

The background of the entire image is the interior of a Gothic church. It features high vaulted ceilings, large stained glass windows with colorful patterns, and intricate stone carvings. A wooden pulpit is visible on the left, and a choir loft is on the right. The foreground shows rows of wooden pews.

Thank you for worshiping with us today.

Please abide by these safety protocols:

- **Wear a mask at all times over your nose and mouth**
- **You can softly speak the responsive readings but refrain from singing**
- **Keep safe by social distancing while in the building**
- **You don't need to stand at any point in the service, but know that your presence is very meaningful to the worship leaders and your prayers for this service and our church family are always appreciated**

The logo is a white silhouette of a church building with a prominent steeple, positioned to the left of the church's name.

**East Liberty
Presbyterian Church**

www.ELPC.church



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)

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

NOVEMBER 8, 2020 — 11 AM LIVESTREAM WORSHIP

PRELUDE

“Fanfare and Processional”

Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*
Douglas E. Wagner

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*)

Adrianna Cleveland

Leader: People of God, listen: the Lord has done marvelous things.

People: **Let us tell about the glorious deeds of God – of God's wonders and generosity.**

Leader: Friends of Christ, listen: We are to love others as Christ first loved us.

People: **Let us resolve this day to follow this great commandment, led by Christ's grace.**

Leader: Family united by the Holy Spirit, listen: We give to others that all may be safe, nourished, and blessed.

People: **Let the spirit of stewardship shape all we do, and God be praised through our deeds and worship.**

ACOLYTE PROCESSION VIDEO

HYMN #36

“For the Fruit of All Creation”

AR HYDY 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.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Tiffany Sudar

Leader: Our hope is built on nothing less than Jesus and his righteousness. Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin that we might find forgiveness and new life in Christ. Let us pray.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Tiffany Sudar

Holy and gracious God, you are our strength and our delight; you give us all we need to live. Yet we are distracted by all that glitters, continually grasping for more. We let our lamps go out; we allow our wells of generosity to run dry. Forgive us, Lord, and turn us back to you. Overwhelm us with your goodness and cover us with grace, for we know that you are the source of abundant life. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Tiffany Sudar

Leader: Hear the good news: Nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

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

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

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 25:1-13

The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

SPECIAL MUSICKeith Irvin, *handbells* and Dr. Moore, *piano*

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness" arr. Christine Anderson/Daniel Kramlich

TIME FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

HYMN #350 (*vs. 1-3*)

"Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning"

KEEP YOUR LAMPS

**Keep your lamps trimmed and burning; keep your lamps trimmed and burning;
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, for the time is drawing nigh.**

Refrain: **Sisters, don't grow weary; brothers, don't grow weary;
Children, don't grow weary, for the time is drawing nigh.**

**It's our faith makes us happy; it's our faith makes us happy;
It's our faith makes us happy, for the time is drawing nigh. (*Refrain*)**

**We are climbing Jacob's ladder; we are climbing Jacob's ladder;
We are climbing Jacob's ladder, for the time is drawing nigh. (*Refrain*)**

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Joshua 24:1-3, 14-25

The Rev. Dr. Bush

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. I gave him Isaac.

Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of

continued on next page...

slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.”

But Joshua said to the people, “You cannot serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good.” And the people said to Joshua, “No, we will serve the Lord!” Then Joshua said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him.” And they said, “We are witnesses.” He said, “Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel.” The people said to Joshua, “The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey.” So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

SERMON

“Joshua Moments”

The Rev. Dr. Bush

HYMN #175

“Seek Ye First”

LAFFERTY

See ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness,
And all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, alleluia!

Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek, and you shall find;
Knock, and the door shall be opened unto you. Allelu, alleluia!

You shall not live by bread alone, but by every word
That proceeds from the mouth of God. Allelu, alleluia!

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD’S PRAYER

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

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 #757 (vs. 1, 2, 4)

“Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples”

KINGSFOLD

Today we all are called to be disciples of the Lord, to help to set the captive free,
Make plowshare out of sword, to feed the hungry, quench their thirst,
Make love and peace our fast, to serve the poor and homeless first, our ease and comfort last.

