendered names for God and uneasiness with atonement theory. In addition, the 9:00 am service provides space for a lay-led discussion/discernment of the liturgy; a worship space that enthusiastically draws parishioners to this service and has attracted new parishioners to Calvary.

The 10:30 am service is a choral Eucharist conducted according to Rite II in the BCP. This service utilizes the skills of our music director, organist, and choir. Sunday school has traditionally been during the 10:30 service, with the children joining the adults for communion. Traditionally the children took part in the service as much as possible on the first Sunday of the month, as acolytes, readers, oblation bearers and members of our children's choir.

In addition to our Sunday services, we currently have one weekday Zoom service. This Morning



Prayer service is held on Thursdays at 10:00 AM. This service is lay led.

All of this is overseen by the Worship Committee which meets monthly to coordinate our worship. Many of Calvary's members actively work to maintain meaningful and joyful worship experiences at our church.



# MUSIC

Calvary's music is one of our defining qualities in the Santa Cruz community. Under the leadership of our dedicated music director, Murray Walker, the focus of our music program is to enhance the experience of the presence of God through the mystery and majesty of the Anglican liturgical tradition, and beyond that, especially through the Choral Scholars program, to offer religious and cultural outreach to the wider Santa Cruz community.

The Choral Scholars program employs college students, most of them music students, to serve as section leaders in the Calvary Choir, enhancing the skills of faithful parish volunteers. The program is many faceted: it contributes to deepening our own liturgical experience as a parish through regular choral services and permits exploration of traditional forms such as Choral Evensong, which would otherwise be out of our reach musically. At the same time, it gives young musicians what is for many of them their first

professional experience and introduces them to the rich tradition of Anglican choral music. The Choral Scholars program is our one lasting connection to students at UCSC, and it also attracts students to our services to hear their friends, giving us an opportunity to welcome them in.



As well as the Choral Scholars program, our music leaders provided another churchwide project to enhance the music experience at Calvary. In 2017, an opportunity arose to obtain a fine organ, then disassembled and in storage in San Francisco, which under normal circumstances would have been well outside the parish's financial means, but was available at a fraction of its actual value. The project involved disassembling the existing organ and replacing it with the new one. The new organ



has 1500 pipes, each needing four soldered connections. Parish volunteers learned this new skill and spent many hours putting the organ together. It was an outstanding community effort, and another example of Calvary's "Let's do this!" attitude.

# EDUCATION

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## Adult Education

Adult Education is an integral part of who we are as Christians at Calvary Episcopal Church and essential to our spiritual growth. There has always been a desire to learn more and understand what we are hearing. The priest-led adult forums addressed this need, but parishioners reached out for more. By sharing the books they were reading, a monthly book club was started. To reach out to the broader community, a series of community forums were held on timely topics like our relationship to the Muslim community and climate change. In addition to the book club, seasonal book studies were started by picking a book and meeting to discuss designated chapters each week. The selections included *Sacred Ground*, *The Last Week*, *How to be an Anti-racist*, and *Walking a Sacred Path*. Calvary adults believe in lifelong learning and work hard to provide opportunities for all of us.



## Sunday School Education

Over the decades, Calvary has been blessed with amazing children, ranging from toddlers to high schoolers. Our Sunday School has sought to strike a balance between fun and learning, engaging children in interactive activities through Godly Play, as well as reading and discussing scripture. Interactive activities include the Christmas pageant, Easter egg hunts, First Sundays family-focused, choral practice and performances. We also had a special event when a 100-year-old Spruce tree in front of the church had to be removed for safety. The children planned a “Hug the Tree” event to say

goodbye. Since the pandemic, Calvary has seen a significant drop in in-person family participation which has resulted in a suspension of most of the child-centered education programming. It is the hope of all parishioners that over time, and with the help and support of our new rector, families will find their way back to Calvary and Sunday School will again be a joyful and regular part of the Calvary education program. The construction of 69 affordable housing units next door to Calvary will attract families to the area. We are actively planning ways to attract their interest.



