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)

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AUGUST 2, 2020 — 11 AM LIVESTREAM WORSHIP

Prelude

“Every Praise”
Hezekiah Walker

“Draw Us In the Spirit’s Tether”
Harold Friedell

Opening Words

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 (responsive reading)

The Rev. Dr. Bush

Leader: God meets us in our greatest need;
People: And satisfies us with divine presence and provision.
Leader: God is with us, even in places of isolation or when we find ourselves in spiritual deserts.
People: Loaves are broken, and wine is poured out before us, so that we are provided with what we truly need.
Leader: God meets us, Christ feeds us, and the Spirit sustains us. Let us unite our hearts as we worship our Triune God together.

* Hymn #396 (vs. 1, 2, 4)

Brethren, we have met to worship and adore the Lord our God.
Will you pray with all your power while we try to preach the word?
All is vain unless the Spirit of the holy One comes down.
Brethren, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.

Sisters, will you come and help us? Moses’ sister aided him.
Will you help the trembling mourners who are struggling hard with sin?
Tell them all about the Savior. Tell them that he will be found.
Sisters, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.

Let us love our God supremely; let us love each other, too.
Let us love and pray for sinners till our God makes all things new.
Christ will call us home to heaven; at his table we’ll sit down.
Christ will gird himself and serve us with sweet manna all around.

Call to Confession

The Rev. Dr. Bush

* Indicates where to please rise in spirit.
PRAYER OF CONFESSION & INTERCESSION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS

Leader: 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 HYMN #698 (sing 2x) TAKE ME AS I AM

“Take, O Take Me As I Am”

Take, O take me as I am;
Summon out what I shall be;
Set your seal upon my heart and live in me.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Psalm 130 Melia Chandler

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications! If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem. It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

Psalm 131 Paige McKenzie

O Lord, my heart is not lifted up, my eyes are not raised too high; I do not occupy myself with things too great and too marvelous for me. But I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with its mother; my soul is like the weaned child that is with me.

O Israel, hope in the Lord from this time on and forevermore.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

TIME FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

HYMN #312 ENDLESS FEAST

“Take Us As We Are, O God”

Take us as we are, O God, and claim us as your own.
As once you chose to tell your love in human flesh and bone,
So let our lives be used to make your saving purpose known.

Bless us for your service, Lord; no power we devise
Will ever give us strength enough or make us truly wise,
Yet by your promise we can know the peace your grace supplies.

Break us open to disclose how brokenness can heal,
Wherever broken loaves suffice to give a crowd a meal
And graves break open to release new life from death’s dread seal.

Give us to the world you love as light and salt and yeast,
That we may nourish in your name the last, the lost, the least,
Until at length you call us all to your unending feast.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Dr. Bush
Gospel Lesson

Matthew 14:13-21
The Rev. Dr. Bush

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” Jesus said to them, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” They replied, “We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.” And he said, “Bring them here to me.” Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Sermon

“The Unrelenting Crowd”
The Rev. Dr. Bush

Solo

“The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power”
Adrianna Cleveland, soloist
Andraé Crouch

— The Lord’s Supper —

Invitation to the Lord’s Supper
The Rev. Schoenewolf

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving
The Rev. Dr. Bush

Words of Institution
The Rev. Schoenewolf

Sharing the Bread & Cup
The Rev. Dr. Bush and The Rev. Schoenewolf

Prayer after Communion
Dr. Moore

Loving and generous God, you provide for us and even bless us in more ways that we can number. We thank you once more for the meal of bread and juice, made sacred and set apart by your grace. May it nurture in us the desire to share your good news with others and to live as your disciples of mercy and justice. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

Offering Invitation
The Rev. Dr. Bush

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 #702

“Christ Be Beside Me”

Christ be beside me; Christ be before me; Christ be behind me, King of my heart.
Christ be within me; Christ be below me; Christ be above me, never to part.
Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand, Christ all around me, shield in the strife.
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting, Christ in my rising, Light of my life.
Christ be in all hearts thinking about me; Christ be on all tongues telling of me.
Christ be the vision in eyes that see me; in ears that hear me Christ ever be.

