



11am Livestream  
**Worship**



Sunday  
**September 20**  
2020

 **East Liberty  
Presbyterian Church**  
[www.ELPC.church](http://www.ELPC.church)



# EAST LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

116 South Highland Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15206 412.441.3800 [www.ELPC.church](http://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)*

## 16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SEPTEMBER 20, 2020 — 11 AM LIVESTREAM WORSHIP

### PRELUDE

“Rhosymedre”

Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*  
Ralph Vaughan Williams

### OPENING WORDS

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush

### SHARING GOD’S PEACE

The Rev. Dr. Bush

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 is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

People: **Whether we embrace God’s call in our lives or try to avoid it, God is ever gracious.**

Leader: Whether we are long-timers or latecomers to the life of faith, God is ever gracious.

People: **Whether our lives in Christ are comfortable or marked by hardships, God is ever gracious.**

Leader: Come, let us join together in worshiping, praising, and renewing our trust in our gracious God!

### ACOLYTE PROCESSION VIDEO

Nathaniel and Ellie Willson

### \* HYMN #619 *(vs. 1, 2, 3)*

“Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven”

LAUDA ANIMA

Praise, my soul, the God of heaven; glad of heart your carols raise;

Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, who, like me, should sing God’s praise?

Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the Maker all your days!

Praise God for the grace and favor shown our forebears in distress;

God is still the same forever, slow to chide, and swift to bless.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Sing our Maker’s faithfulness!

Like a loving parent caring, God knows well our feeble frame,

Gladly all our burdens bearing, still to countless years the same.

Alleluia! Alleluia! All within me, praise God’s name!

### WELCOME TO DEACONS

The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

### CALL TO CONFESSION

Jan Irvin

Leader: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But when we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Let us join together in our shared prayer of confession. Let us pray:

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Jan Irvin

For failing to love others as you have loved us,  
God of grace, forgive us.  
For wasting your gifts and hoarding our goods,  
God of grace, forgive us.  
For plundering the earth and abusing the planet,  
God of grace, forgive us.  
For fearing those who are strange to us and ignoring those in need,  
God of grace, forgive us.  
For putting our needs first and denigrating your goodness shown to others,  
God of grace, forgive us.  
These prayers and the confessions of our heart we offer in the name of the One who saves us,  
Jesus Christ. Amen.

**ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS**

Jan Irvin

Leader: Hear the good news! Our righteousness is found in Christ alone, a gift of God by faith. Friends,  
believe the good news of the gospel:

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

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

**HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON**

Jonah 3:10-4:11

Debbie Brake and Charlotte Brake-Hoffman

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." Then the Lord said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

**TIME FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES**

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

**SOLO**

"The Call"

David Jennings-Smith, *soloist*  
Ralph Vaughan Williams**VIDEO**

"Amadeus"

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

The Rev. Dr. Bush



**GOSPEL LESSON**

Matthew 20:1-16

The Rev. Dr. Bush

For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last.

**SERMON**

"Beloved by God"

The Rev. Dr. Bush

**HYMN #36**

"For the Fruit of All Creation"

AR HYD Y NOS

**For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God. For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.**

**For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,**

**Future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.**

**In the just reward of labor, God's will be done. In the help we give our neighbor, God's will be done.**

**In our worldwide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,**

**In the harvests we are sharing, God's will be done.**

**For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God. For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.**

**For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us,**

**Most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.**

**PRAYER OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

The Rev. Dr. 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](http://www.ELPC.church/donate) if you would like to make a contribution.*

**HYMN #724 (vs. 1 and 3)**

"O Jesus, I Have Promised"

ANGEL'S STORY

**O Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end;**

**Be thou forever near me, my Master and my friend;**

**I shall not fear the battle if thou art by my side,**

**Nor wander from the pathway if thou wilt be my guide.**

**O let me hear thee speaking in accents clear and still,**

**Above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will;**

**O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;**

**O speak, and make me listen, thou guardian of my soul.**

**BLESSING & BENEDICTION**

The Rev. Dr. Bush

**POSTLUDE**

"Fanfare &amp; Processional"

Dr. Moore, *organ*  
Ryan Croyle

# PRAISE, MY SOUL, THE GOD OF HEAVEN (vs. 1, 2, 3)

1 Praise, my soul, the God of heav - en; glad of heart your  
 2 Praise God for the grace and fa - vor shown our fore - bears  
 3 Like a lov - ing par - ent car - ing, God knows well our  
 4 An - gels, teach us ad - o - ra - tion; you be - hold God