God made the world and at its birth ordained our human race to live as stewards of the earth,
Responding to God’s grace. But we are vain and sadly proud;
We sow not peace but strife. Our discord spreads a deadly cloud that threatens all of life.

May we in service to our God act out the living word, and walk the road the saints have trod
Till all have seen and heard. As stewards of the earth may we
Give thanks in one accord to God who calls us all to be disciples of the Lord.

BLESSING & BENEDICTION

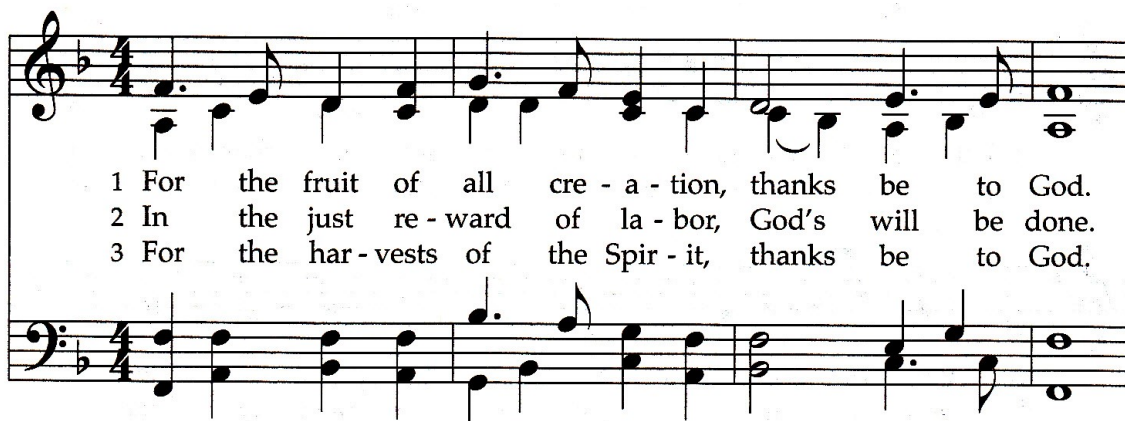
The Rev. Dr. Bush

POSTLUDE

“Finale-Vivace from Symphony VI”