# OUTREACH

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The location of Calvary Church puts us in the center of diverse outreach opportunities. Calvary has a long history of supporting vital Outreach projects that serve the unhoused community. We offered a Food Bank, Monday Night Coffee House meals, some available parking, and winter shelter. However, on March 15, 2020, the Covid shutdown and lack of volunteers prevented the continuation of services. We are now working with the Association of Faith Communities (AFC) and the Faith Community Shelter to help coordinate the

needed services and finding that together we can do even more.

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*Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.  
In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths- Proverbs 3:5-6*

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For many years we have provided meeting sites, every day of the week, for 12-Step groups, and we now serve 21 groups.

In 2019 we converted our Parish Kitchen into a commercial kitchen which we can rent to other entities for food preparation at a nominal fee, benefitting them and us—Food Not Bombs, Teen Kitchen cooking lessons, restaurants, receptions, memorials, and others.

We have a team of parishioners actively involved with other churches, schools, and elected officials in COPA (Communities Organized for Relational Power in Action) which serves needs in Santa Cruz County and beyond. Their focus areas include affordable housing, behavioral health, immigration, and education issues. COPA welcomes this interaction with faith communities.



Parishioners can financially contribute to our outreach projects. Each organization is designated as the recipient of these donations on a rotating monthly basis.

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The Sanctuary is used for organ, piano, and vocal recitals, as well as theatrical performances, supporting local artists. Some of these highlight Calvary's historical significance within the community.

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"Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!"  
 -Psalm 95:1 ESV

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We believe that a strong connection to the Santa Cruz community is a top priority. We are currently involved in a project to install a permanent Labyrinth on our campus for outdoor meditation and worship, available to the community. We have been approved for a Missional Grant for 2024 to assist in the project.



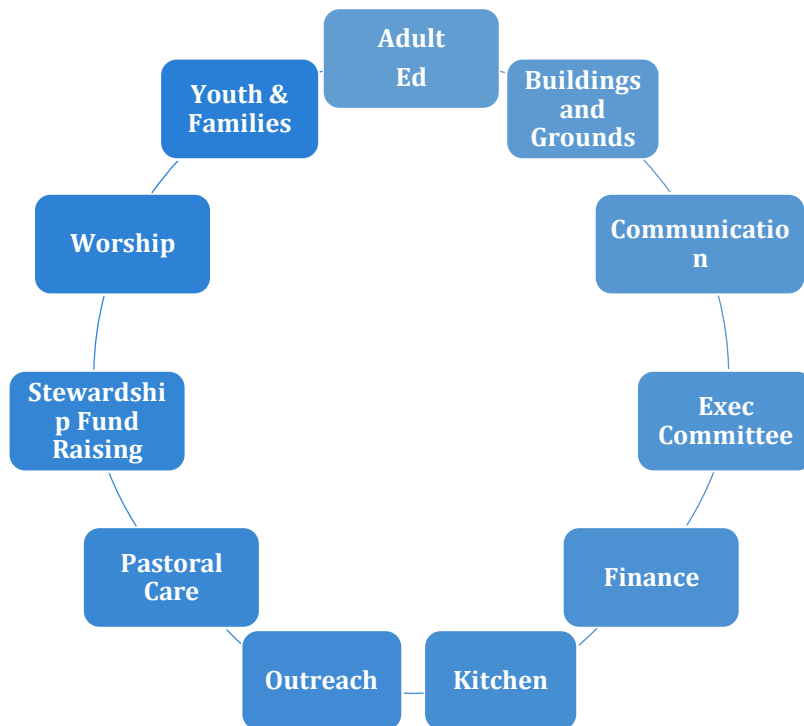
In October 2023, Calvary registered to participate in the **One Home, One Future**, a 7-year interfaith initiative involving 31 denominations. We intend to support caring for the Earth with this group.



