

11am Livestream

# Worship

Sunday

September 27, 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)*

## 17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SEPTEMBER 27, 2020 — 11 AM LIVESTREAM WORSHIP

### PRELUDE

“Liebster Jesu, Wir Sind Hier, BWV 731”  
(Blessed Jesus, at Your Word)

Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*  
Johann Sebastian Bach

### OPENING WORDS

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

### SHARING GOD’S PEACE

Kathryn Ophardt

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)*

Kathryn Ophardt

Leader: May the peace of God rest upon our busy lives so that we may be quieted into prayer.

People: **May the love of God flow through our worship words that they may be alive with opportunities for service.**

Leader: May the grace of God seek out our every need, and may the restless gospel set our hearts afire.

People: **May we follow where God leads us, in humility and trust, knowing that God is with us always.**

Leader: Let us worship God.

### ACOLYTE PROCESSION VIDEO

Luca, Blue and Rye Leisher

### \* HYMN #53 *(vs. 1 and 2)*

“O God, Who Gives Us Life”

NOEL

O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,  
Who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:  
Deliver us from fears that kill the life we have from you.  
Help us to know your Spirit still is making all things new.

O God, who calls your people out to venture and to dare,  
To plumb the bleak abyss of doubt and find you even there:  
When we despair in wandering through wastes of empty lies,  
Refresh us with the living spring of hope that never dies.

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION & INTERCESSION

The Rev. Patrice 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.

**SUNG RESPONSE HYMN #654**

IN THE LORD I'LL BE EVER THANKFUL

“In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful”

**In the Lord I'll be ever thankful; in the Lord I will rejoice! Look to God; do not be afraid.  
Lift up your voices; the Lord is near. Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.**

**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON**

Philippians 2:1-15

Beverly and Michael Harris-Schenz

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,  
but emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him

and gave him the name that is above every name,

so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

and every tongue should confess

that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Do all things without murmuring and arguing, so that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, in which you shine like stars in the world.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

**TIME FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES**

Sara Hackett

**DUET**

Todd Farwell and Denise Sheffey-Powell

“In Times Like These”

Ruth Caye Jones

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

The Rev. Schoenewolf

**HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON**

Exodus 17:1-7

The Rev. Schoenewolf

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?” But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” So Moses cried out to the Lord, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” The Lord said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

SERMON

“God Among Us”

The Rev. Schoenewolf

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

*Presentation:* Stephanie Creasy

*Profession of Faith*

*Act of Baptizing*

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

HYMN #475

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

NETTLETON

Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;  
Praise the mount! I’m fixed upon it, mount of God’s unchanging love!  
  
Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I’m come;  
And I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;  
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.  
  
O to grace how great a debtor daily I’m constrained to be!  
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;  
Here’s my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

BLESSING & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Schoenewolf

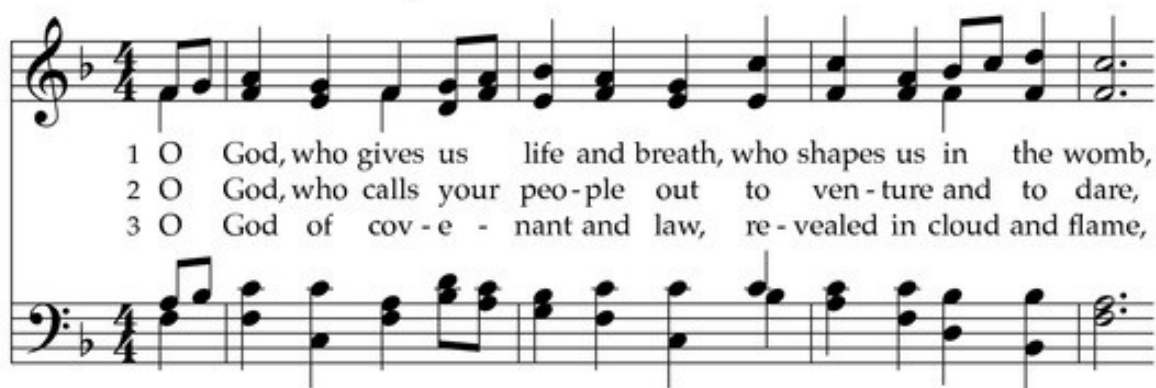
POSTLUDE

“Fanfare & Processional”

