



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)

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 9, 2020 — 11 AM LIVESTREAM WORSHIP

PRELUDE

“Oh Give Thanks”

Michael Warren, *vocals*

Judith McAllister

Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*

“Prelude on *Beach Spring*”

arr. Janet Linker

ACOLYTE PROCESSION

OPENING WORDS

The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Presbyterian Women Bible Study

SHARING GOD’S PEACE

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

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: Psalm 78*)

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

Leader: Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

People: **We will tell of your glorious deeds, O Lord, and the wonders that you have done.**

Leader: Tell your children and your children’s children that they should set their hope in God.

People: **And not forget all your works, O God, but keep your commandments.**

Leader: Come, let us worship God in the beauty of holiness!

* HYMN #39

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

FAITHFULNESS

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with thee.

Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not. As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain: Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning, new mercies I see.

All I have needed thy hand hath provided.

Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above

Join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

(Refrain)

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,

Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow: blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

(Refrain)

* Indicates where to please rise in spirit.

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. BJ Woodworth

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Rev. Woodworth

O God, have mercy upon us as we confess our sin. Christ calls us stewards, but we squander your gifts. He gives us tasks of mercy, justice, and peace to perform, yet we often do as we please. Christ sends us to minister on behalf of those who suffer, are disenfranchised, imprisoned, and without; yet we are slow to respond until our own needs and wants are met. He calls us to praise and glorify you in all that we do; we are more apt to take credit for the things that we do well. Forgive us and help us to be caring, self-deferential, and obedient to you, O God.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

The Rev. Woodworth

Leader: Siblings in Christ, Paul reminds us: "Since we belong to the day, let us be sober and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom lies our assurance of pardon. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

People: **En Jesucristo tenemos perdón!**
¡Aleluya y alaben a Dios!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Hallelujah and praise God!

HYMN #716

"God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"

BEACH SPRING

God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door:
Gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise;
Thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.

Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
All at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the church made one.
Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone.
Born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne.

Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through powers your grace conferred:
Ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel word.
Open wide our hands in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call,
Healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving you by loving all.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 123

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens! As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the Lord our God, until he has mercy upon us.

Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us, for we have had more than enough of contempt. Our soul has had more than its fill of the scorn of those who are at ease, of the contempt of the proud.

TIME FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

The Rev. Schoenewolf

SOLO

"Simple Gifts"

Todd Farwell, *soloist*
Aaron Copland

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

GOSPEL SCRIPTURE LESSON

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

Matthew 25:14-30

For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

SERMON

"Sound Investments"

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush

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 #754

"Help Us Accept Each Other"

BARONITA

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
Teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe
We are ourselves accepted, and meant to love and live.

Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life
We struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,
To love them as we find them, or as they may become.

Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
In living situations to do the truth in love;
To practice your acceptance until we know by heart
The table of forgiveness, and laughter's healing art.

Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
Who hunger for acceptance, for justice and for bread,
We need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on:
Renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us; make us one!

BLESSING & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

POSTLUDE

"Sing Out Earth and Skies"

Dr. Moore, *organ*
Mary Beth Bennett

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

1 *Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther;
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,

there is no shad - ow of turn - ing with thee.
 sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove
 thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide,

Thou chang - est not; thy com - pas - sions they fail not.
 join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
 strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row:

As thou hast been thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

**Or "Great is thy faithfulness, O God, Creator."*

Written as a meditation on Lamentations 3:22-23, this text is one of the few hymns among the 1200 poems by this Methodist writer and pastor that has gained much currency. The tune that appears here was composed especially for these words, and the pairing has proved enduring.

TEXT: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923

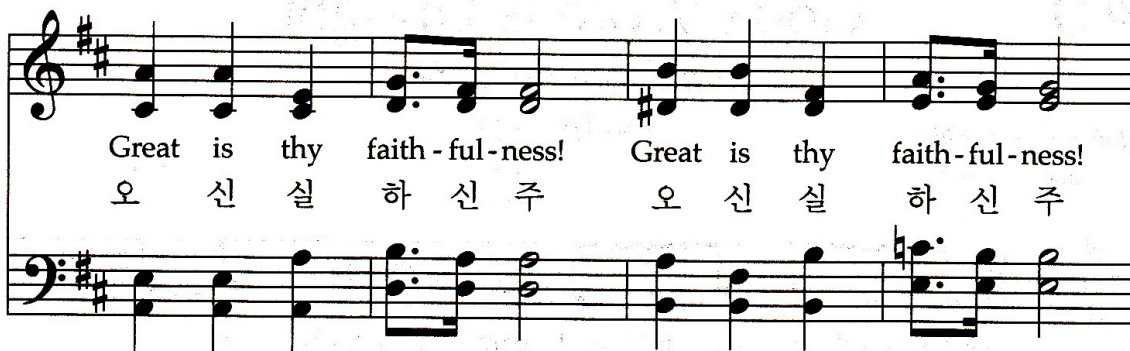
MUSIC: William Marion Runyan, 1923

Text and Music © 1923, ren. 1951 Hope Publishing Company

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FAITHFULNESS
 11.10.11.10 with refrain