The Calvary Cares committee has also expanded in-reaching efforts by offering support to parishioners with health or transportation issues. Calvary parishioners are committed to both outreach and in-reach!!

# PARISH INVOLVEMENT AND COMMITTEES

Calvary's parish actively supports 32 ministries within 11 committees. Committees are comprised of several existing Ministry Groups operating under a common objective or interest area. Calvary Committees build synergies between ministries by discussing function and funding. Calvary Committees report to the Vestry for awareness and approval. "Ministry" groups are Calvary volunteers collaborating to make things happen.



With God's grace and committed Calvary Ministry efforts, major accomplishments achieved over recent years include, but not limited to:

- A more stable and increased income.
- A fully permitted commercial kitchen.
- Calvary property development as an affordable and supportive housing project.
- Series of community forums launched to discuss critical topics, such as climate change, immigration challenges/issues, and our relationship to the Muslim community.
- New and Continued Support: AFC/Faith Community Shelter, Calvary Choral Scholars UCSC students, Calvary Pre-School, COPA, UTO and Calvary Labyrinth.
- Introduction of a new 9:00am hybrid service (Zoom and in-person).

A majority of Calvary's congregation participates in one or more committees. Anyone in the congregation with an idea that will enhance our faith and commitment to God's work can form a committee and make it happen.



# BUILDING AND GROUNDS

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The facilities of Calvary Church include four buildings: the sanctuary, the church office, the education building, and the parish hall. The parish hall includes a fully permitted commercial kitchen. The education building houses our Sunday school, preschool (Monday-Friday), and includes a play-ground area. The sanctuary was completed in 1865. The other buildings were added after 1963.

While it is difficult to maintain a building that is almost 160 years old, we were able to make many improvements over the last five years thanks to a generous bequest. The roofs on our church building and the office building have been replaced. In keeping with our goal of reducing our carbon footprint, a



solar array was added and the old gas heaters were replaced with heat pumps. The Labyrinth Committee is working to include a community labyrinth in the landscaping plan for the area around the sanctuary. In addition, the building project next door included a new parking lot for Calvary.



Our grounds also include the property next door to the church, which was leased to the city to use as a parking lot for many years. The property is now being developed as an affordable and supportive housing project of 69 units. This is the culmination of many years of looking for the best use of the land and is a significant accomplishment.

There are several affordable and market rate housing projects under construction downtown, and a new library complex which will include affordable housing is slated to break ground soon directly across the street from Calvary. We will have lots of opportunities for outreach to our new neighbors and it will be an exciting time to be a downtown church.



# FINANCES

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At Calvary our stewardship is based on “Building a Community of Love”. Our generous parishioners are the base of our budget. With this base of thirty-four pledge units, we brought in \$150,000 in the 2023 pledge campaign. The projection is similar for the 2024 campaign. In addition, thanks to the development of the housing project on our property next door, we can generate regular income to subsidize our budget. Furthermore, due to our downtown location, and the size of the campus and buildings, we are able to generate revenue and can augment our budget through rental income. We rent to several community organizations that meet at the church, as well as renting the kitchen and parish hall for food preparation and events. Our beautiful sanctuary is also a popular venue for weddings and vow renewals. All of this makes it possible for us to budget for a full-time rector.



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“Indeed, if we raise funds for the creation of a community of love, we are helping God build the kingdom. We are doing exactly what we are supposed to do as Christians. Paul is clear about this: ‘Make love your aim’ (1 Cor. 14:1, NJB).” -Henri J. M. Nouwen

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Our finances are more stable with the increased income from the development next door, but we are also carefully planning to save some of that income to insure the financial needs of the future. Our 2024 budget projects a balanced budget of \$358,000.



# SANTA CRUZ

The city of Santa Cruz, California sits on the northern part of Monterey Bay, about 74 miles south of San Francisco and 30 miles west of San Jose. The city's population is over 63,000. The University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC) has an enrollment of over 19,000 students. The city's twelve square miles vary from scenic coastlines to forested mountains. About 10% of the County of Santa Cruz is devoted to state parks. There are year-round opportunities to enjoy nature and the great outdoors.