Dr. Moore, *organ*
Charles-Marie Widor

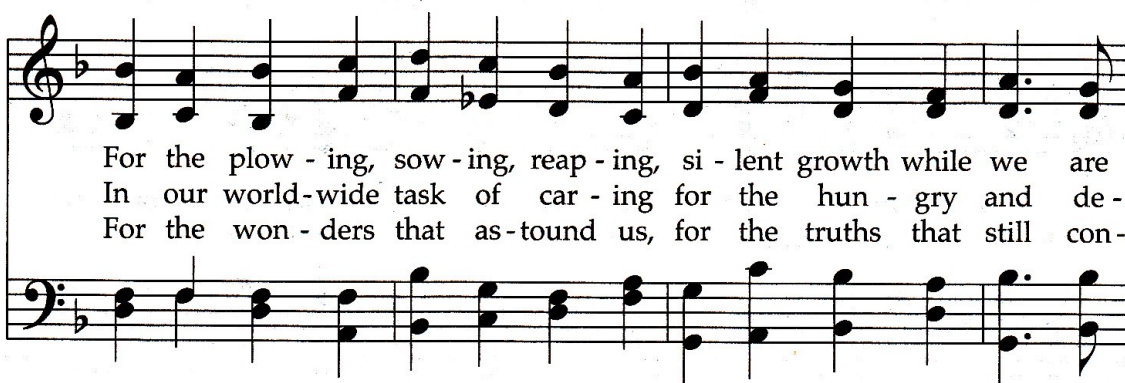
FOR THE FRUIT OF ALL CREATION



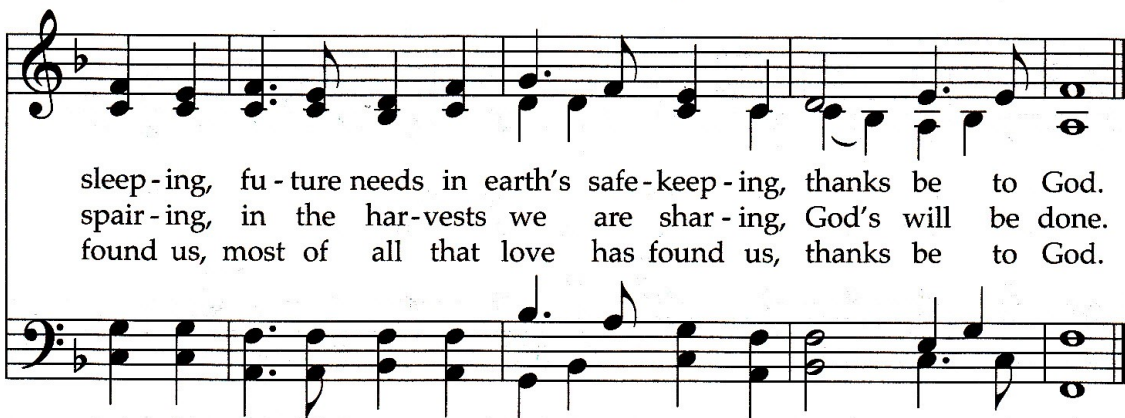
1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will be done.
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God,



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."

KEEP YOUR LAMPS TRIMMED AND BURNING (vs. 1-3)



1 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing; keep your
 2 It's our faith makes us hap - py; it's our
 3 We are climb - ing Ja - cob's lad - der; we are
 4 Ev - ery round goes high - er, high - er; ev - ery




lamps trimmed and burn - ing; keep your lamps
 faith makes us hap - py; it's our faith
 climb - ing Ja - cob's lad - der; we are climb - ing
 round goes high - er, high - er; ev - ery round goes



trimmed and burn - ing, for the time is draw - ing nigh.
 makes us hap - py, for the time is draw - ing nigh.
 Ja - cob's lad - der, for the time is draw - ing nigh.
 high - er, high - er, for the time is draw - ing nigh.

Refrain



Sis - ters, don't grow wea - ry; broth - ers, don't grow wea - ry;

This African American spiritual has a biblical basis in the parable of the ten maidens (Matthew 25:1-13), but the text actually sung could vary greatly. Such variation can be seen here in the annexing of an often freestanding spiritual based on Jacob's vision (Genesis 28:10-17).



PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preaching:	The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush
Liturgists:	The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf Adrianna Cleveland Tiffany Sudar
Musicians:	Dr. Edward Alan Moore, <i>Organist/Music Director</i> Adrianna Cleveland, <i>Cantor</i> Keith Irvin, <i>Handbells</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:
www.ELPC.church/donate

SEEK YE FIRST

Descant

The musical score is written in treble and bass clefs with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 2/4 time signature. It includes a descant section and three stanzas of lyrics. The first stanza is marked with a '1' and the second with a '2'. The third stanza is marked with a '3'. The lyrics are: 'Al - le - lu - ia, 1 Seek ye first the king - dom of God 2 Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you; 3 You shall not live by bread a - lone, al - le - lu - ia, and seek, its righ - teous - ness, seek, and you shall find; but by ev - ery word'.

Al - le - lu - ia,

1 Seek ye first the king - dom of God
2 Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you;
3 You shall not live by bread a - lone,

al - le - lu - ia,

and seek, its righ - teous - ness,
seek, and you shall find;
but by ev - ery word

The author and composer wrote the first stanza and folk-style tune after attending a Bible study on Matthew 6:33. The later stanzas, based respectively on Matthew 7:7 and Matthew 4:4, emerged anonymously. Such meditative singing of scripture is an important form of sung prayer.

