



EAST LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

116 South Highland Ave., 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)

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JUNE 21, 2020 — 11 AM LIVESTREAM WORSHIP

ORGAN PRELUDE

“Praeludium in C, BuxWV 137”

Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*
Dieterich Buxtehude

OPENING WORDS

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush

CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive reading*)

The Rev. Dr. Bush

Leader: Jesus Christ summons us together;

People: That we might together answer God’s call of mercy.

Leader: This summons goes out beyond any one race, culture, or nationality;

People: This call is for us to be healed and to heal, to be forgiven and to forgive;

Leader: We are to tell one another and all the world that God binds us together.

People: In one spirit expressed through many gifts, let us worship God this day!

* HYMN #401 (*vs. 1, 2, 4*)

“Here in This Place”

GATHER US IN

Here in this place the new light is streaming; now is the darkness vanished away;
See in this space our fears and our dreamings brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; gather us in, the blind and the lame;
Call to us now, and we shall awaken; we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a mystery. We are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history, called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty; gather us in, the proud and the strong;
Give us a heart, so meek and so lowly; give us the courage to enter the song.

Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light years away;
Here in this place the new light is shining; now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever; gather us in and make us your own;
Gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

**People: En Jesucristo tenemos perdón!
¡Alaben a Dios!**

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Praise God!**

* Indicates where to please rise in spirit.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Psalm 87

Dr. Moore

On the holy mount stands the city God founded; the Lord loves the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob. Glorious things are spoken of you, O city of God.

Among those who know me I mention Rahab and Babylon; Philistia too, and Tyre, with Ethiopia — “This one was born there,” they say.

And of Zion it shall be said, “This one and that one were born in it”; for the Most High will establish it. The Lord records, as God registers the peoples, “This one was born there.”

Singers and dancers alike say, “All my springs are in you.”

Galatians 3:27-29

As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to the promise.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

TIME FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

SOLO

Carly Noel Black, *soloist*

“Come Sunday”

Duke Ellington

CELEBRATION OF JUNETEENTH

Lenore Williams

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Acts 15:1-11

The Rev. Dr. Bush

Then certain individuals came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.” And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to discuss this question with the apostles and the elders. So they were sent on their way by the church, and as they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, they reported the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the believers. When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them. But some believers who belonged to the sect of the Pharisees stood up and said, “It is necessary for them to be circumcised and ordered to keep the law of Moses.”

The apostles and the elders met together to consider this matter. After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, “My brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that I should be the one through whom the Gentiles would hear the message of the good news and become believers. And God, who knows the human heart, testified to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us; and in cleansing their hearts by faith he has made no distinction between them and us. Now therefore why are you putting God to the test by placing on the neck of the disciples a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear? On the contrary, we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.”

SERMON

“Ever-Expanding Stories of Faith”

The Rev. Dr. Bush

HYMN #692 (*vs. 1, 3*)

“Spirit, Open My Heart”

WILD MOUNTAIN THYME

Refrain: **Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.**

As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving. Spirit, open my heart.

God, replace my stony heart with a heart that’s kind and tender.

All my coldness and fear to your grace I now surrender. (*Refrain*)

May I weep with those who weep, share the joy of sister, brother.

In the welcome of Christ, may we welcome one another. (*Refrain*)

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. Dr. Bush

OFFERING INVITATION

Rachelle Calfee

Wil Forrest

We offer our gifts in response to God's love, and the grace of Jesus Christ, which we seek to make known through the ministries of this congregation. Please visit www.ELPC.church/donate if you would like to make a contribution.

HYMN #769 (vs. 1, 4, 5)

"For Everyone Born"

FOR EVERYONE BORN

For everyone born, a place at the table, for everyone born, clean water and bread,
A shelter, a space, a safe place for growing, for everyone born, a star overhead.

Refrain: And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
Yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!