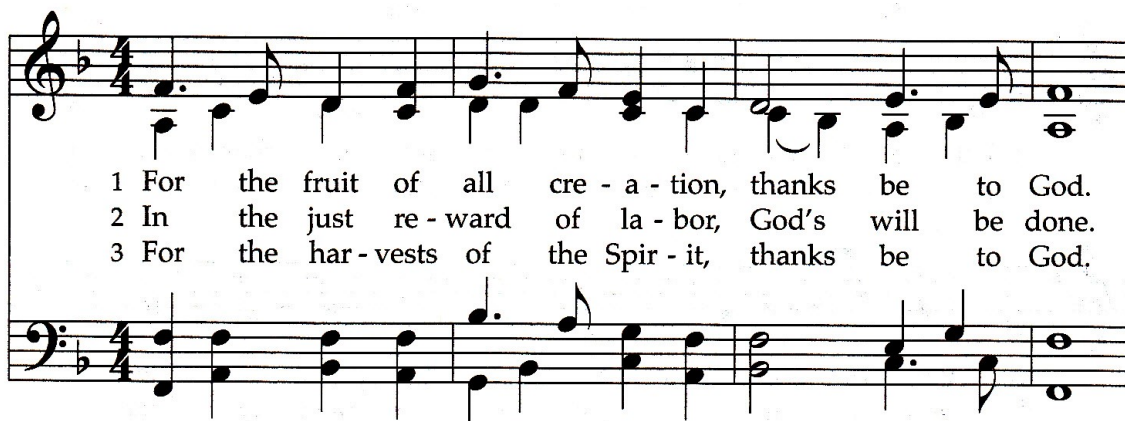
car - ols raise; ran - sored, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,  
 in dis - tress; God is still the same for - ev - er,  
 fee - ble frame, glad - ly all our bur - dens bear - ing,  
 face to face. Sun and moon and all cre - a - tion,

who, like ' me, should sing God's praise? Al - le - lu - ia!  
 slow to chide, and swift to bless. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 still to count - less years the same. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 dwell - ers all in time and space: Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the Mak - er all your days!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing our Mak - er's faith - ful - ness!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! All with - in me, praise God's name!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace!

This adaptation of an older paraphrase of Psalm 103 (see no. 620) is informed by an awareness that much of the received language of religious traditions enshrines social values that obscure the goodness of God, which far transcends all our labels and categories and hierarchies.