TEXT: Stanza 1, Karen Lafferty, 1971, alt.; stanzas 2-3, anon.; Spanish trans. anon.;
Korean trans. The United Methodist Korean Hymnal Committee

MUSIC: Karen Lafferty, 1971

Text and Music © 1972 Universal Music - Brentwood Publishing/Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa dba CCCM Music
(admin. Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing)

LAFFERTY
Irregular

CCLI #689547

al - le - lu - ia,

and all these things shall be add - ed un - to you.
 knock, and the door shall be o - pened un - to you.
 that pro - ceeds from the mouth of God.

al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

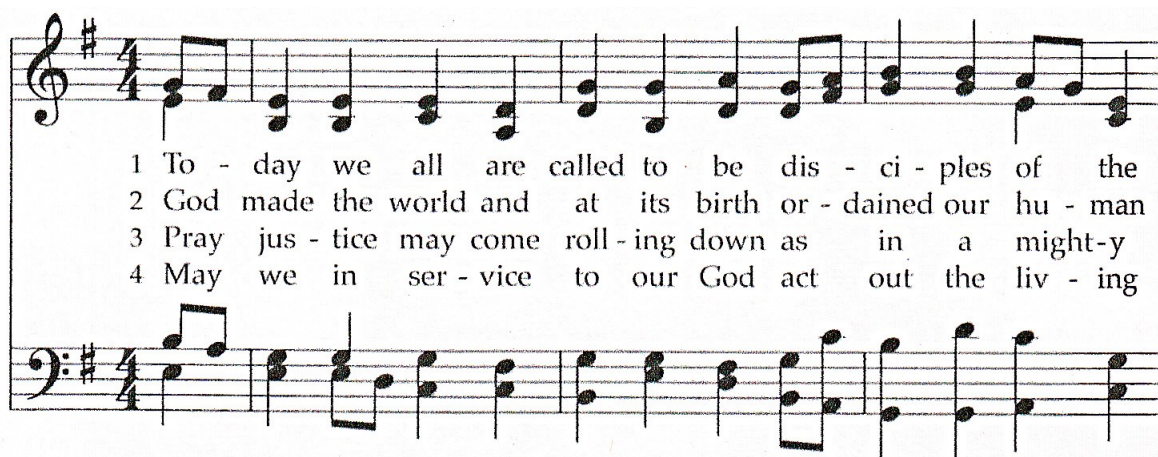
SPANISH

- 1 Busca primero el reino de Dios
 y su perfecta justicia,
 que lo demás lo añadirá el Señor.
 Alelu, aleluya.