For just and unjust, a place at the table, abuser, abused, with need to forgive,
In anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy, for just and unjust, a new way to live. (*Refrain*)

For everyone born, a place at the table, to live without fear, and simply to be,
To work, to speak out, to witness and worship, for everyone born, the right to be free. (*Refrain*)

BLESSING & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

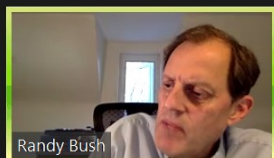
POSTLUDE

"Toccata Pontificale"

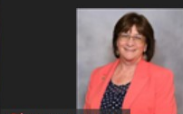
Dr. Moore, *organ*
Gordon Young



New Members and Friends Received at Session Meeting on June 16, 2020



Randy Bush



Pam Walaski

timothyvanfleet



Keith Beach

Mark DeWitt



Wil Forrest (he/hi...)



Beverly Harris-Sc...



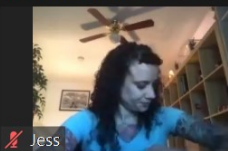
Patrice Ashbaugh



Steve Evrard

Tom Morton (h...

Heather Schoen...



Jess



Larry & Linda Sw...



Patrice Fowler-Se...



Elia and Patrick

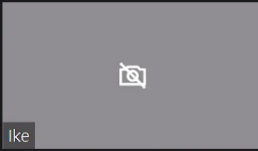


Debbie Hurrell

Jan Irvin



Paul Miller



Ike



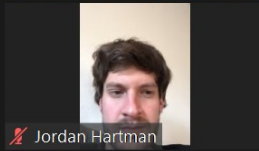
ismith



Max Bauer



Paul



Jordan Hartman



iPad (3)

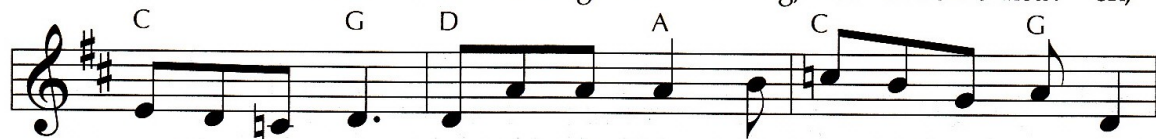


Long, Meridith T.

HERE IN THIS PLACE (vs. 1, 2, 4)



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

The "you/your" mentioned in every stanza is never identified, but this 1979 hymn is clearly a corporate prayer to God on behalf of the diverse congregation who have assembled for worship, longing to be transformed and used as God's witnesses and for God's purposes.

SPRIT, OPEN MY HEART (vs. 1, 3)

Capo 3: (D) (G) (D) (G) (A7)
F B \flat F B \flat C7

Refrain

Spir - it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of

(Bm) (D/A) (G) (A7) (Bm) (D/A) (Em)
Dm F/C B \flat C7 Dm F/C Gm

liv - ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing

(D) (G) (Em7) (D) (G) (D)
F B \flat Gm7 F B \flat F *Fine*

and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart.

(D) (G) (D) (G)
F B \flat F B \flat

1 God, re - place my ston - y heart with a heart that's
2 Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my
3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of

(A7) (Bm) (D/A) (G) (A7)
C7 Dm F/C B \flat C7

kind and ten - der. All my cold - ness and
goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, and
sis - ter, broth - er. In the wel - come of

(Bm) (Em7) (D) (G2) (G)
Dm Gm7 F B \flat 2 B \flat *to Refrain*

fear to your grace I now sur - ren - der.
deed, may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry.
Christ, may we wel - come one an - oth - er.

The pace and diversity of modern life often hinder us from remaining vulnerable to our emotions and to the humanness of other people. This prayerful text to be open to such joys and pains draws on Ezekiel 11:19 and 36:26 in stanza one and echoes Jeremiah 31:33 in stanza two.

