Christmas EVE worship

DEC 24
5 PM
2017

East Liberty Presbyterian Church
Living out radical hospitality to all

116 South Highland Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
412.441.3800
www.ELPC.church
DECEMBER 24, 2017 — 5:00 PM
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

TIME OF PREPARATION
“What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I’d give him a lamb.
If I were a wise one I’d do my part. What can I give him? I’ll give him my heart.”
— “What Can I Give Him” by Christina Rossetti

Prelude
Dr. Edward Alan Moore, organ
Richard Purvis
Cody Conley, violin
Adolphe Adam

“Prelude on Greensleeves”
“O Holy Night”

WELCOME & NEWS OF THE CHURCH
The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush

* SHARING GOD’S PEACE
Leader: La paz de Cristo esté con ustedes.
The peace of Christ be with you.
People: Y también contigo.
And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP
Dominic and Josh Odom
Leader: We gather tonight to hear an ancient story of God’s promises fulfilled:
People: For unto us a Savior is born this day in Bethlehem – a Savior, who is Christ our Lord!
Leader: We gather tonight to celebrate the good news at the heart of our faith:
People: That the babe who lay in a manger is Emmanuel, God with us, the Prince of Peace.
Leader: So with angels and shepherds let us sing:
People: Glory to God in the highest! And on earth, peace and goodwill to all!
Leader: Let us pray:
All: Gracious God, as we hear once more the story of Christ’s birth, fill our hearts with such
love and wonder that with shepherds and magi, and pilgrims unknown, we may come to
adore the holy child, the promised King; our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

* HYMN (music printed in bulletin)
“Adeste Fideles”
Todd Hoffman, Debbie Brake
Charlotte and Samantha Brake-Hoffman

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
Leader: Why did Jesus come?
People: Because we were in need of a Savior.
Leader: Why did we need a savior?
People: Because we, like all people, have sinned. At times we forget to love God. At times we
forget to love our neighbors as ourselves. We turn from God and end up getting stuck in
our sin, doubt and fear.
Leader: Then why do we celebrate tonight?
People: Because God came to us in Jesus – and he came to offer us peace, to fill us with hope,
and to show us God’s love.

* Indicates where you may please rise in body or spirit.
Leader: Let us pray:
All: Loving God, you came to us in a baby born in Bethlehem, even when humanity had turned from you – and today, you come to us once more, even when we run from your promises or doubt your good news. You promise us peace, even when we run from your promises or doubt your good news. You promise us healing, even when we feel broken. You promise us love, even when we choose hate. In Jesus Christ you came among us as a light shining in darkness and assure us that the darkness will not overcome the light. Help us to trust this good news. Forgive us of our sins and renew our hope, that we might not only believe the good news we profess, but that we might live lives transformed by your grace.

**TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION**

**ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS**
Sara and Brianna Hackett
Leader 1: The light of God’s love has come to us in a precious baby, born in a manger in Bethlehem.
Leader 2: This light – the light of Christ Jesus – was a light to all. No darkness in our lives or in this world can overcome it.
Leader 1: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel!
People: En Jesucristo tenemos perdón. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
¡Alaben a Dios! Praise God!

**SUNG RESPONSE** (music printed in bulletin; please remain seated; stanzas 1 and 4 only)
St. Louis

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!*  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

*O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray:*  
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

**HEARING GOD’S WORD**
The Rev. Dr. Bush  
The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
Isaiah 9:2, 6  
Luke 1:31, 2:10-14

**WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**
Sara and Brianna Hackett

**MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN**
The Rev. Schoenewolf

*HYMN* (music printed in bulletin)  
“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”  
TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

**HOMILY**
The Rev. Schoenewolf
“*I Love to Tell the Story*”

**OFFERING INVITATION**
Damon and Lora Bethea
Leader 1: Tonight we receive the most precious gift.
Leader 2: Through the baby born in a manger, God came to us to show us God’s love and offer us God’s peace. What more could we ask for?
Leader 1: So we offer our gifts, as the shepherds and wise people did all those years ago: as an act of grateful worship and praise.
Leader 2: With joyful hearts, let us now receive this evening’s offering.

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**
Cody Conley, violin  
GREENSLEEVES
“*What Child Is This*”
* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

**Hymn at the Presentation** (music printed in bulletin)

“Joy to the World”

The communion bread is being presented by Andy, Bernadette, Zaida, Suraya and Nasim Collins.