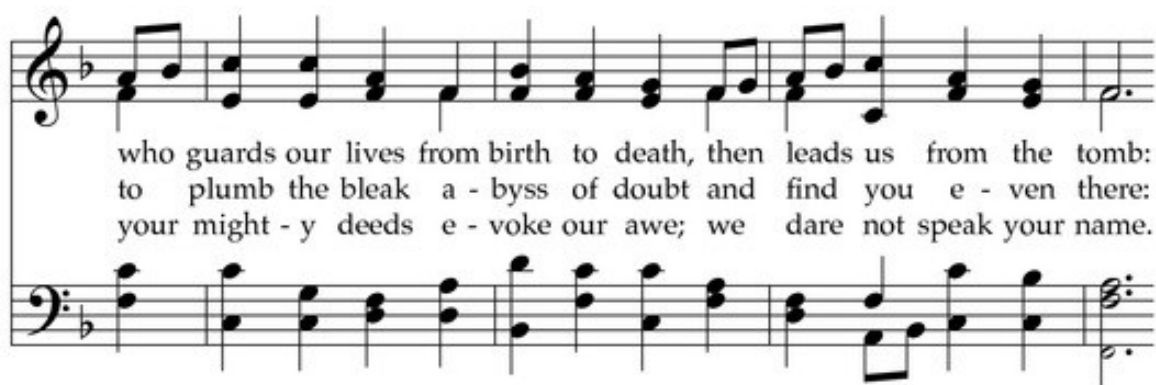
Dr. Moore, *organ*  
Ryan Croyle



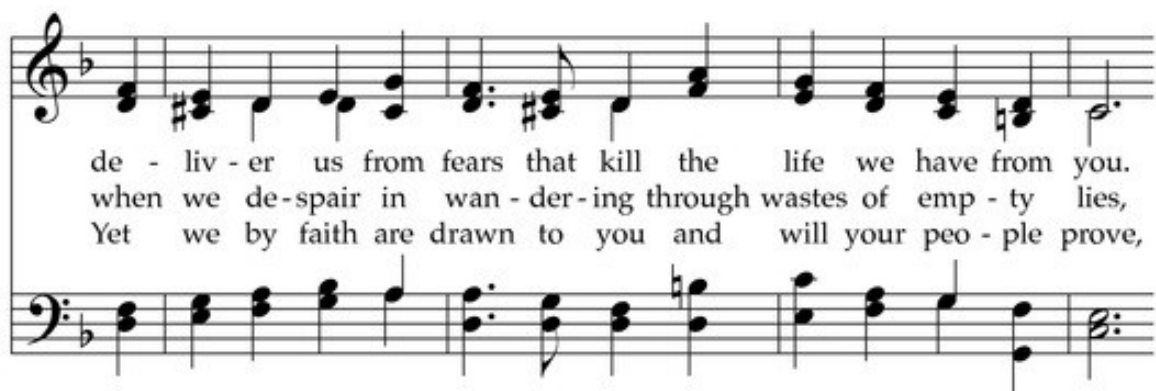
# O GOD, WHO GIVES US LIFE (vs. 1 and 2)



1 O God, who gives us life and breath, who shapes us in the womb,  
 2 O God, who calls your peo-ple out to ven-ture and to dare,  
 3 O God of cov-e - nant and law, re - vealed in cloud and flame,



who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:  
 to plumb the bleak a - byss of doubt and find you e - ven there:  
 your might - y deeds e - voke our awe; we dare not speak your name.



de - liv - er us from fears that kill the life we have from you.  
 when we de-spair in wan - der - ing through wastes of emp - ty lies,  
 Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your peo - ple prove,



Help us to know your Spir - it still is mak - ing all things new.  
 re - fresh us with the liv - ing spring of hope that nev - er dies.  
 as on our hearts you write a - new the cov - e - nant of love.

Christians often fail to appreciate how much we can learn about God from the Hebrew Scriptures. This text draws on a variety of passages that call attention to God's faithfulness toward the Chosen People and the promise of a new covenant written on the heart (Jeremiah 31:31-34).



# IN THE LORD I'LL BE EVER THANKFUL

In the Lord I'll be ev - er thank - ful; in the Lord I will re -

joice! Look to God; do not be a - fraid. Lift up your

voic - es; the Lord is near. Lift up your voic - es; the Lord is near.

This refrain from the ecumenical monastic community at Taizé, France, is meant for repeated singing. A wonderful quilt of psalm-like phrases, it would be appropriate at any time but the concluding emphasis on the nearness of the Lord makes it especially fitting for use in Advent.

TEXT: Taizé Community, 1986

MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1986

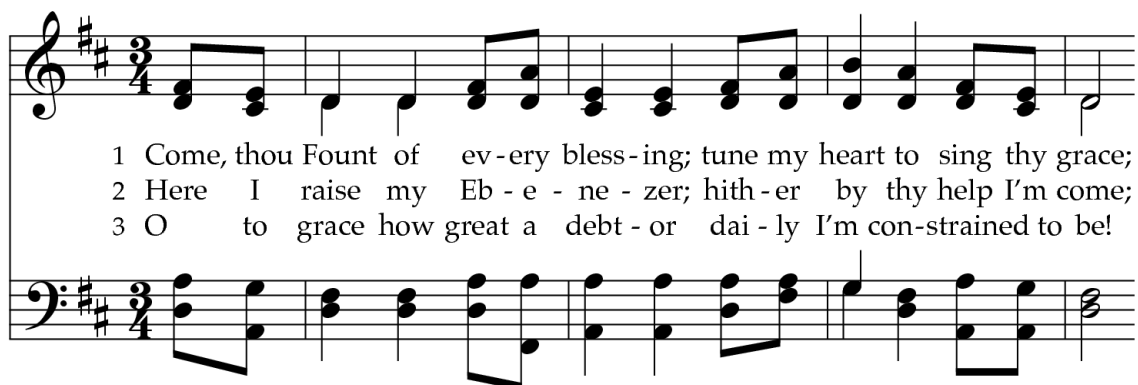
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IN THE LORD I'LL BE EVER THANKFUL