TEXT: Ruth Duck, 1994

MUSIC: Irish melody; arr. Alfred V. Fedak, 2011

Text © 1996 The Pilgrim Press

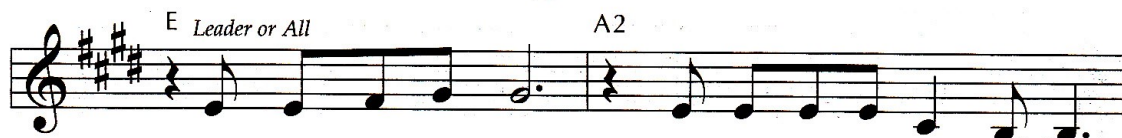
Music Harm. © 2011 Alfred V. Fedak

WILD MOUNTAIN THYME

Irregular

CCLI #689547

FOR EVERYONE BORN (vs. 1, 4, 5)



1 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,
 2 For wom - an and man, a place at the ta - ble,
 3 For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble,
 4 For just and un - just, a place at the ta - ble,
 5 For ev - ery - one born, a place at the ta - ble,



for ev - ery - one born, clean wa - ter and bread,
 re - vis - ing the roles, de - cid - ing the share,
 a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
 a - bus - er, a - bus - ed, with need to for - give,
 to live with - out fear, and sim - ply to be,



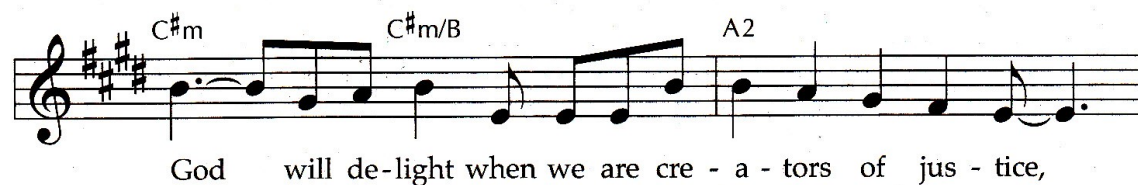
a shel - ter, a space, a safe place for grow - ing,
 with wis - dom and grace, di - vid - ing the pow - er,
 the hands of a child in hands that are wrin - kled,
 in an - ger, in hurt, a mind - set of mer - cy,
 to work, to speak out, to wit - ness and wor - ship,



for ev - ery - one born, a star o - ver - head,
 for wom - an and man, a sys - tem that's fair,
 for young and for old, the right to be - long,
 for just and un - just, a new way to live,
 for ev - ery - one born, the right to be free,

This hymn from a noted New Zealand hymnwriter affirms that God's hospitality transcends the barriers erected by human society and that we who have been created in God's image are called to live in ways that reflect our Creator's values: justice and joy, compassion and peace.

Refrain



CHURCH LIFE CONTINUES

Please join us by
**Livestream
& Zoom**
for these events

More information
is available at
www.ELPC.church

Worship Services

Sundays ▪ 8:45 am

Journey Worship Service

Livestream ▪ YouTube ▪ zoom.us/join
meeting ID 188 135 194

Sundays ▪ 11 am

Sanctuary Worship Service

Livestream ▪ YouTube ▪ Facebook

Wednesdays ▪ 7 pm

Taižé Prayer Service

Archived Livestream ▪ www.ELPC.church

Prayer Times

Mondays ▪ 12-12:15 pm

Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

Watch Online ▪ zoom.us/join
meeting ID 133 652 461

Tuesdays and Fridays ▪ 8-8:15 am

Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush

Watch Online ▪ zoom.us/join
meeting ID 293 707 645

Thursdays ▪ 12-12:15 pm

Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

Watch Online ▪ zoom.us/join
meeting ID 133 652 461

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preaching:	The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush
Liturgists:	The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf Rachelle Calfee Wil Forrest Lenore Williams
Musicians:	Dr. Edward Alan Moore <i>Organist/Music Director</i> Carly Noel Black, <i>Cantor/Soloist</i>
A/V:	Tim Benedict Wayne Gaines

As part of ELPC's mission to extend radical hospitality to all, our full worship service is now being livestreamed on:

Facebook

www.facebook.com/EastLibertyPresbyterian

YouTube

<http://tiny.cc/elpc-youtube>

and **archived** at **www.ELPC.church**

If you would like to make a contribution, visit:
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