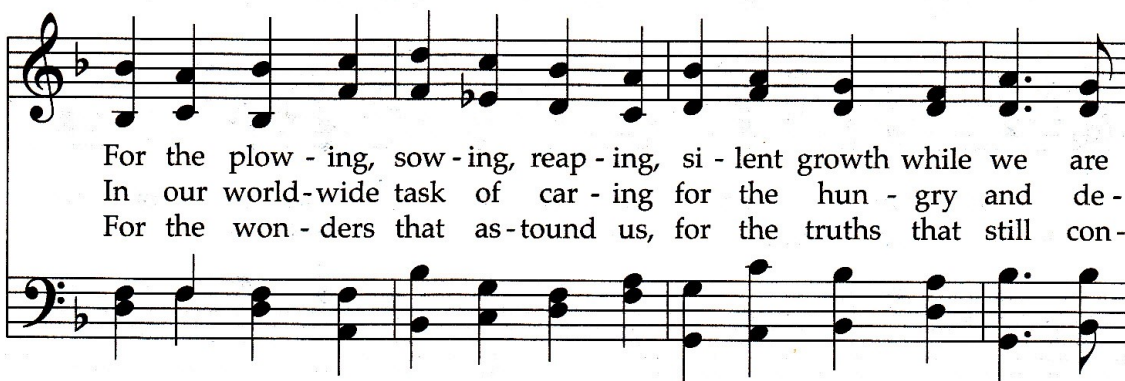
## FOR THE FRUIT OF ALL CREATION



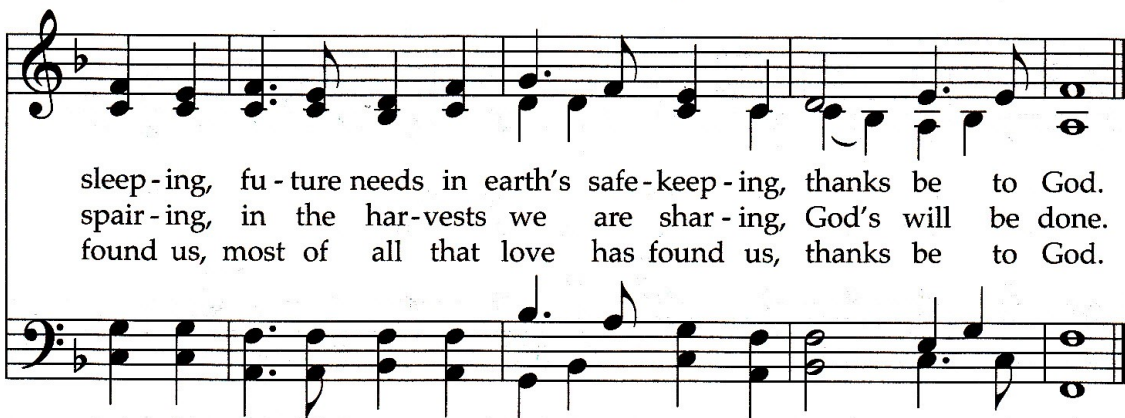
1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.  
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will be done.  
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God,



For the gifts to ev - ery na - tion, thanks be to God.  
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will be done.  
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are  
 In our world-wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de -  
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con -



sleep - ing, fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.  
 spair - ing, in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will be done.  
 found us, most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Originally called "Harvest Hymn," this text is much more comprehensive than that title implies. It also deals with stewardship, thanksgiving, and God's endless gifts that continue to astound us. It is set to a familiar Welsh tune whose name means "throughout the night."

## O JESUS, I HAVE PROMISED *(vs. 1 and 3 only)*

1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve thee to the end;  
2 O let me feel thee near me! The world is ev - er near:  
3 O let me hear thee speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still,  
4 O Je - sus, thou hast prom - ised to all who fol - low thee

be thou for - ev - er near me, my Mas - ter and my friend;  
I see the sights that daz - zle; the tempt - ing sounds I hear.  
a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will;  
that where thou art in glo - ry there shall thy ser - vant be.

I shall not fear the bat - tle if thou art by my side,  
My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;  
O speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;  
And, Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve thee to the end;

nor wan - der from the path - way if thou wilt be my guide.  
but, Je - sus, draw thou near - er and shield my soul from sin.  
O speak, and make me lis - ten, thou guard - ian of my soul.  
O give me grace to fol - low, my Mas - ter and my friend.

Written to highlight the promises made by the author's daughter and two sons at their confirmation, this text equally well recalls the promises of discipleship made in Baptism and in the Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant. The tune was written for a text now unused.

# CHURCH LIFE CONTINUES

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

More information  
is available at  
**[www.ELPC.church](http://www.ELPC.church)**

## Worship Services

**Sundays ▪ 8:45 am**

*Journey Worship Service*

**Livestream ▪ YouTube ▪ [zoom.us/join](https://zoom.us/join)**  
meeting ID 188 135 194

**Sundays ▪ 11 am**

*Sanctuary Worship Service*

**Livestream ▪ YouTube ▪ Facebook**

**Wednesdays ▪ 7 pm**

*Taizé Prayer Service*

**Archived Livestream ▪ [www.ELPC.church](http://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](https://zoom.us/join)**

**Call to join ▪ 929.205.6099**

meeting ID 293 707 645

**Thursdays ▪ 12-12:15 pm**

**Watch Online ▪ [zoom.us/join](https://zoom.us/join)**

**Call to join ▪ 929.205.6099**

## PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preaching: The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush  
Liturgists: The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy  
The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf  
Debbie Brake  
Charlotte Brake-Hoffman  
Jan Irvin  
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore,  
*Organist/Music Director*  
David Jennings-Smith, *Cantor/Soloist*  
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](https://www.facebook.com/EastLibertyPresbyterian)

### YouTube

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

and archived at **[www.ELPC.church](http://www.ELPC.church)**

---

If you would like to make a contribution, visit:  
**[www.ELPC.church/donate](http://www.ELPC.church/donate)**