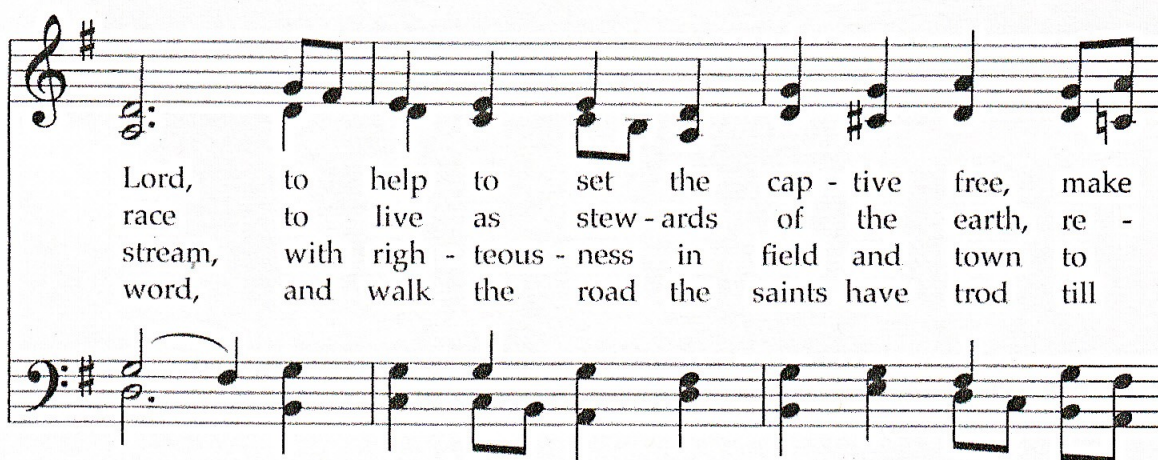
KOREAN

- 1 너희는 먼저- 주의 나라와
 그의를 구하-면
 이모든것 네게 더하시리라
 알렐-루 알렐루야

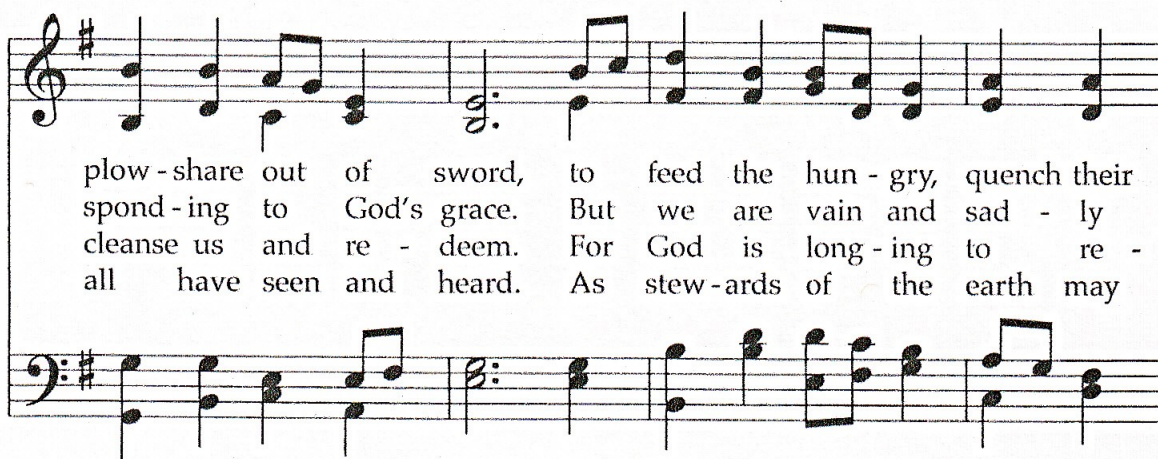
TODAY WE ALL ARE CALLED TO BE DISCIPLES (1, 2, 4)



1 To - day we all are called to be dis - ci - ples of the
 2 God made the world and at its birth or - dained our hu - man
 3 Pray jus - tice may come roll - ing down as in a might - y
 4 May we in ser - vice to our God act out the liv - ing



Lord, to help to set the cap - tive free, make
 race to live as stew - ards of the earth, re -
 stream, with righ - teous - ness in field and town to
 word, and walk the road the saints have trod till



plow - share out of sword, to feed the hun - gry, quench their
 spond - ing to God's grace. But we are vain and sad - ly
 cleanse us and re - deem. For God is long - ing to re -
 all have seen and heard. As stew - ards of the earth may

This text placing stewardship in the context of faithful witness was written by a retired Presbyterian minister to be part of the 1986 stewardship campaign titled "Called to Be Disciples." The tune name recalls the Sussex village where the arranger first heard the melody.

thirst, make love and peace our fast, to serve the
 proud; we sow not peace but strife. Our dis - cord
 store an earth where con - flicts cease, a world that
 we give thanks in one ac - cord to God who

poor and home - less first, our ease and com - fort last.
 spreads a dead - ly cloud that threat - ens all of life.
 was cre - at - ed for a har - mo - ny of peace.
 calls us all to be dis - ci - ples of the Lord.

TODAY IS STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

In order to preserve the celebratory experience of stewardship during quarantine, we invite you to drive by ELPC on Stewardship Sunday, TODAY from 1:30–3 pm, and personally (and safely) give your pledge card and food donations (*canned fruit and tuna, pastas, instant potatoes, etc.*) to volunteers. If you are unable to come to the church, volunteers will drive to your home on Sunday, Nov 15 to pick up your gifts so that everyone can enjoy the celebration. You also may mail your pledge to the church or submit it at ELPC.church.