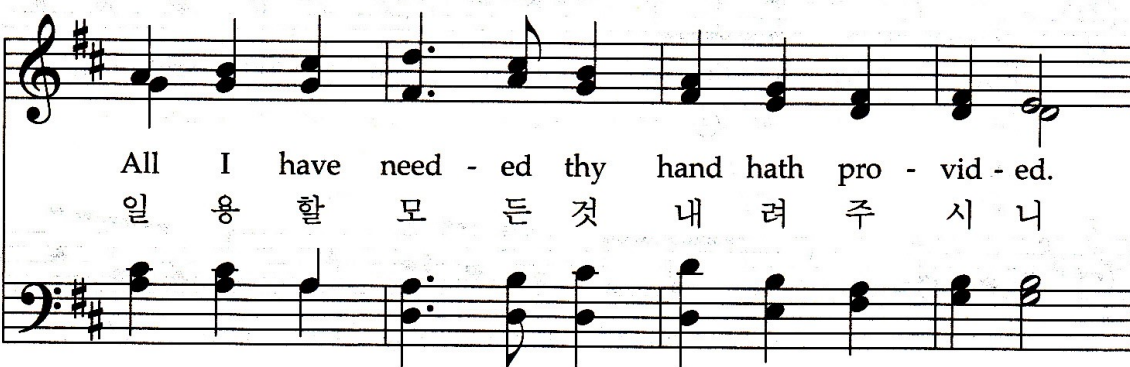
Refrain



Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness!
오 신 실 하 신 주 오 신 실 하 신 주



Morn - ing by morn - ing, new mer - cies I see.
날 마 다 자 비 를 베푸 시 며



All I have need - ed thy hand hath pro - vid - ed.
일 용 할 모 든 것 내 려 주 시 니



Great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord un - to me!
오 신 실 하 신 주 나 의 구 주

GOD, WHOSE GIVING KNOWS NO ENDING



1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and
 2 Skills and time are ours for press - ing toward the goals of
 3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through powers your



end - less store, na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly
 Christ, your Son: all at peace in health and free - dom, rac - es
 grace con - ferred: ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to



cross, grave's shat - tered door: gift - ed by you, we turn
 joined, the church made one. Now di - rect our dai - ly
 spread the gos - pel word. O - pen wide our hands in



to you, of - fer - ing up our - selves in praise; thank - ful song shall
 la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone. Born with tal - ents,
 shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age - less call, heal - ing, teach - ing,



rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.
 make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.
 and re - claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This text on stewardship was one of about 450 submissions in a search for such hymns conducted by the Hymn Society of America in 1961. These words are well grounded by their musical setting, an early American shape note tune named for a Baptist church in Harris County, Georgia.

TEXT: Robert L. Edwards, 1961, alt.

MUSIC: *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; harm. James H. Wood, 1958

Text © 1961, ren. 1989 *The Hymn Society* (admin. Hope Publishing Company)

Music Harm. © 1958, ren. 1986 Broadman Press (admin. Music Services)

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BEACH SPRING

8.7.8.7.D

HELP US ACCEPT EACH OTHER

G Em Am7 B7 C



1 Help us ac - cept each oth - er as Christ ac - cept-ed us;
 2 Teach us, O Lord, your les - sons, as in our dai - ly life
 3 Let your ac - cep - tance change us, so that we may be moved
 4 Lord, for to - day's en - coun - ters with all who are in need,

C G A A7 D



teach us as sis - ter, broth - er, each per - son to em - brace.
 we strug - gle to be hu - man and search for hope and faith.
 in liv - ing sit - u - a - tions to do the truth in love;
 who hun - ger for ac - cep - tance, for jus - tice and for bread,

G Em Am7 B7 C



Be pres - ent, Lord, a - mong us and bring us to be - lieve
 Teach us to care for peo - ple, for all, not just for some,
 to prac - tice your ac - cep - tance un - til we know by heart
 we need new eyes for see - ing, new hands for hold - ing on:

C G Em D7 G



we are our - selves ac - cept - ed, and meant to love and live.
 to love them as we find them, or as they may be - come.
 the ta - ble of for - give - ness, and laugh - ter's heal - ing art.
 re - new us with your Spir - it; Lord, free us; make us one!

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

The scriptural basis of this text is Romans 15:7, recast as a prayer in the opening two lines of the first stanza. The many implications of living as people who have been accepted by Christ fill the remaining stanzas. This tune was composed for the first publication of this text.

TEXT: Fred Kaan, 1974

MUSIC: Doreen Potter, 1974

Text and Music © 1975 Hope Publishing Company

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BARONITA

7.6.7.6.D

CHURCH LIFE CONTINUES

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

More information
is available at
www.ELPC.church

Worship Services

Journey Worship Service

Returns September 13 at 8:45 am

Sundays ▪ 11 am

Sanctuary Worship Service

Livestream ▪ YouTube ▪ Facebook

Wednesdays ▪ 7 pm

Taižé 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**

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preaching:	The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
Liturgists:	The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf The Rev. BJ Woodworth
Musicians:	Dr. Edward Alan Moore <i>Organist/ Music Director</i> Michael Warren <i>Journey Music Director</i> Todd Farwell, <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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