This desirable location has experienced the annual influx of students as well as the influence of Silicon Valley commuters, contributing to an overall shortage of housing. The median home price in October 2023 was \$1.4 million, and the rental rate for a three-bedroom unit currently ranges from \$4,000 to \$6,800. Calvary members are aware of the challenge of affordable

housing for a rector and there is a committee looking into practical options.





# HISTORY

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In 2015, Calvary Church celebrated the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first service held at the church with the play, “Lincoln’s Eulogy”, written by parishioner Dana Bagshaw. This play told the story of how Calvary was involved in the Santa Cruz community in response to the death of President Abraham Lincoln. While preparing for the first service at Calvary Church to be held Easter Sunday, April 16, 1865, the news that President Lincoln had been assassinated arrived. The floral decorations were removed, and emblems of mourning were hung in the chancel. On April 19, the then rector Rev. Loop held a special service in honor of the slain president. Accounts in the church records say he was a personal friend of Abraham



Lincoln, and his address to the congregation was so eloquent that the City Fathers of Santa Cruz asked him to repeat it publicly the following week. Calvary’s involvement in the community began here, at its inception and continues to this day.

Over the years, Calvary Church has experienced growth and stability along with periods of declining attendance like many mainstream churches. Twenty years ago, a beloved long-time rector retired; since then, we have called three other clergy, and are now in our fourth search process in recent memory.

As in any family, we had disagreements, specifically as to the fitness of a particular priest to continue to serve us. In one difficult and painful instance, we had to reach a settlement



agreement with our priest, acknowledging that, despite good intentions, we were not a good match. After the next transition period a new priest was strongly urged to retire. Another search period followed, which brought us a priest in charge (who later became our Rector) who loved us and brought healing and peace while working with us and helping us navigate the difficult pandemic years. We were sad to see them

leave us but are grateful for the time we had together. Each of these instances helped to bring parishioners closer and moved us forward in knowing ourselves and identifying what kind of leadership we want in our priest.

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# MOVING FORWARD

Calvary Church has been an active part of the Santa Cruz community for 158 years. Over that time the desire to worship together, learn, grow, and serve others has continued. We are looking for a rector who will work together with us to strengthen our community. The growth and development of housing in downtown, including the development on our property, will provide opportunities for outreach. We look forward to sharing who we are with our new neighbors and inviting them in.

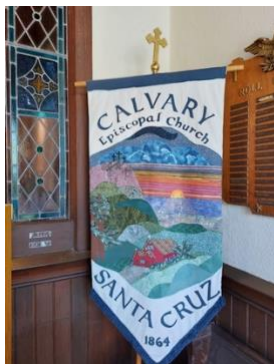
The people of our church, through surveys, meetings and discussion, have identified the following attributes as priorities for our rector:

**Friend/Fellow Traveler:** Warm, authentic and loving person who relates to us as an ordinary human being; compassionate and good listener, not afraid to reveal personal pain and struggle.

**Minister of the Word/Teacher of the Congregation:** Finds primary fulfillment in preaching and teaching and is attracted to a congregation with strong educational emphasis.

**Social Activist:** Ministry includes relating the Gospel to the social context, enjoys being involved with social concerns and involvement in the community.

We also want our rector to be committed to coordinating and managing a productive and effective church organization that will complement our priorities. And we will be actively by your side to make this work.



**To Apply:** To engage with us in discernment regarding a call to serve as Rector of Calvary Episcopal Church, please submit an Office of Transition Ministry portfolio, a resume, and a cover letter via email to:

The Rev. Canon Martha Korienek  
Canon to the Ordinary for the Episcopal Diocese of El Camino Real  
[canonmartha@RealEpiscopal.org](mailto:canonmartha@RealEpiscopal.org)