

EAST LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

116 South Highland Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15206 412.441.3800 www.ELPC.church

As a diverse community of believers, we strive to follow God – the Creator who calls us, Jesus who teaches us, and the Spirit who empowers us. We show God’s unconditional love by providing a refuge for spiritual growth, ardently pursuing justice, and extending Christ’s radical hospitality to all. (Strategic Vision mission statement, 2011)

DECEMBER 24, 2016 — 11:00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

PRELUDE

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”	FOREST GREEN
“Prelude on Greensleeves”	Richard Purvis
“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”	CAROL
“A New Christmas Morning, Hallelujah”	Robert McGimsey
	Denise Sheffey-Powell, <i>soloist</i>
“In Dulci Jubilo”	Marcel Dupré
“The Little Drummer Boy/Peace on Earth”	Crosby/Bowie
	Todd Farwell, David Jennings Smith, <i>soloists</i>
“O Holy Night”	Adolphe Adam
	Adrianna Cleveland, <i>soloist</i>

CALL TO WORSHIP & ADVENT CANDLE-LIGHTING

Ryan and Kelli Booher

Leader: Welcome to our Christmas Eve service here at East Liberty Presbyterian Church.
May the peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: The time of waiting has come to an end!

People: **The prophecies of old have been fulfilled, for born to us this day in the city of David is a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.**

Leader: We light the Advent candles one last time as symbols of hope, peace, love and joy.

People: **May the angels’ message be heard once more in the world: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace!**

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #133

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!

Refrain: O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

True God from true God, Light from light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Very God, begotten, not created! (*refrain*)

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! (*refrain*)

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning.
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! (*refrain*)



* Indicates where you may please rise in body or spirit.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & INTERCESSION

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush

* HYMN #124

“Still, Still, Still”

STILL, STILL, STILL

Still, still, still, he sleeps this night so chill!
The virgin's tender arms enfolding,
Warm and safe the child are holding.
Still, still, still, he sleeps this night so chill.
Sleep, sleep, sleep, he lies in slumber deep,
While angel hosts from heaven come winging,
Sweetest songs of joy are singing.
Sleep, sleep, sleep, he lies in slumber deep.

SCRIPTURE READINGS & CHRISTMAS QUOTES

The Rev. Dr. Bush, The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

The Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan, The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

CHORAL ANTHEM

“Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow”

African American Spiritual

HYMN #136 *(please remain seated)*

“Go, Tell It On the Mountain”

GO TELL IT

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

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *(refrain)*

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. *(refrain)*

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *(refrain)*

GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:1-14

The Rev. Dr. Bush

SERMON

“Starshades and God's Light”

The Rev. Dr. Bush

* HYMN #113

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

GLORIA

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

OFFERING INVITATION

Sharron Boddy

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Before the Marvel of This Night”

Carl Schalk

The text can be found in the Glory to God hymnal #125.

HYMN AT THE PRESENTATION #121 *(please remain seated; verse 4 only)*

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ST. LOUIS

The communion bread is being presented by Todd Goss and Richard Frederick.

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!

— THE LORD’S SUPPER —

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S SUPPER

The Rev. Callahan

PRAYER OF 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 Rev. Dr. Bush and The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

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

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

The Rev. Schoenewolf and The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

SHARING THE BREAD & THE CUP

Note: The communion elements are bread and grape juice. Gluten-free wafers are also available. Those not able to come forward will be served in their seats.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Solo

“Wexford Carol”

Mary Randolph, *soloist*

Solo

“Sweet Little Jesus Boy”

Robert McGimsey

David Jennings Smith, *soloist*

GREENSLEEVES

Hymn #145

“What Child Is This”

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping?

Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;

Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?

Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.

Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.

Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.

The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.

Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby.

Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (*unison*)

The Rev. Dr. Bush

Living God, on this holy night we gather to stand with shepherds, sing with angels, sit with Joseph and Mary, and worship at both manger and communion table. May the good news of this night inspire us to tell the world of our great joy and be your ambassadors of light, peace and love. In the name of Christ, Emmanuel, God-with-us. Amen.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

John 1:1-5, 14

The Rev. Dr. Bush

* HYMN #122

“Silent Night”

STILLE NACHT

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.

* *Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.*

*** CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

*** RECESSIONAL HYMN #134**

“Joy to the World”

ANTIOCH

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove,
The glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

POSTLUDE

“Toccata on *Antioch*”

Craig Philips



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 some other information about ELPC's programs and ministries.

PARTICIPANTS:

Preaching: The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush
Liturgists: The Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan
The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
Sharron Boddy, Ryan and Kelli Booher
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore
Organist and Music Director
Gabriel T. D'Abruzzo, *Music Associate*
ELPC Chancel Choir
Soloists: Adrianna Cleveland, Todd Farwell
David Jennings Smith, Mary Randolph
Denise Sheffey-Powell
Brass Roots: Jake Boca, Adam Gillespie, *trumpets*
Rana Jurjus, *horn*
Tommy Urich, *trombone*
Will Hammer, *tuba*

Acolytes: Ian Bush, Akil Turner
Beadles: Michele Bossers, Lenore Williams
Crucifer: Charlotte Bush
Sound: Tim Benedict, Wayne Gaines

SUNDAY WORSHIP:

*There is no Journey service on
Sundays, December 25 and January 1.*

11 am **Sanctuary Worship.** A holiday service.
*Dec 25 — The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
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.