Irregular

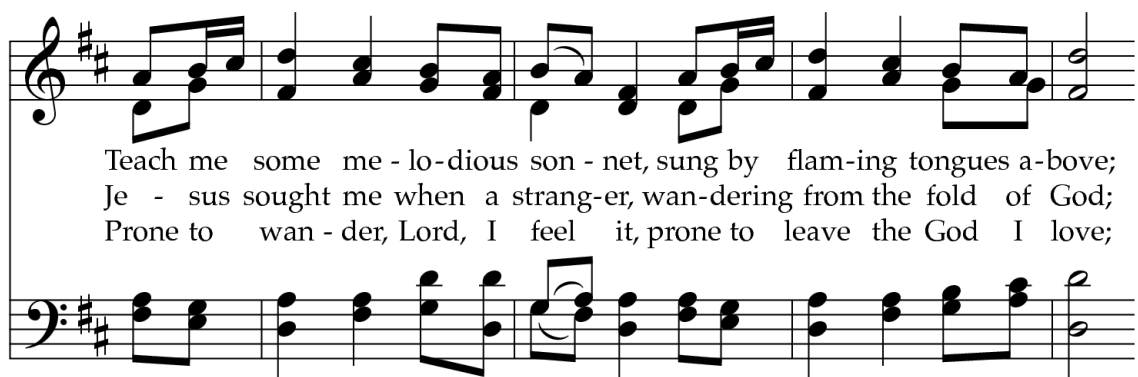
# COME, THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING



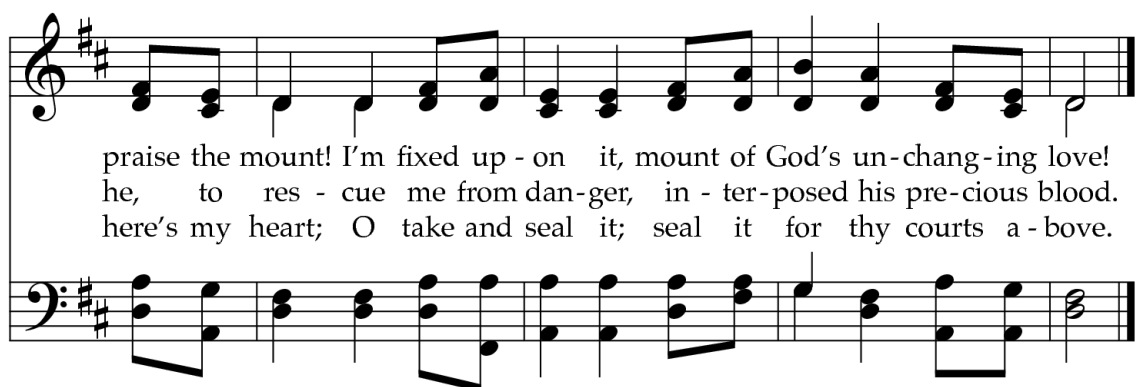
1 Come, thou Fount of ev-ery bless-ing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
2 Here I raise my Eb - e - ne - zer; hith - er by thy help I'm come;  
3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be!



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.  
and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.  
Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan - dering heart to thee.



Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove;  
Je - sus sought me when a stran - ger, wan - dering from the fold of God;  
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;



praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - chang - ing love!  
he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.  
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Written for Pentecost by a British Baptist pastor, this text is full of biblical terms like "Ebenezer" (1 Samuel 7:12), Hebrew for "a stone of help" set up to give thanks for God's assistance. The tune name honors hymnal compiler Asahel Nettleton, who probably did not compose it.

# 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. Heather Schoenewolf   |
| Liturgists:          | The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush<br>The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy<br>Sara Hackett<br>Beverly and Michael Harris-Schenz<br>Kathryn Ophardt |
| Musicians:           | Dr. Edward Alan Moore,<br><i>Organist/Music Director</i>   |
| Cantor/<br>Soloists: | Todd Farwell<br>Denise Sheffey-Powell  |
| A/V:                 | Tim Benedict<br>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)**

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**[www.ELPC.church/donate](http://www.ELPC.church/donate)**