--- THE LORD’S SUPPER ---

**Invitation to the Lord’s Table**

**The Great Thanksgiving**

Leader: El Señor esté con ustedes.

People: Y también contigo.

Leader: Levantemos nuestros corazones.

People: Lo tenemos levantado al Señor.

Leader: Demos gracias al Señor nuestro Dios.

People: Es justo dar gracias y alabanzas a Dios.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

**The Lord’s Prayer**

The Lord’s Prayer can be found on pg. 35 (English), on pg. 40 (Español) or on pg. 45 (한국어) in the Glory to God hymnal.

**Words of Institution**

The Rev. Dr. Bush and The Rev. Schoenewolf

**Sharing the Bread & the Cup**

Note: The communion elements are bread and grape juice. Gluten-free wafers are also available. The congregation is invited to come forward to one of the four stations by using the center aisle to the communion servers where each may partake of the bread and the cup, placing the used cup in the basket provided, then returning to seats via the side aisles. Those not able to come forward will be served in their seats.

**Carols During Communion** (music printed in bulletin)

“Away in a Manger”

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

**Prayer after Communion**

Leader: God, we thank you for the stable, safe and strong.

People: We thank you for Mary, Joseph, and the angels’ song.

Leader: Thank you for the animals gathered there.

People: Thank you for the Wise People and the shepherd’s prayer.

Leader: Thank you for the star above.

People: Thank you for Baby Jesus, your perfect gift of love.

**Lighting the Candles and Passing of the Light**

John 1:1-5

The Rev. Schoenewolf

**Hymn** (music printed in bulletin)

“Silent Night”

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright, Round yon virgin mother and child!

Holy Infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight, Glories stream from heaven afar,

Heavenly hosts sing: “Alleluia; Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.”

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light. Radiant beams from thy holy face,

With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light; with the angels let us sing,

Alleluia to our King; Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

**Charge & Benediction**

The Rev. Schoenewolf

**Postlude**

“In Dulci Jubilo, BWV 729”

Johann Sebastian Bach
Please remember to turn off cell phones during worship.
Hearing assistance devices are available from the ushers.

♦ PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY’S SERVICE

Preaching: The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
Participants: The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush
Damon and Lora Bethea
Todd Hoffman, Debbie Brake
Charlotte and Samantha Brake-Hoffman
Andy, Bernadette, Zaida,
Suraya and Nasim Collins
Doris Dick, Sharon and Dylan Geibel
Sara and Brianna Hackett
Dominic and Josh Odom

Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore, Organist and
          Music Director
          Cody Conley, violin
Cantors: David Jennings-Smith, Michael Painter
          Mary Randolph, Kalyn Stevwing
Beadles: Michele Bossers and Matthew Stufft
Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

♦ CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

11 pm ...........Candlelight Service. Prelude music
begins at 10:30 pm. The Rev. Dr. Randall
K. Bush preaching.

♦ WEEKDAY WORSHIP

Labyrinth Prayer Walk
A 35-foot floor mat with curved paths leading inward;
an ancient tool for walking and seated meditation.
Mondays, 7 am to 1 pm
Wednesdays, 9 am to 9 pm

Taizé Sung Prayer
Chants and periods of meditative silence modeled after
the Taizé community in France.
Wednesdays, 7 pm

Prayer Room (Room 135, in Highland Ave hallway)
Come to sit and pray in silence. Come to experience
the quiet in the midst of the wonderful busyness that is
ELPC. Open everyday

♦ SUNDAY WORSHIP

There will be no Journey service on Sunday, Dec 31.
11 am ..........Sanctuary Worship. Our largest service,
with music from the Chancel Choir and an
organ prelude prior to the service.
Dec 31 — Kalyn Stevwing, Pittsburgh
Theological Seminary intern, preaching.

♦ WORSHIP FLOWERS

The poinsettia plants in the Sanctuary are in loving
memory of the Honorable Andrew W. Mellon and Mr.
and Mrs. Richard Beatty Mellon.

WELCOME VISITORS!

We are delighted that you have chosen to celebrate
this season with us at ELPC. We invite you to stop
by the Visitor’s Table in the Highland Lobby or the
Narthex for a small welcoming gift, a sweet treat
and perhaps some other information about ELPC’s
programs and ministries.

To learn more about our programs, church
activities and volunteer services, we invite you to:

Pick up a copy of our newsletter, the Reaching Out,
either in the Narthex or at the Hospitality Desk
near the Highland Avenue doors.

