

Calvary's Affirmation of Faith

We confirm the 1934 Declaration of Barmen, which took a stand against the mistaken concept that the gospels might be rewritten as a political accommodation to an authoritarian government, and we affirm:

“Jesus Christ, as he is attested for us in Holy Scripture, is the one Word of God which we have to hear and which we have to trust and obey in life and in death.

We reject the false doctrine, as though the church could and would have to acknowledge as a source of its proclamation, apart from and besides this one Word of God.” (Barmen 8.11-12)

We confess that Christianity today in the United States is being aligned with a message of power, cruelty, racism, and national identity that is at odds with the Gospel of Jesus, who instructed his followers to lead as servants (Matt 20:26).

We reject the co-opting of the Gospel to serve the agendas of white supremacy, authoritarianism, militarism, state sponsored cruelty, or the innate superiority of any racial or ethnic group.

Because Jesus told us in Matthew 25, “I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me,”

we seek to follow Jesus' instructions and seek to feed, house, and care for our neighbors, regardless of their immigration status.

Because the Book of Genesis (1:26-27) tells us that humanity was created in the very image of God (*imago dei*), we believe it is sin to deny or diminish the humanity of any of our neighbors.

Regardless of race, creed, sexual orientation, gender identity, or citizenship status, the image of God lives in each of us and each person is worth our concern, love, and protection.

Because the Book of Exodus tells us that God instructed the people of God to care for foreigners who lived among them (Exodus 22:21) and because Jesus himself fled to another country to escape political violence (Matthew 2: 13-15),

we take seriously our call to be a church that offers welcome and sanctuary for our immigrant neighbors. We remember that our ancestors were once immigrants in a foreign land and that a foreign country welcomed Jesus as an infant.

Jesus said, “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:35) We believe loving one another is the true measure of our faith.

We commit to loving each other. When love is difficult, we commit to seeking repair. When love becomes a hollow sentiment, we commit to honoring its sacred origin. “We love because God first loved us”. (1 John 4:19)

Therefore, we commit to:

- **Listen to, and stand with, the most vulnerable and harmed communities;**
- **Use our energy, imagination, love, resources, and privilege to enact change born of partnership and accompaniment;**
- **Use our platforms and voices to counter the rhetoric of hatred and fear;**
- **Engage honestly with those who hold different points of view by working to seek common ground in our shared humanity; and**
- **Do everything with mercy, kindness, humility, and love.**

The Session is the governing body of Calvary Presbyterian Church, entrusted with the spiritual life, mission, and administration of the congregation.

On February 7, 2026, the Session met and adopted this statement of faith that demands an end to the cruelty and terror that unchecked power has brought upon our neighbors and those most vulnerable. The statement is intended both to guide our life together and to serve as a public expression of our faith.