



2024
Advent
Retreat of
Silence

AT CALVIN CREST

"God With Us"

DECEMBER 6 @ 6 PM -
DECEMBER 8 @ 10 AM
45800 CALVIN CREST ROAD
OAKHURST, CA 93644

Does this sound familiar?

The holidays are approaching. You can already sense the pressure rising as the calendar is filling up, gift lists are forming, the checkbook is tightening, your expectations of perfection are suffocating, and family dynamics can be overwhelming. You desperately want to focus on the deeper, truer meaning of the season, but it is so easy to get sucked into the commercialism and busyness embedded in our culture. Every year, you look forward to the beauty and the memories this season can hold, but so often it slips by, leaving you feeling like you missed it.

Now, envision this...

You approach Christmas differently this year. You intentionally carve out the first weekend of Advent to spend in silence and solitude with Jesus. Along with other men and women in the beauty of silent community, you begin this season listening to God's voice, experiencing His love, moving into the rest of the season refreshed and with renewed perspective. You surrender your need to be perfect. You are present, and you see family through the eyes of Jesus. And you carry a commitment to what is truly important throughout the season.

This is the power of a silent retreat.

The Advent Retreat of Silence creates an environment where you will align your heart, mind, and soul. You may choose to spend the entire time with God in your room or take advantage of the many stations including art, reflection, reading, listening prayer, walking the grounds, and more.

If you appreciate time alone, you will LOVE this retreat. If you are terrified of spending a weekend in silence and solitude, you NEED this retreat. You will not be alone, and there will be plenty of guidance along the way. You will not regret giving yourself the gift of time and space to listen to God this Advent season.

Hear what others have to say:

"Thank you for creating this space, this time that I have given myself permission to rest and be still. This retreat has brought moments I didn't expect... locking eyes with a silent woman, time in listening prayer, and pure moments with God. Thank you." -Theresa

"In the first twenty minutes of silence I felt God speak strongly to my heart... This Advent retreat will be a yearly tradition for me. I plan on practicing the Advent spirit as I make my way through the coming days. Thank you!" - Jennifer

"Thank you for the most expensive gift of the 21st century... the gift of time." - Jan

"Thank you for the blessing of this silent retreat, The time was thoughtfully and creatively prepared." - Lynda

Pricing & Registration

The cost of the retreat includes lodging, meals, and all retreat materials. Participants are encouraged to share a room with a friend (yes, you can share and still honor the silence).

Cedar Lodge Double (or Triple) Occupancy: \$240 each | Single occupancy: \$290 each
Mountain View Cabins Double (or Triple) occupancy: \$190 each | Single Occupancy: \$240 each
Space is limited. Questions? Email tiffany@calvincrest.com or call 559.772.4040.

Frequently Asked Questions

Will there really not be any talking or noise the entire time?

When you arrive on Friday, you are welcome to talk and make noise to your heart's content. We will have dinner and meet together on Friday evening for an opening session for an explanation of the weekend and to prepare our hearts to enter into the silence. After that opening session, we will honor the silence until we break the stillness together on Sunday morning at our closing session, when participants will have a chance to share briefly how they encountered God over the weekend. There will be a few exceptions throughout the weekend, such as the opportunity to meet with someone for listening prayer or other such offerings. In short, if you are looking for a chance to get away with your friends to talk and laugh and play, this is not the right retreat for you, but we invite you to one of our Women's Retreats in April!

Won't people think I'm rude if I pass them and don't say hello or chat with them?

Not at all. Everyone has permission to smile and pass on by. It's amazing how much love and grace you can communicate with your eyes and smile without ever saying a word. People are always amazed that dozens of people can be together in silence without filling the space with words, but they do, and you will find it is a beautiful gift to be both in silence *and* in community.

So there won't be any speaker or worship leader?

Oh yes, there will be a speaker, just not a human one. When we carve out time to listen to God, the Holy Spirit becomes our speaker and worship leader. There will be much worship happening throughout the retreat, but you may never hear it with your ears.

Why choose the busiest time of the year for this retreat?

The start of Advent is the perfect time to un-clutter the calendar and be refreshed by the presence of God. In her book, *Wilderness Time*, Emilie Griffin writes, "When the gridlock of your schedule relentlessly forbids it is the time you most need retreat." You will find this time informs the rest of your Advent season in a priceless way.

What if I get bored?

After leading silent retreats for more than twenty years for hundreds of people, I (Tiffany Staman) have never heard from anyone who got bored. Most share how quickly the time went by. Many get more rest or sleep than they ever realized they needed. Some share how difficult it was to quiet their hearts and minds and lean into the discomfort of just *being* and not *doing*. Almost all encounter God in ways they never planned or expected and leave changed. This is an opportunity to spend time generously in the presence of God, to empty ourselves of cares and anxieties, and to be filled with the wisdom that restores us. You will be encouraged to bring your bible and a journal, any art supplies or other means that help you creatively connect with God, and shoes for walking, if desired.

What will meals be like during the retreat?

Meals will be simple and served buffet style. You are welcome to bring a book and read while you eat or just enjoy the silence. Each room in Cedar Lodge is equipped with a refrigerator and microwave, so you can also opt to bring your own snacks and food as desired. If you choose to bring all your own food/meals, you will receive a \$40 discount at registration.

What if I need to arrive late or leave early? Can I check-in earlier on Friday?

While you will get the most from your time if you are present for the entire retreat, we understand that life makes it challenging at times! If you need to come late, we can make arrangements to get you the materials and explanation needed for the retreat. Conversely, if you want to arrive earlier on Friday to avoid driving in the dark, we should be able to arrange for an earlier check-in.