Attend an Inquirers’ Class on February 4 and 11
for an opportunity to learn more about ELPC
and Presbyterian theology. Lunch will be
provided. Please contact Gloria Knopp for more
info or to register for future classes (GloriaK@coh.net).

Call the Church Office (412.441.3800), or visit the
ELPC website at www.ELPC.church.
O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant; O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem! Come, and behold him,
of a virgin, a mortal he comes; very God, be born the King of angels!
gotten, not created! O come, let us adore him; O come, let
of a virgin, a mortal he comes; very God, be born the King of angels!
gotten, not created! O come, let us adore him; O come, let
now in flesh appearing!

2 True God from true God, Light from light eternal, born of a virgin, a mortal he comes; very God, be
all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, all
sus, to thee be all glory given; Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing!

3 Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation; sing,

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; 

Refrain

From its Roman Catholic origins, this 18th-century hymn has spread to worldwide use by many denominations in both Latin and vernacular versions. Once popular with a wide range of hymn texts, this tune is now firmly associated with this Christmas text from which it is named.
O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

1. O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
2. For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above,
3. How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
4. O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.

Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Though he was famed during his lifetime as a great preacher, no sermon Phillips Brooks ever preached has been heard or read by as many people as have sung this carol he wrote in December 1868 for the Sunday School children of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Philadelphia.

TEXT: Phillips Brooks, 1868
MUSIC: Lewis Henry Redner, 1868
ST. LOUIS
8.6.8.6.7.6.8.6
(alternate tune: FOREST GREEN)
Public domain
GENTLE MARY LAID HER CHILD

1 Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;
2 Angels sang about his birth; wise men sought and found him;
3 Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;

there he lay, the undefiled, to the world a stranger,
heaven's star shone brightly forth, glory all around him.
he is still the undefiled, but no more a stranger.

Such a babe in such a place, can he be the Savior?
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, heard the angels singing:
Son of God, of humble birth, beautiful the story;

Ask the saved of all the race who have found his favor.
all the plains were lit that night; all the hills were ringing,
praise his name in all the earth; hail the King of glory!

This 20th-century Christmas text by an English-born Canadian clergyman was originally a poem called “The Manger Prince.” It gains a certain antique flavor by being set to a late medieval song associated with springtime. (The tune name means “The flowering time is near.”)
1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive
her king; let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs
employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow
joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3 No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest
visions prove the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love. and wonders of his love.

4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na-
and heaven and nature sing.

While Isaac Watts did not write this text strictly for Christmas use, he did purposely cast his paraphrase of Psalm 98:4–9 in Christian terms, titling it “The Messiah’s coming and kingdom.” So “the Lord” here is Jesus Christ, rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
Away in a Manger

Capo 5: (C)  (Am)  (C)  (Dm)
F    Dm    F    Gm

1 A-way in a manger, no crib for his bed,
2 The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,
3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay

(F)  (G)  (C)  (Dm)  (F)  (G)
Bb  C  F  Gm  Bb  C

the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.

(C)
F

The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,

(G)  (C)  (Dm)  (G)  (C)
C  F  Gm  C  F

the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

This anonymous carol probably originated among Pennsylvania Lutherans in the late 19th century, giving rise to a mistaken assertion that it had been written by Martin Luther. This tune is also by an American but has become the one usually used in Canada and Great Britain.

TEXT: Starzas 1–2, Little Children's Book for Schools and Families, c. 1885; stanza 3, Gabriel's Vineyard Songs, 1892
MUSIC: William James Kirkpatrick, 1895

CRADLE SONG
11.11.11.11
(alternate tune: MUeller, 115)

Public domain
Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

1 While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
2 The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth
3 Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,

behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

Like other material from oral traditions, 19th-century African American spirituals flourished without being written down. Their refrains were their most stable parts, and narrative stanzas were often improvised to fit. These Nativity stanzas attempt to recall that tradition.

TEXT: African American spiritual; stanzas, John W. Work II, 1940
Music Harm. © 1989 Melva Wilson Costen OneLicense.net #A-700877
Silent Night

1 Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
2 Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
3 Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light
4 Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;

round yon virgin mother and child! Holy Infant, so tender and
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing “Alleluia;
radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming
with the angels let us sing Alleluia to our

mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.
ia: Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born!”
grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.
King: Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1816; stanzas 1-3, English trans. John Freeman Young, 1863;
Music: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1818
Public domain.