Blessing & Benediction
The Rev. Dr. Bush

Postlude

“The National City Fanfare”
Dr. Moore, organ
Aaron David Miller
1 Brethren, we have met to worship and adore the Lord our God.
2 Sisters, will you come and help us? Moses' sister aided him.
3 Is there here a trembling jailer, seeking grace and filled with fears?
4 Let us love our God supremely; let us love each other, too.

Will you pray with all your power while we try to preach the word?
Will you help the trembling mourners who are struggling hard with sin?
Is there here a weeping Mary pouring forth a flood of tears?
Let us love and pray for sinners till our God makes all things new.

All is vain unless the Spirit of the holy One comes down.
Tell them all about the Savior. Tell them that he will be found.
Brethren, join your cries to help them; sisters, let your prayers abound!
Christ will call us home to heaven; at his table we'll sit down.

Brethren, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.
Sisters, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.
Pray, O pray, that holy manna will be scattered all around.
Christ will gird him self and serve us with sweet manna all around.

This hymn comes out of the early 19th-century southern camp meeting experience, where believers were invited to pray for new converts, often likened to biblical characters such as Paul's jailer (Philippians 1:12-13). As its name shows, the five-note tune was created for this text.
TAKE, O TAKE ME AS I AM (sing 2x)

Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be; set your seal upon my heart and live in me.

The brevity of this text and tune invite repeated singing, either as a sustained chain of sound or as a sung response in a series of prayers. It offers a more reflective approach to the same theme of self-dedication evident in older hymns such as “Just as I Am” (see no. 442).

TEXT and MUSIC: John L. Bell, 1995
Text and Music © 1995 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. CIA Publications, Inc.)

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TAKE US AS WE ARE, O GOD

Capo 3: (D) (G) (D) (G) (D) (A)

1. Take us as we are, O God, and claim us as your own. As
   Bless us for your service, Lord; no power we devise will
   Break us open to disclose how brokenness can heal, where-
2. Give us to the world you love as light and salt and yeast, that
   once you chose to tell your love in human flesh and bone, so
   ever give us strength enough or make us truly wise, yet
   ever broken loaves suffice to give a crowd a meal and
3. we may nourish in your name the last, the lost, the least, un-
   let our lives be used to make your saving purpose known.
   by your promise we can know the peace your grace supplies.
   graves break open to release new life from death's dread seal.
   til at length you call us all to your unending feast.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This Lord's Supper text is organized around the fourfold liturgical shape traced by Dom Gregory Dix in The Shape of the Liturgy: take, bless, break, give. It considers how the phrase "Body of Christ," used for sacramental bread, can also be applied to the baptized people of God.
CHRIST BE BESIDE ME

1 Christ be beside me; Christ be before me; Christ be behind me, King of my heart. Christ be within me; Christ be round me, shield in the strife. Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my all tongues telling of me. Christ be the vision in eyes that low me; Christ be above me, never to part. sitting, Christ in my rising, Light of my life. see me; in ears that hear me Christ ever be.

This text adapts part of a traditional Irish prayer associated with St. Patrick (see also no. 6). Such a prayer for protection is known as a *lorica*, from a Latin word for “breastplate” or “armor.” It is set to a Gaelic melody that gained wide popularity in the 1970s.

TEXT: James Quinn, SJ, 1969
MUSIC: Gaelic melody; arr. Dale Grotenhuis, 1985
Music Arr. © 1987 Faith Alive Christian Resources
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Worship Services

Journey Worship Service
Returns September 13 at 8:45 am

Sundays • 11 am
Sanctuary Worship Service
Livestream • YouTube • Facebook

Wednesdays • 7 pm
Taize Prayer Service
Archived Livestream • www.ELPC.church

Prayer Times

Pastors Randy, Heather, and Patrice are offering brief Prayer Services with scripture readings, responsive prayer, and interactive dialogue.

Tuesdays • 8-8:15 am
Watch Online • zoom.us/join
meeting ID 293 707 645

Thursdays • 12-12:15 pm
Watch Online • zoom.us/join
meeting ID 133 652 461

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: www.ELPC.church/donate

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY’S SERVICE

Preaching: The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush
Liturgists: The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
Melia Chandler
Paige McKenzie
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore
Organist/Music Director
Michael Warren
Journey Music Director
Adrianna Cleveland, Cantor/Soloist
A/V: Tim Benedict
Wayne Gaines