BAKING FOR OUR NEIGHBORS

Youth in grades 6–12 will gather TODAY from 12:30–1:30 pm to bake cookies for ELPC's neighbors.

Zoom info:

Please email Sara Hackett (SaraH@coh.net)

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN BIBLE STUDY — NOV 10

In scripture and tradition, women have carried much of the burden of lament for society. All of these women have been mocked, praised and dismissed: Hannah, Sarah, Rachel, Elizabeth, and other biblical sisters offer very public and vocal examples of lamenting for their children. Join PW on Tuesday, Nov 10 from 10 am–Noon. On Tuesday, Nov 17 from Noon–1 pm, all women are invited to discuss contemporary laments of women.

Zoom info:

Please email PW.ELPC@gmail.com

REFUGE OF THE HEART — NOV 10

Begins Tuesday, Nov 10 at 7 pm

ELPC is offering a new space for reflection, prayer and meditation called *Refuge of the Heart*, a bilingual meditation group. All meditations given in Spanish and English. We will meditate on how God accompanies us in life and the path toward hope, peace, love, joy and wellbeing. If you're interested, contact Kathryn Ophardt (kophardt@pts.edu) or the Rev. BJ Woodworth (BJW@coh.net).

Zoom info:

Meeting ID: 923 4025 3394, Passcode: STwDhM

NEW CHURCH PHOTO DIRECTORY NOW AVAILABLE

ELPC recently published a new church photo directory. Click here to download a copy (password is: 2020Directory). To request a hardcopy, make changes, or add a new photo, email Megan Leisher (MeganL@coh.net).

LGBTQ MINISTRY SPIRITUAL GATHERING — NOV 15

Join us on Sunday, Nov 15 at 12:30 pm to share meeting and fellowship at our LGBTQ Ministry's next spiritual gathering. Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike are welcome. For details, contact Wil Forrest (Wil@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x118).

EXAMINE SOUTH SUDAN — NOV 19

The ELPC Peace Committee invites you to hear an update on the situation in South Sudan and discussion on the world's newest country and its people. Our panelist include:

- Sharon Stewart — Sharon is part of Pittsburgh Presbytery's working group on South Sudan and Malawi, and the co-pastor of the Jefferson United Presbyterian Church
- Benedict Killang — Benedict is the former head of the South Sudanese community in Pittsburgh

Please join us for a discussion of the world's newest country and the needs of its people. The meeting begins at 5:30 pm on Thursday, Nov 19.

Zoom info:

Meeting ID: 935 624 8828 or call 646.558.8656

WAIT UPON THE LORD: A Virtual Advent Retreat

Friday–Sunday, Nov 20–22

Amidst all that is happening and will be happening in mid-November, why would one go on a 24-hour retreat.

Perhaps what we all need after nine months of a pandemic, continued racial injustice, and increasing political division and unrest is to take 24 hours to pull into the locks, rest, be still, attend to our breath, grieve, lament, light a candle, and find our strength in quietness and trust for the continued journey. A retreat creates space to ponder and prepare our lives for the new thing God may want to birth in and through you. The cost is \$25 (supplies will be sent to you). RSVP by tomorrow to Norma (Norma@coh.net). Contact the Rev. BJ Woodworth for info (BJW@coh.net).

YOUNG ADULT EVENTS

ELPC is pleased to welcome back Kelli Booher as our Interim Coordinator of Young Adult Ministries (YAMs). She can be contacted via email at KelliB@coh.net.

- Saturday, Nov 14: Netflix Movie Night at 7 pm
- Sunday, Nov 22: Friendsgiving & Game Night
- Thursday, Nov 26: YAMS by YAMS
- Friday, Nov 27: Virtual Craft Night at 7 pm
Surprise craft night! RSVP to Kelli so that your crafting supply kit can be prepared for pick up or delivery. (If you are participating in Friendsgiving, your craft kit can be picked up/delivered at that time).

Please contact Kelli for more info on these events!